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The Great Madcap 9:15

Luis Buñuel (Mexico, 1949)

(*El Gran Calavera*). Imagine Hollywood screwball comedy in the hands of Buñuel and you have *The Great Madcap*. This rarely revived film is "a mischievous comedy about a drunken millionaire whose righteous family try to teach him a lesson by persuading him that he's lost all his money. When he finds out, he teaches them an even better lesson by persuading them that he *has* lost all his money. All of this permits many gentle digs at notions of respectability, family loyalty, the morally edifying effect of working for one's bread, and so on..." (Raymond Durgnat, *Luis Buñuel*). "Buñuel eliminates kisses in the love scenes projecting subtle eroticism as Rosario Granados and Rubén Rojo express their love inside a sound truck, their words being overheard by the entire neighborhood... Also noteworthy is his special use of dialogue in the [wedding] scene in which...advertising slogans mix with phrases from the Epistle of Saint Paul in a linguistic collage of gags reminiscent of Groucho Marx and Lewis Carroll..." (Venice Biennale, 1974)

- Written by Raquel Rojas, Luis Alcoriza, based on a comedy by Adolfo Torrado. Photographed by Ezequiel Carrasco. With Fernando Soler, Rosario "Charito" Granados, Rubén Rojo, Andrés Soler. (90 mins, In Spanish with English subtitles, B&W, 16mm, From Kino)