

Cronica de un Niño Solo

("Chronicle of a Boy Alone")

Argentina : 1964 : dir. Leonardo Favío

: 87 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Diego Puente

Cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Source for all B&W video grabs: *Movieboys website*

Award Films International (commercial gay video distributors) website review:

www.gayweb.com/106

"Banned by the Argentinian government for nearly thirty years, "**CHRONICLE OF A BOY ALONE**" is a searing indictment of a fascist regime running roughshod over its most vulnerable citizens - its children. Focusing on the bleak life of Polin, a boy abandoned by his family and sent to live in a state-run orphanage, it is also a moving portrait of the human spirit imprisoned by the chains of well-intentioned fools.

For inside the harsh confines of the supposedly beneficial institution, Polin and his friends

must deal with constant physical and psychological abuse [*sic*] as well as the emotional tensions brought on by their own burgeoning adolescence. In Spanish with English subtitles. Black and white. 87 minutes."



Source: *Award Films website*



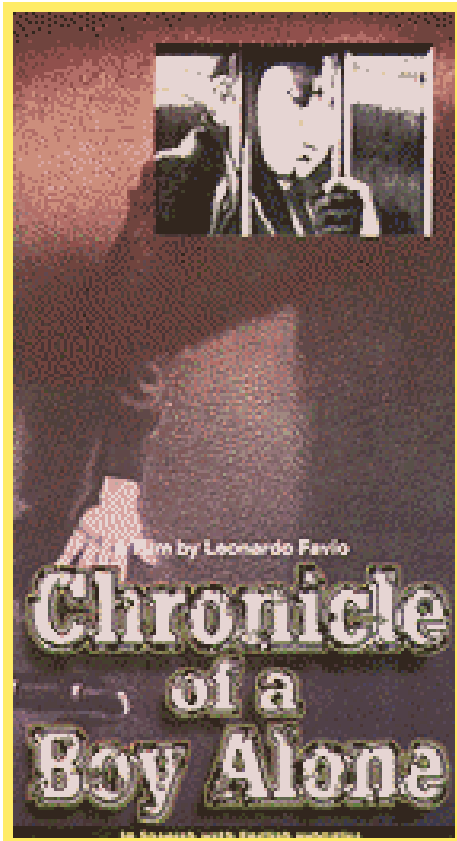


[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time 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. From the same school, it would seem, as the later **"PIXOTE"** (Brazil 80), but also **"LOS OLVIDADOS"** (Mexico 50) and **"LOS ABANDONADOS – DER NIEMANDSKINDER DU CUMANDUCAIA"**, while Russia has also produced several comparable titles – **"S.E.R"** ("Freedom Is Paradise") and **"LESSONS AT THE END OF SPRING"**. The general lesson of all such films seems to be that children, or specifically boys, can expect nothing but grief and maltreatment at the hands of the authorities, and the political complexion of the state in question has no bearing at all. It's a rare film which portrays an orphanage or reform school as a place of sanctuary from the chances of the street.

See subject index under [BANNED FILMS / CENSORSHIP](#), [CRUELTY / NEGLECT / MALTREATMENT](#), [ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN'S HOMES](#) and [SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA](#).



Source: Award Films website

Well, that's the skinny-dipping scene sorted, I guess. The interesting aspect of this particular boyhood ritual in the cinema is that, whereas once it symbolised – in American tradition more than European perhaps – the liberty and free-spiritedness of boyhood days, it has now become – for American minds more than European ones again – a catastrophic reminder of the “boy as sex object”. As this neurosis grew, so the camera would stand further and further back from such scenes of carefree childhood abandon, and in the case of older films, the “problematic” footage be snipped out for television (most assiduously by Disney). Hence most viewers, glancing at the shots on these pages now, will no longer be able to see them in anything but a quasi-pornographic context – something which would have seemed quite absurd back in 1964. This distorted and unhealthy outlook on child nudity is highly contagious. So some men will find these boys sexually desirable. What of it?

