



07/01

**New Restoration by the UNAM Film Archive, Mexico**

## **LOS OLVIDADOS** (*The Young and the Damned*) (Mexico 1950)

**Directed by Luis Buñuel**

**88 mins / Cert tbc**

**Starring: Alfonso Mejía, Roberto Cobo, Estela Inda, Miguel Inclán**

**A BFI release**

**Release date: 16 February 2007**

**Opening Venues: BFI NFT, Manchester Cornerhouse, Irish Film Institute  
Dublin plus others tbc**

**“A great, great movie... a masterpiece of social surrealism...Strong enough to  
make a hardened Communist cry or drive a (true) Christian to despair.”**

**J. Hoberman, Village Voice**

**Los Olvidados**, Luis Bunuel’s savage Mexican masterpiece, has long been out of circulation in the UK. Now magnificently restored by the UNAM Film Archive in Mexico, this subversive tale of Mexican street life returns at last to the big screen on 16 February 2007, re-released by the BFI.

Mark Polizzotti, author of the recently published BFI Film Classic ‘*Los Olvidados*’ (2006) writes:

“From its riveting Oedipal nightmare – ‘*perhaps the greatest of all movie dream sequences*,’ said Pauline Kael - to its wrenching final scenes, **Los Olvidados** draws the viewer into a reality of its own and never lets go. Set in the slums of Mexico City, the film details several days in the life of Pedro, a young boy of the streets, and his relations with his fellow gang members, his loveless mother, and especially with the charismatic, self-serving gang leader Jaibo. When Jaibo makes Pedro an unwitting accomplice to murder, the two boys’ fates become intertwined, as Jaibo becomes Pedro’s surrogate father, his rival, and his inescapable tormentor.

**Los Olvidados** was Buñuel’s first major Mexican film and his first notable work since *Land without Bread* 20 years earlier. It established him as a world-class director and helped revolutionise Mexican film-making. Though much decried on its release, it won Best Director at Cannes the following year, and in 2003 was inducted into the UNESCO Memory of the World programme\*. Often described as a melodrama about urban poverty, **Los Olvidados** is in

fact a much more ambiguous statement about yearning, loss, and the human hunger for love and redemption. Buñuel termed it 'realistic, but with a subtle current of fierce and sometimes erotic poetry.' ”

Shot in 21 days on a shoestring budget, **Los Olvidados** remains one of the most powerful films ever made, with an undiminished power to shock. Indeed, its influence can still be felt in films as contemporary as Alejandro González Iñárritu's **Amores Perros** and Fernando Meirelles's **City of God**. The BFI's reissue will at last enable UK filmgoers to experience this little-seen masterpiece for themselves.

[www.bfi.org.uk/losolvidados](http://www.bfi.org.uk/losolvidados)

**For further information please contact: Sarah Harvey on 020 7703 2253 / 07958 597426, email [press@sarahharvey.info](mailto:press@sarahharvey.info) or Colette Geraghty on 020 7957 8919, email [colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk](mailto:colette.geraghty@bfi.org.uk)**

## **NOTES FOR EDITORS**

**Los Olvidados** is released theatrically on 19 February by the BFI to coincide with the Luis Buñuel retrospective at the BFI National Film Theatre from 29 December to 27 February. It will subsequently play at cinemas nationwide.

BFI Film Classic 'Los Olvidados' by Mark Polizzotti was published April 2006. ISBN 1-84457-121-1

\* UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme preserves documentary heritage of world significance.

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=1538&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1538&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

There's more to discover about film and television through the *bfi*. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire film-lovers everywhere.

**\*\*\* PICTURE DESK ALERT \*\*\***

**A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI theatrical releases can be found at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net)  
If further images are required contact  
BFI Stills, Posters & Designs.  
For information and prices e-mail [stills.films@bfi.org.uk](mailto:stills.films@bfi.org.uk)  
or phone 020 7957 4797**