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Author(s)	Jonathan Holland
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## AT FULL GALLOP

(SPAIN)

A Nirvana release of a Telsa PC/Estirpe PC production, in association with TVE and Canal Plus. (International sales: Nirvana, Madrid.) Executive producer, Jose Antonio Felez.

Directed by Julio Suarez. Screenplay, Veronica Fernandez, Carlos Morello. Camera (color), Juan Carlos Gomez; editor, Nacho Ruiz-Capillas; music, Pablo Vega; art director, Satur Idarreta. Reviewed at Cine Bogart, Madrid, July 8, 2000. Original title: *A galope tendido*. Running time: 87 MIN.

With: Ana Alvarez, Aitor Merino, Ramon Langa, Africa Gosalbes, Kiti Manver, Sancho Gracia.

**T**hough good looking and generally well played, Julio Suarez's feature debut "At Full Gallop" is doomed from the start by a script that aims to fuse two completely different films: one about small-town political corruption, the other about a no-hoper who dreams of becoming a cowboy. Though pic features one of Spanish cinema's most photogenic faces in Ana Alvarez, only a miracle will stop it from galloping straight to rental shelves.

Jaime (Aitor Merino, in his first leading role) works as a clerk for a railroad company run by Ibarra (Ramon Langa) that is threatened with closure after the local discovery of oil. Inspired by the spaghetti Westerns made by his Uncle Boni (Sancho Gracia), Jaime divides his time between adoring Doro (Alvarez), who works with him, and dreaming of being a cowboy hero — which he gets a chance to try to be when Ibarra's corruption is exposed. The political section is well intentioned and well played, but Merino lacks the ability to galvanize his cardboard character. After a solid enough first half-hour, the implausibilities and cliches mount in a movie that can't decide whether it is parody or homage.

— Jonathan Holland