

Gustavo Vinagre, *Três Tigres Tristes* (*Three Tidy Tigers Tied A Tie Tighter* in English)

[Derek Jarman, *The Garden*](#)

[Javier Calvo & Javier Ambrossi, *Veneno*](#) (TV Limited Series)

My partner Max and I saw *Três Tigres Tristes* over the summer as part of NewFest's New York Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival. It's a weird romp through a pandemic-addled Sao Paulo that's playful and sometimes sobering in conversation with the reality of COVID-19's legacy in Brazil. There's a guinea pig in drag, a woman who talks to objects, and lots of navigation of the physical and emotional risks of sex in a time of plague.

We saw *The Garden* as part of Narrow Rooms, a queer film series at Anthology Film Archives curated by Adam Baran, just before Christmas. It had been billed as loosely "a Christmas movie," but this wasn't at all what I was expecting going in, having seen a few of Jarman's films in the past. Following a pair of gay lovers as they experience the trials and eventual crucifixion of Jesus Christ at the hands of the British government (it debuted in 1990 at the height of the AIDS crisis), it's mostly dialogue-less and feels at times like a long visual poem. Derek Jarman is my favorite filmmaker, so while this one isn't for everyone, I really recommend watching it with the same openness with which one approaches poetry.

And on Christmas, Max and I started *Veneno*, an expansive biography of Christina "La Veneno" Ortiz Rodriguez, a transgender pioneer and TV personality who shifted public opinion of trans people in 1990s Spain. It follows her whole life from childhood, and each of the four actors who play Christina set a different tone for their respective story arcs as they portray the life and struggle of an incredible, complicated woman. Be prepared to laugh and cry.