Abstract: In the last thirty years Spanish women have entered the public sphere and have achieved a progressive empowerment in their struggle for gender equality. These changes in women’s roles have provoked anxiety among some men, who see them as a threat to their privileged position in patriarchal society. This tension is suggested or openly depicted in contemporary Spanish horror films created by a new generation of young male filmmakers in which the threat and the element that brings horror to the narrative is usually a female character. The film Witching and Bitching aka Las brujas de Zugarramurdi (de la Iglesia, 2013) offers a filmic materialisation of this tension within the Spanish context, by presenting a battle between male identities in crisis, anxious about the emergent role of women, and strong, independent female characters, who are depicted as monsters.

Keywords: Gender, masculinity, monstrous-feminine, identity, horror film, Spanish cinema