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Tåg Till Himlen

(aka: "EL TREN AL CIELO", "TRAIN TO HEAVEN")

Sweden / Ecuador : 1989 : dir. Torgny Anderberg : Filmstallet

: 95 min

prod: Hans Lönnerheden : scr: Torgny Anderberg : dir.ph.: Tony Forsberg

[Carlos "Christian" López](#)

James Coburn; Hugo Álvarez; Teodor de la Torre

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω □ ∅ Z ☺	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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A photogenic orphan, a cute dog, a steam train – what more could any audience reasonably want?

Source: 33rd London Film Festival

33rd London Film Festival - 1989 -
programme review:

"Ten-year old Nino lives in an orphanage in Ecuador but runs away with a dog he has rescued. He discovers the dangers of the city and meets Gringo Viejo, an old sailor, who teaches him to hate anyone in uniform. Then Nino hears about the train to Quito, high up in the mountains, and takes it to be the train to heaven, where his parents must be. The resultant long train sequence is superbly

photographed. The incidents are richly detailed and the characters sharply drawn. The screenplay is based on a novel written by the director which draws on his own experience of living in Ecuador. There is some haunting theme music which will be heard throughout the Festival, not just during this film."

- Terry Staples

[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. What more could any audience want? Well, the presence of a Hollywood name evidently, in the shape of James Coburn (doubtless playing Gringo Viejo) although his star clout has not prevented the title being comprehensively ignored by the film guides, obsessed as they are with American product, so it seems the calculation did not ensure it a commercial distribution in the States. On the other hand, a runaway orphan and his dog hopping a train to heaven to join his parents does sound a mite heavy on the stomach. Disney has occasionally bought up Latin American children's films of this sort and dubbed them, but not so in this case, it seems. Carlos "Christian" López presumably plays Nino.

See subject index under **DOGS, ORPHANS / ADOPTION / CHILDREN'S HOMES, RUNAWAYS / STOWAWAYS, SCANDINAVIA, SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICA, SPECIAL FRIENDSHIPS** and **TRAINS / RAILWAYS**.