



January 2024

Legend of El Cucuy

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Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2024) "Legend of El Cucuy," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 28: Iss. 1, Article 28.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.32873/uno.dc.jrf.28.01.28>

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol28/iss1/28>

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Legend of El Cucuy

Abstract

This is a film review of *Legend of El Cucuy* (2023), directed by Cynthia Garcia Williams.

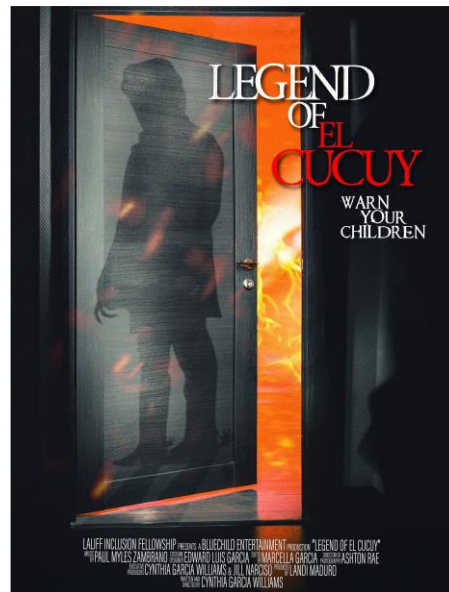
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Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



Legend of El Cucuy (2023), dir. Cynthia Garcia Williams

Isabel is a rebellious, disobedient child. Her teacher does not know how to deal with her, nor do her parents. Finally, her parents turn to the Legend of El Cucuy. The legend is that El Cucuy is a monster. He is a frightening creature—small, misshapen, having hair all over him. El Cucuy has one very large ear, and he listens to find disobedient, misbehaving children. He then comes in the night and snatches the child away.

When Isabel's mother hears banging in the house, she goes to see what is causing the banging. When she gets to Isabel's room, she meets the real El Cucuy, who is as the Legend describes. The movie ends with El Cucuy snatching Isabel from her bed and disappearing with her. The Legend is more than a legend.

When you think about it, we encounter many legends all the time, stories that tell us bad things will happen to us if we don't behave (or vote for the right candidate). And when we dismiss the legend, that's when we pay the price for our disbelief. Or, maybe the legend is a lie others use to manipulate us.