

FIVE TO SEE

And Then We Danced A dancer falls for another man in Levan Akin's beautiful Georgian drama, set in Tbilisi.

Moffie Oliver Hermanus depicts the horrific struggles of a gay teenager in the South African army.

Pain and Glory Antonio Banderas excels as an ageing filmmaker in Pedro Almodóvar's semi-autobiographical drama.

Portrait of a Lady on Fire Céline Sciamma's best film yet, a romance between a painter and her subject.

Trouble Mariah Garnett re-enacts her father's life in Belfast in a playful exploration of the Troubles.

of the year include Jayro Bustamante's Guatemalan melodrama *Tremors*; *Memories of My Body*, Indonesian

filmmaker Garin

Nugroho's sensitive tale of a queer performer in a rural community;

and *The Silk and the*

Flame, a harrowing

documentary about a

gay Chinese man and his

complex relationship

with his family, shot

by US director Jordan

Schiele. Nigerian drama

Walking with Shadows, a

low-budget melodrama

by Irish filmmaker

Aoife O'Kelly about the

had taken office, this alarming ending felt almost celebratory (see 'Brazilian cinema in crisis', page 7).

While the queer-focused films released in UK cinemas were dominated by features about cisgender white gay men, a number of intimate films about queer women were to be found in festivals. Isabel Sandoval's *Lingua Franca* is a poignant and urgent portrayal of an undocumented Filipino transwoman (played by Sandoval) seeking security in New York as immigration raids and political hostility swarm around her. One of the best documentaries of the year, *Trouble*, sees US director Mariah Garnett recreating the early life of her father, who had a controversial inter-faith relationship with a Catholic girl in 1970s Belfast, by travelling to Northern Ireland, impersonating her father and casting a transwoman as his girlfriend, resulting in a playful take on memory and identity. Hopefully both will receive cinema distribution in 2020. [S](#)