

# El Niño y el Muro

( "The Boy and the Wall" )

Spain / Mexico : 1964 : dir. Ismael Rodriguez :

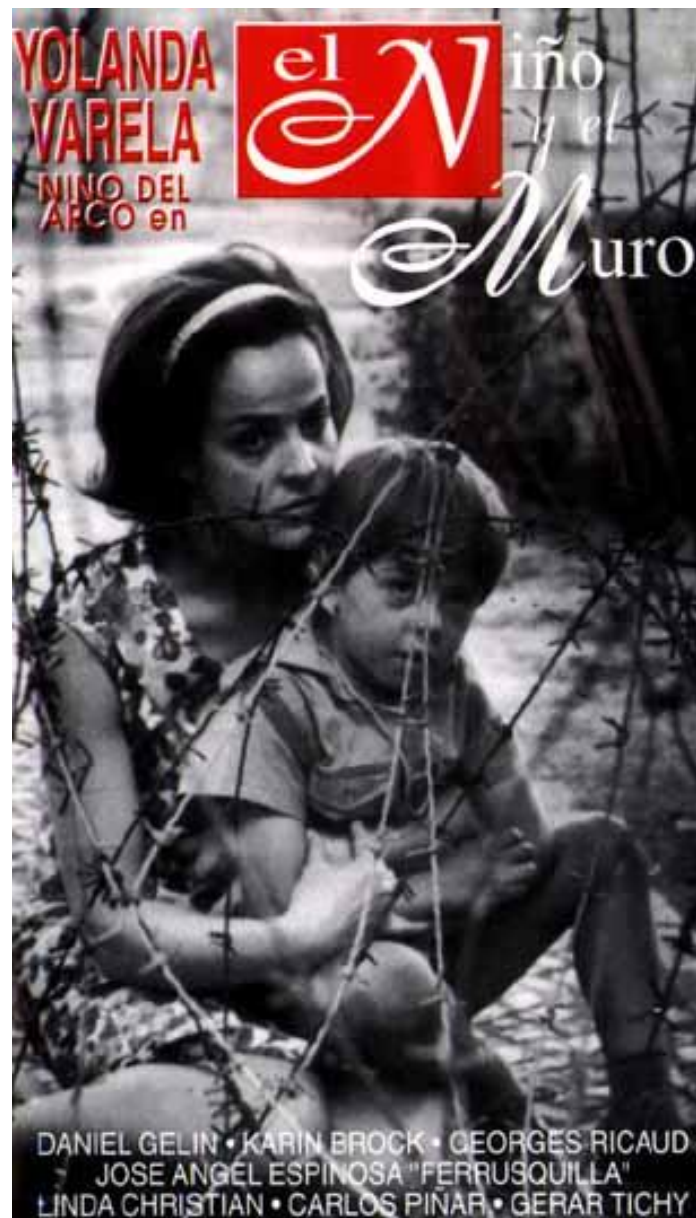
: 85 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

*Niño del Arco* .....

Yolanda Varela; Daniel Gélin; Karin Brock; Georges Ricaud; Karin Kloer; Hugo Blanco;  
Jose Angel "Ferrusquilla" Espinosa; Linda Christian; Carlos Piñar; Gerard Tichy;  
María Encarnación López

| Ref:  | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | 8 | ≠ | M | ⌘ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
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| 3002b | 2.5   | 3       | 2      | 695   | - | - | - | - | - | No          | unseen      |



Source for both stills: CVMC website



**Speelfilm Encyclopedie** review:

“The ball with which a child is playing by the Berlin wall lands in the Eastern sector. Flimsy, equivocal treatment of a burning issue. 1/2\* ”

**CVMC** video retail/rental website review:

“A boy of approximately five years of age covets a ball on display at a nearby store. His father one day purchases it for him, but it is soon kicked over the wall of a newly built prison. Determined to regain his possession, our little hero removes a block from the wall and there finds a female peer whose mother works at the facility playing with it. Over a period of a couple days, he tries to coerce the girl into giving it back to him and in the process makes a friend. Trouble starts when the guards learn of the hole. An enjoyable film that is easy enough to follow even if you do not know Spanish.

Rated NR: adult themes [*sic*]; brief nudity; brief sexual themes

Language: Spanish

Categories: Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Drama, Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent

Black & White. ”

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

**The Moving Picture Boy** entry on del Arco:

“In **"EL NIÑO Y EL MURO"** he played a half-German boy – whose German postman father, to add to the ethnic confusion, is played by Daniel Gélin. The Wall is the Berlin one, and the tenuous plot involves a ball, a white mouse, border guards and supramural romance.

In **"LA PRIMERA AVENTURA"** (released in Mexico as **"THE BOY AND THE THIEF"**) a poor peasant is arrested for the theft of a church collection, three village children try to prove him innocent and some avenging dogs hound the true culprit to a confession.

Niño, an ornament to both these moral tales, continued to act, with for instance the second lead in **"KALTMAN, EL HOMBRE INCREDIBLE"**. ”

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "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. The CVMC reviewer seems to have missed the heart-rending political allegorama of it all. It could best be summarised, I suppose, as “little hands across the frontier” – and encapsulates all those many titles in which children strike up friendships across some intractable political gulf (Catholic and Protestant chums in Northern Ireland, white and black best buddies in apartheid South Africa, etc). Film-makers like to use children in this way as glib symbols of “*the way it ought to be*”, if only adults could recover their lost “innocence”. That beguiling whimsy is undone by an equal number of films revealing that children have exactly the same capacity for xenophobia and racism as their elders do, and throw up political frontiers of their own within their peer group. These hatreds are not “learned”, as contemporary wisdom has it, they express a primal instinct to mistrust what is different.

Essentially the same tale, but without the Cold War geopolitics dimension, was seen in “[IGELFREUNDSCHAFT](#)” (61, “Hedgehog Friendship”) in which an East German boy and a Czech girl have a cross-border incident over an escaped pet.

The Arco Kid was about six. For more of him, see “[GRANDES AMIGOS](#)” (66).

See subject index under [ANIMALS](#), BOY MEETS GIRL, THE CHILD AS POLITICAL SYMBOL / PROPAGANDA TOOL, [EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC](#) and TOYS / DOLLS / MODELS.