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El Bruto
(The Brute)
(MEXICAN)

Paris, Aug. 25.

Marceau release of Internationale Cinematografica production. Stars Pedro Armendariz, Katy Jurado. Directed by Luis Bunuel. Screenplay, Luis Alcazar, Bunuel; camera, A. Jimenez; editor, Jorge Bustos. At Comcodia, Paris. Running time, 80 MINS.

Pedro Pedro Armendariz
Manuela Katy Jurado
Andres Andres Soler
Michelle Rosita Arena

Director Luis* Bunuel has fashioned a harrowing tale of a simple-minded brute caught in the machinations of an overbearing landowner and a perverse woman. Bunuel gives it the unrelenting treatment due its sordid, poverty-stricken atmosphere. The ugly, warped and lost are the background of this gripping pic which has a texture and moving narrative style. Its offbeat approach and downbeat histrionics slant this for only arty spots in the U. S. for any possible payoff, with the name of Pedro Armendariz a draw.

The brute is hired by the landlord to scare off a group of obstinate lodgers so he can raze the building on his land and use it for other purposes. The powerful lout comes into contact with the landlord's predatory mistress. An awakening gentleness and awareness comes too late as he is forced into murder and then annihilation by the rapacious femme.

Bunuel has clothed this in the stilling air of the slums of Mexico. There is nary the glycerine glint of the usual Mexican pic. Film's main lack is compassion which leaves this cold if absorbing. Pedro Armendariz is fine as the brute whose only recourse to attention is the power of his biceps. Katy Jurado, who appeared in "High Noon," is perfect in portraying the complex actions and depths of her fetid character. Remainder of the cast supply excellent faces and silhouettes, with editing aiding in the unfoldment. Mosk.