

El Lazarillo de Tormes

("The Little Guide of Tormes")

Spain : 1925 : dir. Florián Rey :

Silent : 74 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

[Alfredo "Pitusin" Hurtado](#)

Manuel Montenegro; Carmen Viance; José Nieto

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5939	1.5	2	0	516	3	-	-	-	-	No	<i>unseen</i>



Alfredo Hurtado, circa 1925, but not necessarily a promotional still from this specific film.

Source: The Moving Picture Boy

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"In the Middle Ages a child goes into service with a broad assortment of characters in order to survive. Filming of a classic work from Spanish picaresque literature, which positively distinguished itself thanks to its expressive power and spot-on period setting. **1/2 "

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Hurtado:

"When he was five, Alfredo Hurtado Franco enrolled at a film-acting school in Madrid run by the actress Flora Rosini. His mother then wrote and produced a modest little film to earn money and show off the child's evident skills. This led to the part in "LA MEDALLA DEL TORERO".

Alfredo, known from his debut as "Pitusin" ("Pretty Little Thing"), became Spain's first child star, "el Chiquitin español" ("The Spanish Kid", after Coogan). When not busy filming, he would give poetry and guitar recitals.

Inevitably, "Pitusin" Hurtado was chosen to incarnate for the screen "*The Little Guide of Tormes*", said to be the first child protagonist in world fiction. As Christopher Morgan has pointed out, the Lazarillo is both hero and narrator of the anonymous picaresque novel published in Spain in 1554.

Hurtado continue to act in films until his early twenties. From 1940 he became assistant to several leading directors such as Florian Rey, Ladislao Vajda and Antonio Roman, and in the 1950s directed two or three modest films of his own."

[no listing in "Classics of the Silent Screen", "A Pictorial History of the Silent Screen", "Silent Movies: A Picture Quiz Book", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "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. High praise indeed for a Spanish title from the "*Speelfilm Encyclopedie*". The story was filmed again in 1959 with Marco Paoletti in the central role. If it is truly considered to be the first fictional tale with a child hero, then that makes this title of exceptional significance to the archive. The Pretty Little Thing was 7, and several of his other titles reflect the roles he was deemed best for: "**LA BUENAVENTURA DE PITUSIN**" ("Pitusin's Good Luck", 23), "**LOS GRANUJOS**" ("The Urchins", 24) and "**EL PILLUELO DE MADRID**" ("The Scamp of Madrid", 26). He died in 1965.

See also the 1959 remake, and subject index under [HISTORY](#), [NOTABLE FIRSTS](#), [SILENT CINEMA](#) and [WORKING BOYS & GIRLS](#).