

# Güeros

Cert 15 Mexico 2014 107 mins

## Crew

Director	Alonso Ruizpalacios
Screenplay	Alonso Ruizpalacios & Gibrán Portela
Cinematography	Damian Garcia
Film Editing	Yibrán Asuad & Ana García
Original music	Tomás Barreiro

## Cast

Tenoch Huerta Mejía	Sombra
Sebastián Aguirre	Tomás
Ilse Salas	Ana
Leonardo Ortizgris	Santos

## Synopsis

Mexico, 1999. Teenager Tomás is proving too much of a handful for his mum, so she sends him to stay with his big brother Sombra who is studying in Mexico City, though currently riven with angst over the student strikes.

Tomás has with him a cassette with the music of Mexican folk singer Epigmenio Cruz. Learning that their idol is in hospital, Tomás and Sombra set off to pay their last respects. But what they thought would be a simple trip to find their childhood idol soon becomes a voyage of self-discovery across Mexico City's invisible frontiers.



## Booking Information

**Distributor:** New Wave Films

**DVD bookings:**

**CINEMA for ALL Booking Scheme**

see page 8 for more information

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[www.cinemaforall.org.uk](http://www.cinemaforall.org.uk)

**Available:** Now



## Reviews

Maybe there's more style than substance here, and maybe more studenty cinephilia than either. But what flair, what humour, what eccentric dash – with a bit of Spike Lee and a bit more of Jim Jarmusch.

This debut feature in moody black-and-white from 37-year-old Mexican film-maker Alonso Ruizpalacios comes to the UK having won a string of festival awards. It's seductive and cheekily self-indulgent: a meandering, self-circling road movie that never looks anything other than gorgeous..... A very smart debut.

*Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian, November 2015*

Right off the bat, Alonso Ruizpalacios' *Güeros* captures three superlatives from this reviewer: best debut feature I've seen in the last year, best Mexican film in recent memory, and best (black and white) cinematography since Pawel Pawlikowski's equally stunning but very different *Ida*.

....while Ruizpalacios has admitted other influences ranging from Ozu to Fellini to Monte Hellman, the New Wave does seem to be his pole star. You get that in the film's focus on marginal, quasi-hipster characters; its self-reflexivity and cascade of cinematic and pop-culture nods; its winningly naturalistic performances, jerky, stop-start plotting and geographic peregrinations (the director has called it a road movie about Mexico City); and, most especially, in Damián Garcia's exultant camerawork, which has a fluid, observant lyricism worthy of ace New Wave lensman Raoul Coutard.

In one sense, the film is a great lark, a dizzy road trip with some entertaining knuckleheads, both light-skinned and dark. Yet it also manages to be a movie with some serious things on its mind, for those who want to think about what it's saying. More than perhaps any other country, Mexico has lobbed some real cinematic intelligence onto the world stage in recent years. *Güeros* continues that salutary tradition. A sly, insouciant masterpiece, it marks Alonso Ruizpalacios as a talent to watch.

*Godfrey Cheshire, rogerebert.com, May 2015*

## FILM FACTS...

- ☆ The film premiered at the Berlin Film Festival 2014, where writer/director Alonso Ruizpalacios won the Best First Feature Award.
- ☆ Damian Garcia won the Best Cinematography Award at the Tribeca Film Festival 2014, and the film garnered five Mexican Ariel "Academy Awards" in 2015, including Best Film and Best Director.