

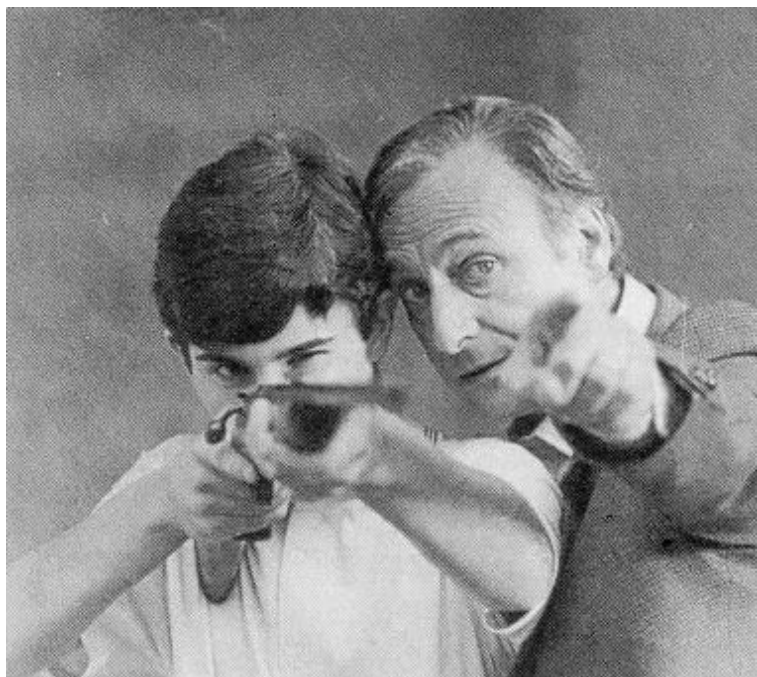
Los Chicos de la Guerra

("Children of War")

Argentina : 1984 : dir. Bebe Kamin (Bernardo Czemerinski) : K Films : 107 min
 prod: Kiko Tenenbaum : scr: Daniel Kon & Bebe Kamin : dir.ph.: Yito Blanc

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 Gabriel Rovito; Gustavo Belatti; Héctor Alterio; Leandro Reguanaga

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Quick! A social worker! Shoot, boy, shoot!

Source: 26th LFF programme

26th London Film Festival (1984) programme review:

"Three Argentinian boys, born in 1962, schooled in obedience and growing up in an ultra-authoritarian society where the innocent¹ are routinely terrorised on night-time streets, meet their painful destiny in the Malvinas during the Falklands War. The LFF screening of "LOS CHICOS DE LA GUERRA" ("Children of the War"), made after the fall of the Junta and drawing large audiences in Argentina, offers a British audience a first glimpse of how Argentina, in the wake of numbing defeat, is taking stock of itself.

The film, which skirts some of the issues of the war and makes no comment on the British (though one British voice is heard acknowledging the bravery of the enemy), is chiefly about the timeless exploitation and sacrifice of youth. It does not wholly live up to the promise of the purgatorial opening on a grey dawn after a scrubland skirmish, but its tone, despite sentimental excursions into the rites of boyhood, is shot through with authenticity and horror. One British critic remarked: "It proves we were right." Well, perhaps...

- Derek Malcolm

¹ whoever *they* might be...

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Exhibited at the 1984 Venice and Rio de Janeiro film Festivals. The Falklands War, ah yes... It wasn't a "war" at the time, I seem to recall. It was a "conflict" or something, which didn't require any explicit declaration of hostilities (just like the so-called "Gulf war", "Bosnian war", "Vietnam war"). It was an "engagement", a "total exclusion zone" arbitrarily drawn around an island we'd stolen from Argentina in the first place. The phenomenon of the boy soldier has produced some very moving films (most notably "**DETSTVO IVANOVO**" ("Ivan's Childhood" / "My Name is Ivan") and a number of recent documentary reports focussing on the bloody conflicts in Africa and Latin America. Other titles to compare and contrast would include "**HITLERJUNGE QUEx**", "**THE BOY FROM STALINGRAD**", "**DIE BRUCKE**", "**DREI MUTTER UND EIN GENERAL**" and even "**CROSS OF IRON**", but the Napoleonic drummer boy has had a few titles of his own also.

See subject index under **WAR** for a sub-section on Boy Soldiers, and under **SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA**.