

Short Eyes

(aka: "Slammer")

US : 1977 : dir. Robert M Young :

: 104 min

prod: : scr: Miguel Pinero : dir.ph.:

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Bruce Davidson; Jose Perez; Joseph Carberry; Nathan George; Don Blakely; Shawn Elliott;
Curtis Mayfield; Freddy Fender; Miguel Pinero

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω	□	≠	Z	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
1996 review:

"Raw, uncompromisingly powerful story of men in prison, from Miguel Pinero's highly acclaimed play. Utterly realistic film was shot at New York City's now-shuttered Men's House of Detention, known as The Tombs. Title is prison slang for a child molester [sic] (played by Davidson). Scripted by Pinero, who also appears as GoGo. Retitled "SLAMMER". ***½"

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89
review:

"Miguel Pinero's brilliant play Short Eyes, about an accused child molester [sic] thrown in the tank with hardened types is given an overly conscientious treatment by director Robert M Young. Powerhouse performances, especially by Davison and Carberry. *** "

Rating the Movies (1990) review:

"Davison, Perez and Carberry star in this tough-talking semi-documentary based on Miguel Pinero's award-winning play about prison life. It has a raw quality that steers clear of the usual prison-movie sentimentality. The cast - a mixture of ex-cons, street people, and professional actors - performs well. Filmed entirely in The Tombs, which is New York

City's Men's House of Detention. Also with Don Blakely and Nathan George. *** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"Film version of Miguel Pinero's play about a convicted child-molester [sic] at the mercy of other prisoners. A brutal and frightening film. Excellent, but difficult to watch. Rated "R" for violence and profanity. **** "

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. A topical theme indeed. The clichés of American prison films – homosexual rape in the showers, the old con with the pet mouse, one in three inmates falsely convicted, and the rest mostly hard luck cases – would seem to be set aside for once, although there is doubtless a sadistic guard on call somewhere. Recent outings in that genre – **"THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION"**, **"THE GREEN MILE"** – each paid their dues to the old stereotypes, so that it seems virtually impossible to guess what prison life in the US must actually be like.

Convicts in sex offence cases, particularly but not exclusively those involving children, have also traditionally been subjected in British prisons to harassment, intimidation and physical assault. The equivalent hate-word in British prison parlance is "nonce" (they were originally deemed to be "nonsense crimes"). And the persecution of these individuals does not stop short of murder. High-profile sex-killers such as Jeffrey Dahmer in the US, and Leslie Bailey in the UK, have often met violent deaths in prison from other inmates (while under segregation for their own "protection").

This culture of vigilante "justice" is openly promoted and endorsed by cretinous tabloids like *The Sun*, who applaud when such attacks subsequently take place. So far has British society degenerated in recent years, that this "prison justice" has now been translated to the country at large, on the urging of those same tabloids, and people are being stoned and attacked in their homes on the merest rumour of a sexual interest in kids. A man who had appeared in court on "child sex charges" the previous year was recently burned to death in his sleep by right-minded neighbours, notwithstanding the fact he'd been acquitted on all counts. For there can be no smoke without a fire.

The freedom of the press is a many-splendoured thing.

See subject index under **PRISON** and **SEX & SEXUALITY**.