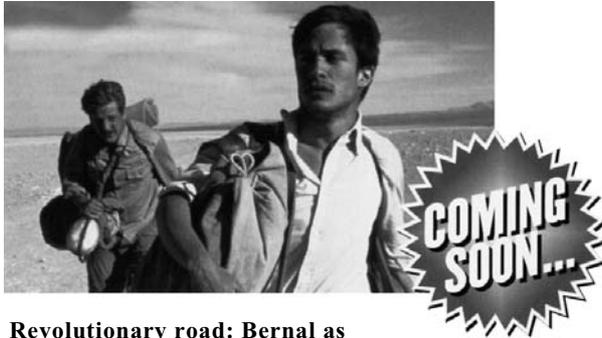


■ Tekst 1 Coming soon...



Revolutionary road: Bernal as Che Guevara

Walter Salles'

THE MOTORCYCLE DIARIES

A Barry Sheen biopic?

Ha, no. This is based on the journal kept by one Ernesto Guevara, who journeyed through Latin America in the '50s with his best friend, Alberto Granada. You may know Ernesto better as the future poster boy for Marxist revolutionaries everywhere, Che Guevara.

Who plays the great man?

That poster boy for New Latin Cinema, Gael García Bernal, who bears an almost supernatural resemblance to the mighty Che. In fact, Gael has played Guevara before, in a 2002 US TV film called *Fidel*.

So tell us more about the film.

It's a classic buddies-on-the-road movie, through some of the world's most beautiful landscapes. Medical students Ernesto, then aged 23, and Alberto head

off from their home in Buenos Aires on a ball-breaking journey through South America, taking in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Peru, with the intention of hitting Venezuela in time for Alberto's 30th birthday. What starts off as pure larks – the lads doing their best Hope and Crosby, getting into scrapes, aspiring to be "sexual ambassadors for Argentina" – develops a darker hue as they encounter the extremes of poverty and despair. By the time they reach the isolated San Pablo leper colony in the Peruvian Amazon, the two friends are changed men, and Ernesto has developed his vision for a united South America.

Sounds very ambitious. Does it work?

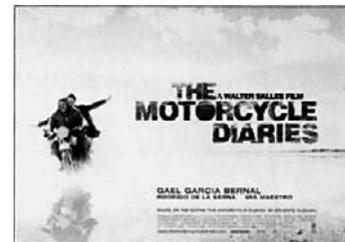
Absolutely. Despite the episodic nature of the story, Salles manages to make the film cohere. And at no point do he and screenwriter José Rivera turn the movie into a polemic; Ernesto's awakening to the suffering in the wider Latin world is played with subtlety by Gael, who reveals an astonishing maturity as an actor. It's also exquisitely shot.

Not to be confused with?

"Motorcycle Emptiness"; *Zen And The Art Of Motorcycle Maintenance*; Black Rebel Motorcycle Club.

MICHAEL BONNER

The Motorcycle Diaries *opens in the UK on August 27.*



UNCUT

Let op: beantwoord een open vraag altijd in het Nederlands, behalve als het anders is aangegeven. Als je in het Engels antwoordt, levert dat 0 punten op.

■ Tekst 1 Coming soon...

- 1p 1 ■ How does this article characterise The Motorcycle Diaries?
As a movie that
- A devotes as much space to the attractions of the scenery as to adventure.
 - B links two men's trip through South America with their inner journey.
 - C mixes respect for Che Guevara with healthy criticism of his ideas.
 - D spreads political propaganda under the guise of a straightforward adventure story.