

Aventuras de Joselito en America

("Joselito's Adventures in America"; aka "Aventuras de Joselito y Pulgarcito")

Spain / Mexico : 1959 : dir. Antonio del Amo :

: ? min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

Joselito (Jimenez); Cesareo "Pulgarcito" Quezadas

Adult cast unknown

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	□	€	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Excerpt from **The Moving Picture Boy** entry on Joselito:

"...He made his national debut on radio, then appeared in public concerts with Luis Mariano, who helped him to get recording contracts in France, with further radio and TV spots. Since he was a confident, good-looking child, and by now widely popular, his introduction to the large screen was inevitable. The vehicle, **"THE LITTLE NIGHT-INGALE"**, was directed by Antonio del Amo, who would direct him eight more times over the next seven years. (The Mexican venture **"EL CABALLO BLANCO"** was Joselito's only non-Amo film before 1964.) A drowsy numbness would pain almost anyone's sense at the stream of full, throaty Ds that followed. The Spanish and Mexican industries and publics are so closely linked that a get-together seemed desirable between him and his junior, the Mexican child idol, Cesareo "Pulgarcito" Quezadas. This was effected in 1959 with **"JOSELITO'S ADVENTURES IN AMERICA"**, a reunion following in 1966 with **"EL FALSO HEREDERO"**."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Quezadas:

"The cheeky little Quezadas was for some time identified with his debut role as "Tom Thumb", and continued to be referred to as "Pulgarcito".

But he soon graduated from mischief to pathos, and **"EL SORDO"** was a marvellously grotesque wallow, with the comedian Antonio Espino playing soppy Chaplin to his Coogan and praying to the Virgin to restore his hearing – lost while defending a girl from rape – so he can hear what the desperate child is shouting. (Which is, as it happens: "I've been bitten by a poisonous spider! ")

In **"JOSELITO VAGABUNDO"**, he was teamed for the second time, after an interval of six years, with the Spanish boy singer "Joselito" (José Jimenez). Though Joselito was the elder by four years or so, his career was to continue longer."

[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. And no listing in the generally dependable *Speelfilm Encyclopedie*, which does tend to give Spanish cinema - at any rate of the Franco period - very short shrift. Mawkish sentimentality was the staple diet it would seem, and Joselito's vehicles are representative of that palate. Here 13, three years after his film debut, his soprano would not fail him for many years yet (foul play was suspected). His films included **"SAETA DEL RUISEÑOR"** ("Song of the Nightingale", 57), **"ESCUCHA MI**

CANCION" ("Hear My Song", 58), **"EL PEQUEÑO CORONEL"** ("The Little Colonel", 59) and **"LOS 2 GOLFILLOS"** ("Two Little Vagabonds", 60). **"EL FALSO HEREDERO"** (65) was also known as **"JOSELITO VAGABUNDO"**.

Spanish girl star Marisol was his closest female equivalent, but there has always been more of a tradition of boy singers in the cinema - Bobby Breen, Heintje and Danny de Munk, to name but three. It's also worth noting that no child stars of the English-speaking cinema (even Shirley Temple or Jackie Coogan) ever had films in their own name, as Joselito, Heintje and Marisol all did. The only exception to my knowledge (discounting **"A DATE WITH JUDY"**) would be **"JACKIE COOPER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY"** (31), and I'm dubious whether that could be regarded as a feature film anyway. The domestic box office draw of these child stars was considered enough to open a film, and that's a compliment (their name not above the title, but **in** the title) no Hollywood child star ever received - Macaulay Culkin included.

The Mexican alternative title gives equal prominence to their own star Cesareo Quezadas, who was about 9. The titles of one or two of his vehicles are worth savouring on their own account – **"MI NIÑO, MI CABALLO Y YO"** ("My Boy, My Horse and Me", 58) and **"CAPERUCITA Y PULGARCITO CONTRA LOS MONSTRUOS"** ("Little Red Riding Hood and Tom Thumb vs the Monsters", 60). Alas, nothing is known of them beyond their title.

See subject index under **MUSIC / YOUNG MUSICIANS** and **SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA**.