

## Document Citation

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# **Adventures of Robinson Crusoe (COLOR)**

**Attractively done-up version  
of the Daniel Defoe classic  
that should excite and delight  
the juves.**

United Artists release of an Oscar  
Dancigers-Henry Ehrlich production Stars  
Dan O'Herlihy and James Fernandez;  
features Felipe De Alba, Chel Lopez,  
Jose Chavez, Emilio Garibay. Directed  
by Luis Bunuel. Screenplay by Phillip  
Roll and Bunuel, based on the Daniel  
Defoe story; camera (Pathecolor), Alex  
Phillips; editors, Carlos Savage, Alberto  
Valenzuela. Previewed April 20, '54 in  
N.Y. Running time, 90 MINS.

Robinson Crusoe ..... Dan O'Herlihy  
Friday ..... James Fernandez  
Capt. Obero ..... Felipe De Alba  
Bo's'n ..... Chel Lopez

**(Aspect Ratio: 1.33 to 1)**

"Robinson Crusoe," the Daniel  
Defoe classic which has thrilled  
and excited youngsters all over the  
the world for more than two cen-  
turies, has been brought to the  
screen by Oscar Dancigers and  
Henry Ehrlich with taste and a  
good deal of pictorial imagina-  
tion. Pic, which by the very  
nature of the story is turned  
into a tour-de-force for Dan  
O'Herlihy as Crusoe, is a natural  
for the juve trade. If properly ex-  
ploited, it should parlay its adven-  
ture theme into a hefty b.o. take.

Made in Mexico, "Crusoe" is the  
first sound and color version of the  
Defoe tale. Although a good part  
of it is taken up with the shipwreck  
and Crusoe's establishment of a  
home on the island on which he is  
to dwell for more than 28 years,  
director Luis Bunuel keeps the  
hero on the move but doesn't neg-  
lect to establish the torment of a  
man suddenly cut off from all out-  
side communication, a dog his only  
companion.

There's plenty in the Defoe book  
to fill the screen with all sorts of  
activity and O'Herlihy, a graduate  
of Dublin's Abbey Theatre, enters  
with gusto into the spirit of the  
thing. Film realistically shows him  
aging through the years and he's  
excellent in communicating emo-  
tions which screen rarely has a  
chance to express. All this changes,  
of course, when he has his run-in  
with the cannibals and rescues Fri-  
day from death. He gains a faithful  
companion whom he teaches Eng-  
lish and the ways of civilized men  
as far as the primitive surround-  
ings will permit.

O'Herlihy, with the exception of  
a few scenes, is completely be-  
lievable, whether it's working on  
his house or holding conversations  
with flowers and insects. His per-  
formance, aided by Bunuel's expert  
direction and Alex Phillip's fine  
lensing, gives the film distinction.  
James Fernandez as Friday, the  
savage who learns to respect and  
love his rescuer after an initial pe-  
riod of uneasy suspicion and dis-  
trust, steps right out of the pages  
of the book. Felipe De Alba is  
splendid as the captain.

Pathe color comes through very  
well and in natural tones that pro-  
vide added values. Bunuel's meg-  
ging is intelligent and places the  
accent where it belongs, building  
suspense and tension as Crusoe  
suddenly discovers that he's shar-  
ing the island with cannibals.  
Hift.

*Var: June 2, '54.*