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Güeros — film review: ‘Verve and imagination’

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Sebastián Aguirre as Tomás in Alonso Ruizpalacios' 'Güeros'

The black-and-white showcase from the young first-time director is all but a genre of its own, but Mexico's Alonso Ruizpalacios infuses his debut *Güeros* with verve and imagination. After a dizzying red herring of an opening, he leaves us with Tomás (Sebastián Aguirre), a teenage tearaway sent by his despairing mother to live with older brother Federico (Tenoch Huerta) in Mexico City. There, the straight and narrow is evaded; what unfolds is an urban odyssey and the search for a lost rock'n'roll singer.

Woozy and urgent in the same moment, *Güeros* isn't shy in its devotion to the French New Wave, but its style has substance: despite being brothers, Tomás is light-skinned (for which *güeros* is derisive slang), Federico darker, and that difference, with all its implications, pounds away at the heart of the movie.

★★★★☆

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