

El Bola

("The Lie")

Spain : 2000 : dir. Acheró Mañas

: 90 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

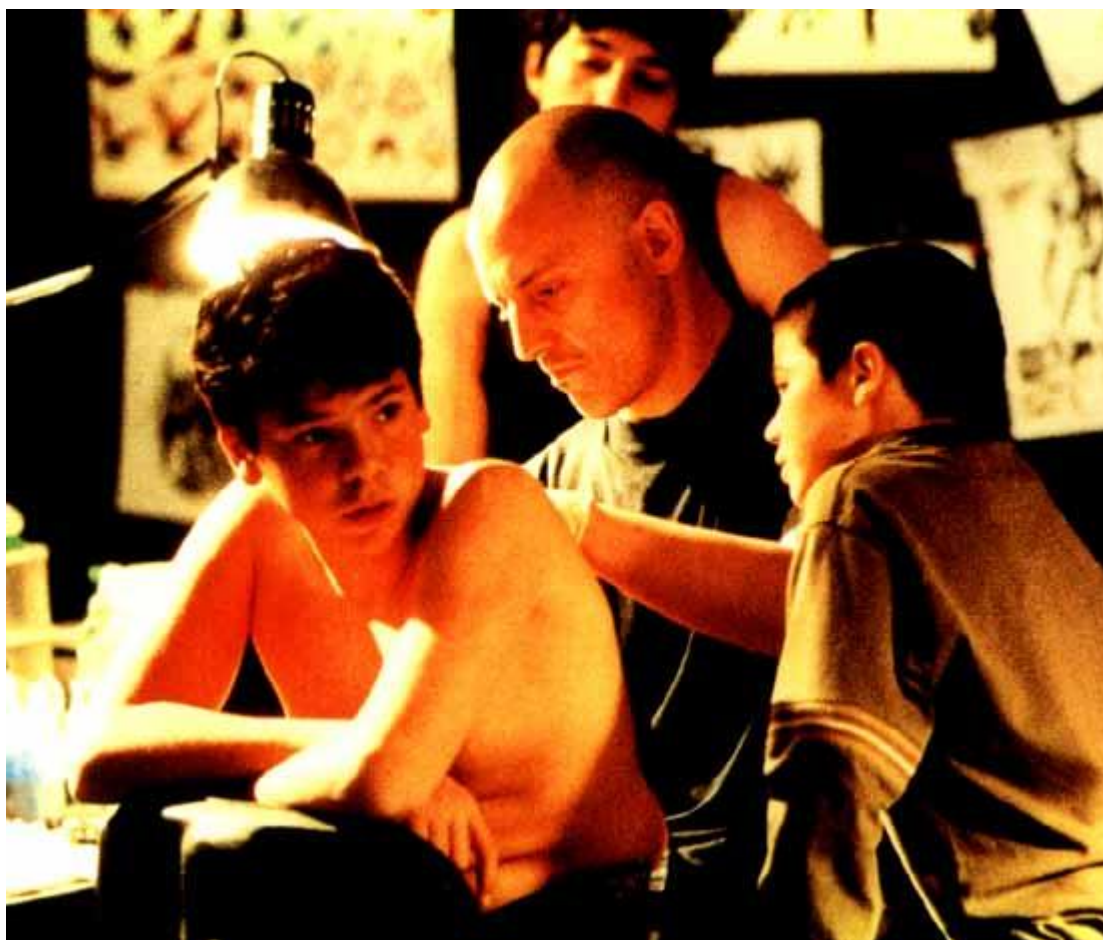
[Juan Jose Ballesta; Pablo Galán](#)

Alberto Jiménez; Manuel Morón; Ana Wagener; Nieve de Medina; Gloria Muñoz; Javier Lago;
Omar Muñoz; Soledad Osorio

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	☼	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5994	2.5	1	2	636	3	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



More male violence to children. The film should go down really well in the States.
Source: CVMC website



CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"A boy (Juan Jose Ballesta), roughly twelve, avoids his peers to hide the physical abuse [sic] he endures at home. Yet when a new kid (Pablo Galan) enters his classroom, our hero finds a friend as well as someone who might help him bring an end to the violence his father inflicts on him. Winner of four Spanish Academy Awards; recommended!

Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; brief/moderate nudity; violence; brief sexual themes
Language: Spanish

Categories: Best Buddies, Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Child Abuse [sic], Coming-of-Age, Drama

NOTE: This movie is in Spanish with NO ENGLISH SUBTITLES OR DUBBING.."

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001"]

No further information currently available. Domestic violence, needless to say, will be as much a concern in Spain as anywhere else, and thuggish fathers have never been in short supply at any time since the ice age. Nevertheless, it irritates me that the CVMC reviewer does obeisance too readily to the Newspeak of the child abuse lobby. We're warned that 90% of the titles in his vast and impressive catalogue contain "adult themes" (whatever they might be) – even when the titles themselves were clearly made for children, and the word "abuse" – unchallenged, undefined – crops up with wearying regularity. We all know what it means. It doesn't need defining or qualifying. Does it?

The stills above suggest that this is a cut-and-dried story of child battering, but the same phrase will be rolled out for *any* film that involves corporal punishment in the school or home.

No distinction is made between the two. Clearly, many women (and some men) hold the view that there *is* no distinction, and are entitled to do so, but I reject emphatically this attempt to refashion language so that no dissenting viewpoint is allowed. If a father spansks his twelve-year old son, that too is stamped as “physical abuse”. If more traditional discipline methods are used in any school or children’s home, that too is described as “child abuse”. The offenders, as chance would have it, are almost without exception male. No film has appeared lately recalling the harshness meted out to boys by nuns in Catholic schools, commonplace though that was. No film has joined the throng detailing the systematic use of corporal punishment by nannies and governesses in the first half of the twentieth century.

Nannies and governesses are good people. Mothers are good people. Bad people are male. This subtext is there, endlessly reprised, in the films of the last twenty years. If we fail even to notice it anymore, that is some measure of how far the brainwashing process has advanced, and is deeply troubling. Any such campaign to tinker with the English language so as to eliminate political discussion is an affront to the free mind. That process is so far embedded in British politics and current affairs programming that Orwell seems to be smiling from his grave “Well, I *did* warn you!”

There are simply too many films in which kids conceal the hammering their fathers are giving them at home to list them here. See subject index under **CRUELTY / NEGLECT / MALTREATMENT** (these are the old, pre-Newspeak, terms for that phenomenon) and under [SCHOOL](#). Nothing else is known of Ballesta or Galán.