

SCENE&HEARD



Antonio Banderas and Pedro Almodóvar sell books at **Taschen**.

Antonio & Pedro go between covers

The Taschen bookstore in Beverly Hills was so packed on Wednesday night for the launch of "Pedro Almodóvar Archives," it's a wonder the fire marshal wasn't called in to administer some sanity to the proceedings. And yet, in true **Pedro Almodóvar** fashion, leggy cocktail waitresses and hunky manservants still managed to navigate the elbow-to-elbow throng with trays of vino.

Almodóvar held court from a second-floor window, like a potentate addressing worshipful admirers, who included **Carla Gugino**, **Matthew Weiner** and **David LaChapelle**.

Antonio Banderas introduced the director, recounting the first time they met. A friend told the thesp, "His name is Pedro Almodóvar; he made one movie, and he will never do a second one."

Almodóvar recalled those early days as emerging from the dark age of Franco into a more permissive time. "We could be crazy," he said, "and we had the right to be crazy." — **Steve Chagollan**