

# MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN

## Press Release

**tolocha**  
PRODUCCIONES

“MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN”, the new documentary by Javier Espada, focuses on the film LOS OLVIDADOS, directed by Luis Buñuel in 1950 in Mexico and a film that is still considered the most important of Mexican cinema: for its triumph at Cannes, for being part of the Registry of the Memory of the World, for being the seed of the “third cinema”.



UN DOCUMENTAL DE  
**JAVIER ESPADA**

**tolocha**  
PRODUCCIONES

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.

Through the images of this documentary we analyze, for the first time, the importance of the painter Goya in the conception of the film. The camera returns to the places where the film was shot while 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, so that Buñuel more than telling a story denounces the injustice in which they live.

With this new documentary, Javier Espada reflects years of research on the life and work of the filmmaker who went into exile in Mexico and his most emblematic film of the Mexican period. A personal work that manages to overcome the limitations of the industry of the moment, contribute to the History of Cinema and remain a current film.

The prestigious filmmaker and friend of Buñuel, Arturo Ripstein, lends his voice to this documentary that recovers the MEMORY OF THE FORGOTTEN.

### **Interviewed:**

José Luis Alcaine / Iván Ávila Dueñas / Rafael Aviña / Laura Barrera /  
Valeria Camporesi / Armando Casas / Vanessa Cobo / Michel Franco /  
Guadalupe Ferrer / Gabriel Figueroa / Francisco Gaytán /  
Alejandro González Iñárritu / Dave Kehr / Fernando León de Aranoa /  
Ofelia Medina / Fernando Méndez-Leite / Héctor Orozco /  
Elena Poniatowska / Agustín Sánchez Vidal / Charles Tesson /  
Iván Trujillo / Eduardo Vázquez / Eduardo de la Vega /  
Hugo Villa / Juan Villoro / Fray Gonzalo Ituarte y Fray Eugenio Torres

## 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**

## Contact:

**Adela Mac Swiney** // Press  
+34 663010096  
adelamac@gmail.com

**Javier Espada** // Director  
+34 606 063 916  
jespada@tolocho.com



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

[www.tolocho.com/mdlo](http://www.tolocho.com/mdlo)