

## A western road trip with as much adventure as emotion

It may not have the same impact on popular culture, but Spanish animation has nothing to envy of industries like the American one. Anyone who doubts that should watch films like 'Robot Dreams' or 'Buffalo Kids'. It has just been snatched away by the short 'ON/OFF' by Nicolás Pedro Villarreal, but the short film 'Cuerdas', from which 'Buffalo Kids' is based, came to hold the Guinness Record for the most awarded short film. Now, based on the idea of that simple and beautiful story, comes this feature film.



If the short film invited us to return to a schoolyard full of games like skipping, clapping and ball, now the directors **Pedro Solís** and **Juan Jesús Galocha “Galo”** take us on a trip through the United States at the end of the 19th century. There we meet two Irish brothers, orphans and emigrants. They have to travel without resources from New York to California to meet their uncle. In this adventure they meet Nick, a boy with cerebral palsy who, along with other children, travels in search of adoptive parents. It may be hard to believe, but all this that seems to come from the dark mind of Charles Dickens is a western road trip full of emotion and adventures.

The film gains even more nuances of affection when we learn a tender detail. Nick is actually Nicolás, Pedro Solís' son. He co-starred in the short and also in 'Buffalo Kids'. It's true that the film could be summed up as the tribute of a father who wants to give his son one last adventure. But the film, although very sensitive, does not get carried away by sentimentality. If the short called for inclusion and understanding, the feature film does the same on an even larger stage, extending its discourse to other areas and people.

The creators of 'Tadeo Jones' and 'Mummies' are increasingly bringing their graphic style closer to that of Pixar/Disney, but they have nothing to envy. Reaching a level superior to that of the 'Tadeo Jones' saga, they achieve sometimes photorealistic settings for slightly big-headed characters. The balance between caricature and realistic landscape is very well achieved. With this, they effectively transport us to the Wild

West in a way that often recalls the classics of the fifties.

Although there is even a nod to 'Airplane!', 'Buffalo Kids' is a markedly childish work. After all, it seeks to instil values of respect and equality, which it is also worth reminding some adults of. Otherwise, it is surrendering to a fun experience with Native Americans starting out in football, a very unruly girl and a dog called Pizca.

### Film profile

**Release in Spain:** August 14, 2024. **Original title:** Buffalo Kids. **Duration:** 93 min. **Country:** Spain. **Direction:** Juan Jesús García Galocha, Pedro Solís García. **Screenplay:** Jordi Gasull, Javier López Barreira, Pedro Solís García. **Music:** Fernando Velázquez. **Main cast (original dubbing):** Alisha Weir, Sean Bean, Gemma Arterton, Stephen Graham. **Production:** Atresmedia Cine, 4CatsPictures, Little Boy AIA, Anangu Grup, Mogambo Entertainment. **Distribution:** Warner Bros. Pictures. **Genre:** adventure. **Official website:** <https://www.warnerbros.es/peliculas/buffalo-kids>