

Los Niños

(= "The Children"; aka: "Quién Puede Matar a un Niño?" = "Who Can Kill a Child?"
 English titles: "Death is Child's Play", "Island of the Damned", "Would You Kill a Child?")
 Spain : 1975 : dir. Narciso Ibañez Serrador : Tigon : 112 min
 prod: : scr: Luis Penafiel : dir.ph.:

Lewis Flander; Prunella Ransome; Antonio Iranzo; Marisa Porcel; Miguel Narros;
 Maria Luisa Arias; Maria Druille; Lourdes de la Cámara; Roberto Nauta

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	⊗	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Poor Goliath – confronted by a whole herd of Davids !

Source: Film Review 1978-79

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review:

"A young couple arrive on a remote island and speedily make the discovery that the children have seized power and killed all the adults. The film borrows rather from **"NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD"**, but is a sight better than the average Spanish horror film. English titles: **"ISLAND OF THE DAMNED"** and **"WHO CAN KILL A CHILD?" **1/2 "**

Film Review 1978-79 review:

"Spanish fantasy about the children of Almanzora in the Balearics who, tired of becoming the victims of adult wars, rise against their elders and wipe them out. Then having defeated the police launch, take the automatic weapons and set off for the mainland to continue their Crusade! Screenplay: Luis Penafiel, based on the novel "The Game" by J.J.Plans. Cert. "X" "

"The silent menacing line of children face their adult foe Lew Fiander in a scene from the Spanish film **"DEATH IS CHILD'S PLAY"**, a disturbing story about the children on a small island near the Balearics who rise against the adults, wipe them out and then set off for the mainland armed with automatic weapons and a declaration of war. This Tigon release was formerly entitled **"WOULD YOU KILL A CHILD?"**. "

The Time Out Film Guide review:

"Horror films are almost by definition so full of plagiarism an revamped ideas that it's always exciting to find real originality in a plot. While this is influenced by **"NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD"** and **"LORD OF THE FLIES"**, its twist is inventive and, potentially, highly relevant: the children of a remote Spanish island are afflicted by a kind of

supernatural plague, and slaughter the adult population. Finally, though, the film fails to take advantage of its own idea. Hints over the credits that the children of the human race may be exacting revenge for war atrocities are undercut by a gratuitous "**ROSEMARY'S BABY**" subplot."

[no listing in "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", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. A good spanking all round would soon put a stop to that nonsense.

No fewer than four English titles and the film *still* can't get itself listed in the principal English-language guides. As one of those titles indicates, this rubs at the same adult anxieties as "**VILLAGE OF THE DAMNED**" and "**CHILDREN OF THE DAMNED**", more crudely realised in the States by films like "**CHILDREN OF THE CORN**" and "**ALL THE KIND STRANGERS**". The theme of children throwing off the yoke of adult dominion didn't really require the pretext of adult warmongering, which perhaps was only an afterthought. Better to regard them as symbiotic but alien species – the one of which mutates into the other – and simply terminate the historic alliance between them. Holmstrom makes no reference to this film in *The Moving Picture Boy*, so the children in the cast cannot be identified.

See subject index under [THE CHILD AS EVIL IN OUR MIDST](#), [KID STRIKERS / PROTESTERS / DEMONSTRATORS](#) and [WAR](#).