

MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN

dossier



A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY
JAVIER ESPADA



MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN

tolocha
PRODUCCIONES

SCRIPT AND DIRECTION **JAVIER ESPADA** — EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SPAIN **PEDRO PIÑEIRO** — EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MEXICO **IZRAEL MORENO, ALEX PALMA** — EXECUTIVE CO-PRODUCER **HUGO VILLA SMYTHE**
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS **EMILIO R. BARRACHINA, EDUARDO FLORES** — CINEMATOGRAPHERS **JAVIER ESPADA, BENITO SIERRA, CARLOS BALLONGA, ROBERTO FLORES, EDUARDO FLORES, FRANK CORTÉS, JOSÉ CASTAÑÓN**
EDITING **PABLO JOFRÉ, JAVIER ESPADA** — VOICE-OVER **ARTURO RIPSTEIN** — IMAGE POST-PRODUCTION **RAFAEL RIVERA GOYENCHEA** — SOUND DESIGN **GERARDO MIRANDA "JERRY"**
AUDIO SUPERVISOR **MARTÍN GARCÍA "EL OSO"** — ORIGINAL MUSIC **CARLO AYHLLÓN**



SYNOPSIS.

A documentary about one of the most important films in the history of cinema: *Los Olvidados* (*The Forgotten*), directed by **Luis Buñuel** in 1950 and inscribed on the **Memory of the World Register** by **UNESCO**.

Buñuel filmed a movie **between reality and fiction**, in which his concern for poor children, for the disinherited of **Las Hurdes**, for the young people of Mexico condemned to poverty and violence with whom he himself, as an exile, felt solidarity.

For the first time, the importance of the painter **Goya** in the conception of the film is analyzed while the camera returns to the places where it was filmed and we share conversations with researchers and filmmakers who were influenced by this film.

Los Olvidados goes far beyond Italian neorealism to give voice to the disinherited, Buñuel more than telling a story denounces the injustice in which they live.

With this new documentary, **Javier Espada** shows years of research on the life and work of the filmmaker who went into exile in Mexico to contribute to the **History of Cinema** with his personal cinema and overcoming the limitations of the industry at the time.

Arturo Ripstein gives his voice in this documentary that recovers the **MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN**.



INTERVIEWED:

				
José Luis Alcaine Director de fotografía	Iván Avila Investigador y cineasta	Rafael Aviña Escritor e investigador	Laura Barrera Periodista	Valeria Camporesi Directora de Filmoteca Española
				
Armando Casas Presidente Academia Cine Mexicano	Vanessa Cobo Profesora y sobrina de Roberto Cobo	Michel Franco Cineasta	Guadalupe Ferrer Investigadora	Gabriel Figueroa Hijo del director de fotografía
				
Francisco Gaytan Investigador	Alejandro González Iñárritu Cineasta	Dave Kehr Investigador MoMA	Fernando León de Aranoa Cineasta	Ofelia Medina Actriz y cineasta
				
Fernando Méndez-Leite Presidente Academia Cine España	Héctor Orozco Investigador Fundación Televisa	Elena Poniatowska Escritora	Agustín Sánchez Vidal Investigador, profesor	Charles Tesson Investigador, profesor
				
Iván Trujillo Investigador	Eduardo Vázquez Escritor	Eduardo de la Vega Investigador, profesor	Hugo Villa Director Filmoteca de la UNAM	Juan Villoro Escritor

FILM CREDITS:

Production: Tolocho Producciones S.L.

Coproduction Spain-Mexico-EEUU: IZ FILMS, MESTIZO LAB, ODESSA, Filmoteca de la UNAM and Luis Buñuel Film Institute

Nationality: Spain, Mexico and EEUU **Year:** May/2025

Genre: historical documentary

Format: 16:9, 2K, DCP **Sound:** 5.1 **Colour:** Colour/Black-white **Duration:** 102 minutes

V.O.: Spanish (Fragments in English and French)

Direction, Script and Production: Javier Espada

Executive Producer Spain: Pedro Piñeiro

Executive Producer Mexico: Izrael Moreno

Executive Producer Mexico: Alex Palma

Co-Executive Producer Mexico: Hugo Villa Smythe

Associate Producers: Emilio R. Barrachina / Eduardo Flores

Cinematography: Javier Espada, Benito Sierra, Carlos Ballonga, Roberto Flores, Eduardo Flores, Frank Cortés, José Castañón

Edition: Pablo Jofré / Javier Espada **Editing Studio:** IZ FILMS

Image Postproduction: Rafael Rivera Goyenechea / Replay

Sound Design: Gerardo Miranda "Jerry"

Mixer: Martín García "El Oso"

Musical Score: Carlo Ayhllón

Post Production Assistance: Miguel A. Téllez

Voice-over: Arturo Ripstein **Recording Studio:** Canal 22 México

Recording Engineer: Luis Enrique Bolaño

Artwork photos and still photography: Jorge Fuembuena

Drones: Luis Lupón (España) / Ollin Buendía & Ilan Wagner (México)

Support and collaboration: Luis Buñuel Film Institute, Hemisphere Films, Canal 22, TV UNAM, Mercury Films, Ayuntamiento de Calanda, Ayuntamiento de Zaragoza, Gobierno de Aragón, Filmoteca Española, Filmoteca UNAM, Zaragoza Film Office, Toccatta, Fundación Televisa, FlixOlé



Javier Espada with Alejandro González Iñárritu at Casa Buñuel in Mexico.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES:

Luis Buñuel marked a part of my personal and professional life, as a cinephile, as a researcher and of course as a filmmaker, whose presence has been very recurrent throughout my career.

My personal connection with *Los Olvidados* began with the creation of the Buñuel Center of Calanda, a project for which I gathered a large number of photographs from many archives, from the personal archives kept by the family to those from various institutions, and among them, those related to this film stood out.

On the occasion of the inclusion of *Los Olvidados* in UNESCO's **Memory of the World**, I created an exhibition entitled *Los Olvidados Memory of the World*, and during the research for it, I discovered a humble shoebox containing nearly a thousand photographs that had never been studied: they were the photos that Luis Buñuel had taken locating the exteriors where he would film his Mexican movies. The first film to be recognized was, precisely, *Los Olvidados*.

On my first trip to the Cannes Film Festival I was able to attend the screening of *Los Olvidados* restored by the Filmoteca de la UNAM with a procedure called “*wet window*”. I would later have the honor of presenting the premiere of the latest restoration of this film in 4K at the Buñuel Theater of this same festival.

To continue researching, bringing to light original materials, talking with filmmaker friends or researchers, to finally share it all with the viewers in a documentary like this one, is a pleasant task to contribute to the knowledge and dissemination of the work of my fellow countryman Luis Buñuel.

One of the contributions of this documentary is a new look at **Goya's** relationship with this film shot by **Buñuel** in his Mexican exile.

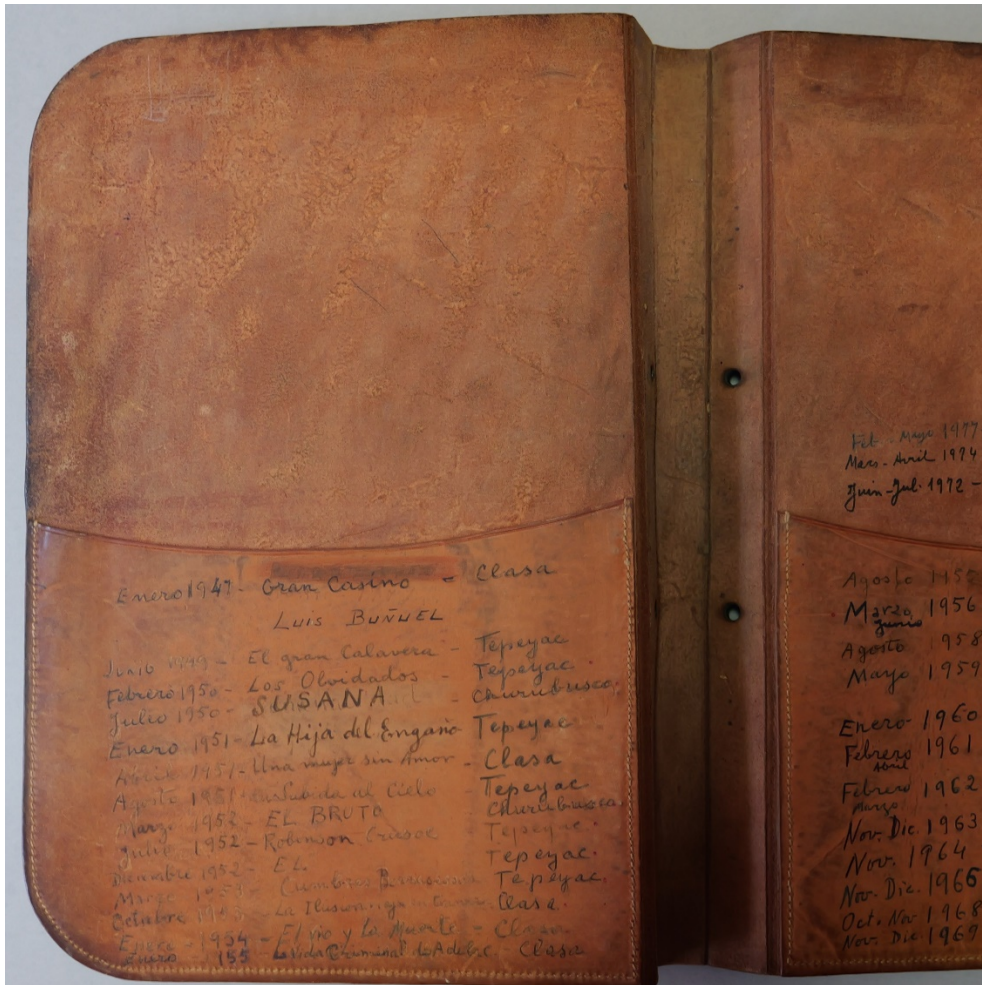
The documentary was filmed in **Mexico** (including the same places where Buñuel's film was shot, his home and other locations in Mexico City), **Spain** (Calanda, Zaragoza, Madrid and Las Hurdes) and also in **New York**, coinciding with the retrospective that the **MoMA** dedicated to Buñuel's Mexican work, proof of the interest that his work continues to arouse.

Los Olvidados is the Buñuel film that I have seen the most times and the only one that I have seen frame by frame on the moviola, and of which there is also an extensive archive that shows the impact it had on the press, from its initial critical premiere in Mexico to the comments after the triumph at Cannes or its premiere in New York, as well as the original script with Buñuel's annotations and the photographs of the film taken by **Luis Márquez**.

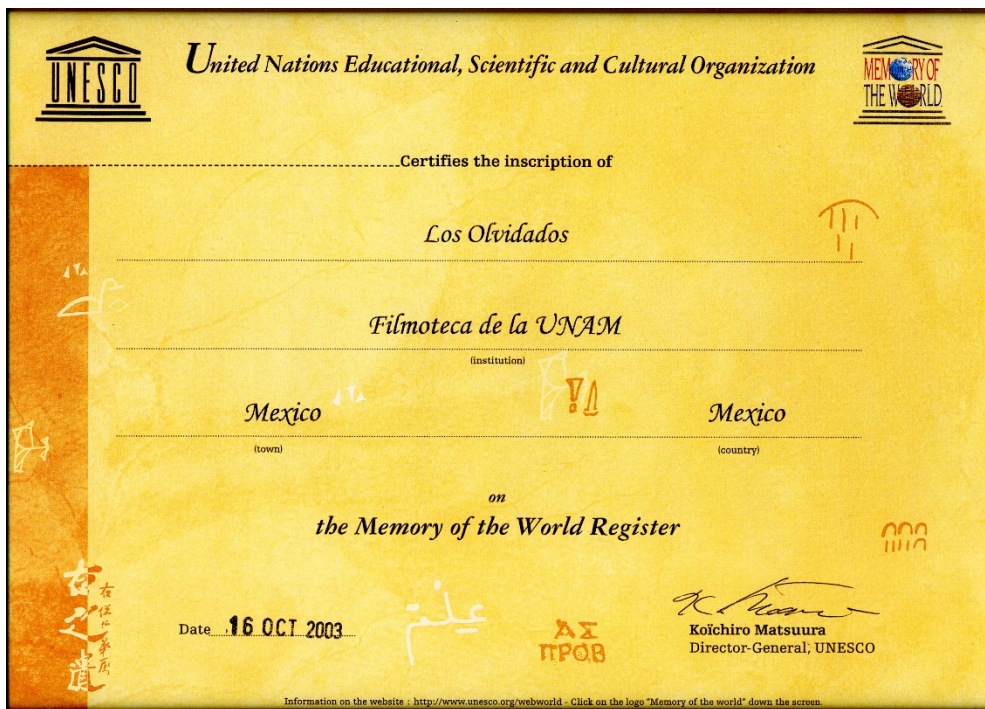
I would like to thank the production companies that have supported the development of this documentary and the institutions without whose collaboration it would not have been possible: Luis Buñuel Film Institute, Filmoteca de la UNAM, Filmoteca Española, Fundación Televisa and private archives, such as that of Gabriel Figueroa, son of the cameraman, that enrich this work.

JAVIER ESPADA

PHOTOS:



Leather folder in which Buñuel carried the scripts during the shooting of all his films.



Memory of the World Register



Robbery of the legless man. Photo Luis Márquez.



The blind don Carmelo and his guide "Ojitos". Photo Luis Márquez.



Photo taken by Buñuel locating exteriors at the "chicharronería" (pork rinds), CDMX.



Photo taken by Buñuel locating exteriors in *Nonoalco*, CDMX.



Javier Espada and Charles Tesson after the interview in Morelia.



Photo after the interview with Ofelia Medina in CDMX.

CONTACT:

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