

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Welcome, Mr. Marshall</b>
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Motion Picture Herald</i>
Date	
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Bienvenido Mister Marshall (Welcome Mr. Marshall), Berlanga, Luis Garcia, 1952

# MOTION PICTURE HERALD

## Welcome, Mr. Marshall

*Screen Art—Spanish with English subtitles*

Not many Spanish pictures cross the Atlantic to these shores unless it's for the edification of Spanish-speaking people. An exception is "Welcome, Mr. Marshall," a very pleasant comedy that is reminiscent of many of the charming, off-beat British films seen here.

Although it tells of a group of people unfamiliar to us, a competent English narration explains the situation satisfactorily enough for audiences to extract full enjoyment from it. The village people in Spain are simple, pleasant folks, far removed in space, temperament and culture from the Andalusian Spanish. The latter represent the way of life most foreigners picture Spain—colorful costumes, singing, dancing.

When one of these small villages learns that a Marshall Plan commission will visit the town, the information turns the place upside down and literally, almost inside out. For visiting the town at this time is a small-time entertainer and her equally small-time press agent who comes up with the sensational idea of giving the place a complete face-lifting and transposing it into an Andalusian idyll.

Getting all the necessary costumes and equipment on credit, the town is changed almost overnight. The day before the expected visit the townspeople each make one special request which the civic leaders are to tell the commission. The day of the visit all hopes vanish as the Americans whiz through the town obviously on their way to another village. The day after the "visit" the town returns to normal, each one pitching in to meet the expenses and to work for a good harvest.

It's a simple story, told for the most part amusingly and winningly. While some of the humor is at the expense of the Americans, most of it makes fun of the local people and their customs. One of the villagers pictures the Americans as members of the Ku Klux Klan, another as ferocious Indians, another as Santa Claus. Some unnecessarily lengthy dream sequences emphasize these points rather heavily but the film, for the most part, is good fun.

None of the cast is familiar but all are good performers. The picture was directed by Luis G. Berlanga who also wrote the screenplay with Juan A. Bardem. It is a Uninci Production.

*Seen at a screening room in New York. Reviewer's Rating: Good.—J.R.*

Release date, not set. Running time, 87 minutes. General audience classification. Lolita Sevilla, Manolo Moran, Jose Isbert, Alberto Romea, Elvira Quintilla, Luis Perez De Leon, Felix Fernandez