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**LA WEEKLY**

NEWS / COLUMNS / FILM / MUSIC / THEATER / ARTS / FOOD / CALENDAR

SEARCH

film

**reviews you requested**

in this week's issue

## features

[Sympathy for the Devil](#): After the BALCO scandal, Jose Canseco's book, congressional hearings, and hysterical rhetoric in Bush's most recent State of the Union address, there's no doubt steroids are bad news, right? Not so fast. STEVEN KOTLER asks, What if everything you're being told about steroids is wrong?

## news

JEFFREY ANDERSON exposes [yet another DWP sweetheart deal](#) and raises the question: Where's Antonio?

HAROLD MEYERSON, in Chicago, witnesses [the end of Big Labor](#).

MARC COOPER rejoices in [the Big Breakup](#).

ROBERT GREENE examines [Mayor Villaraigosa's chaotic first month](#).

BEN EHRENREICH witnesses [the infighting of the Minutemen](#).

Plus, in [IMAGE CONTROL](#), Karl Rove as seen by ROBBIE CONAL.

## LA WEEKLY STAFF BLOGS

[Joshuah Bearman](#): Leveraging the Infosphere

[Marc Cooper](#): Blowing up political myths and deceptions

## THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUT

Recommended

A sort of musical indie space-Western, *The American Astronaut* stars its writer-director, San Francisco artist Cory McAbee, as Sam, a rough-hewn pilot who travels the solar system selling and trading what comes his way. On a mission to deliver a handsome 16-year-old (Gregory Russell Cook) to man-starved Venus, Sam discovers that he's being tracked by his nemesis, the bow-tied Professor Hess (Rocco Sisto), who's leaving a trail of dead men in his wake. Along the way, there are production numbers: nifty, polyphonic, bar-rock-deluxe tunes, also written by McAbee, with his band, the Billy Nayer Show, as well as exuberant, arm-flailing dances and off-the-wall encounters with various lost and hard-bitten drifters of the universe. The film is beautifully photographed by W. Mott Hupfel III, whose fuzzy, black-and-white compositions make the most of very little — sets are shabby and minimal, though stylishly so — and propose that what's unseen is as evocative as, if not more so than, the images that glow forth. McAbee's tastes run to tickling absurdities (an all-male dance contest in a saloon on the Ceres asteroid) mixed with rapid-fire non sequiturs, but he has the talent to build a real movie around them, embellishing his tight pace and consistently fine performances with inventive DIY effects — a slo-mo space walk is especially lovely — and neatly economical narrative shortcuts, including a great close-up photomontage of Sam joking and laughing with his young charge. The result is a sui generis, love-it-or-hate-it exercise in homegrown American surrealism. (Hazel-Dawn Dumpert)

SEARCH FILM ARCHIVE

[Doug Ireland](#): Analysis from veteran political journalist Doug Ireland

[Judith Lewis](#): Restoring environmental truths and decency

## columns

### A CONSIDERABLE TOWN

**DEADLINE HOLLYWOOD:** [The Michael Kinsley Experiment Ends](#): Why he was the wrong guy for the *Los Angeles Times*  
By NIKKI FINKE

**WEB EXCLUSIVE:** [Parting Shot](#): *L.A. Times*' Michael Kinsley responds to Nikki Finke's story.

CAROLINE RYDER on [WASPs](#), [winged hussars](#) and other creatures from the past.

MICHELLE HUNEVEN tours ["outsider" gardens](#).

LINDA IMMEDIATO asks, [Does size really matter?](#)

Also, DAVE SHULMAN's [COLUMN DAVE](#).

COLE GERST's [LALA LAND](#)

[A cartoon](#) by BRUCE ERIC KAPLAN

### LA VIDA

[Let's Roll](#): LIBBY MOLYNEAUX gets high on gravity and grass.

In [THE SHOP](#), DEBORAH VANKIN goes ga-ga over glass.

Plus, LIBBY MOLYNEAUX's [HOOPLA](#).

### Letters

We write, you write...

### ROCKIE HOROSCOPE

## arts

### FILM

[Mainly About Gavin](#): DAVID THOMSON remembers the late Gavin Lambert.

ELLA TAYLOR partakes of the sex and drugs and sex and rock & roll of [Michael Winterbottom's 9 Songs](#).

101 REYKJAVÍK  
50 FIRST DATES  
A DOG OF FLANDERS  
A FORCE MORE POWERFUL  
A LOT LIKE LOVE  
A TOUT DE SUITE  
AARON'S MAGIC VILLAGE  
ABANDON  
ABCD  
ABERDEEN  
ABOUT A BOY  
ABOUT ADAM  
ABOUT SCHMIDT  
ACHILLES' LOVE  
THE ACID HOUSE  
ADAM SANDLER'S 8 CRAZY NIGHTS  
ADAPTATION  
ADDICTED TO LOVE  
ADORED: DIARY OF A MALE PORN STAR  
ADORED: DIARY OF A MALE PORN STAR

**REVIEWS** 

And DAVID CHUTE peruses the excavated treasures from [UCLA's festival of international preservation](#).

Plus [NOTES FROM A VIDEO STORE BURNOUT](#).

#### BOOKS

[London Falling, Hollywood Calling](#): BRENDAN BERNHARD on Rupert Thomson's *Divided Kingdom* and Daniel Fuchs' L.A.

#### THEATER

[Making Hay](#): STEVEN LEIGH MORRIS goes down to the farm for *Reapers*.

STEVEN MIKULAN heads south for [Yellowman](#).

#### ART

[Fowler Trifecta](#): DOUG HARVEY on UCLA's repository of the unexpected.

#### MUSIC

PAUL ROGERS imbibes [The Like's hazy, intoxicating brew](#).

BEN QUIÑONES gets clear with [the Visionaries](#) who are playing the [Rock the Bells](#) festival.

KATE SULLIVAN pens a [ROCK & ROLL LOVE LETTER](#).

Plus [LIVE IN L.A.](#)

[SNAKEBITES](#).

[NIGHTRANGER](#).

Plus, ALAN RICH's [A LOT OF NIGHT MUSIC](#).

#### RESTAURANTS

[Hot on the Enchilada Belt](#) with JONATHAN GOLD.

[ASK MR. GOLD](#) about corn chowder.

[WHERE TO EAT NOW](#): Diners.

[WHERE TO DRINK NOW](#): STEVEN MIKULAN on Culver City's lounge lizards and bar gators.

#### CALENDAR

[>Picks of the Week](#)

[>Music Picks of the Week](#)

[>Neighborhood Movie Guide](#)

[> Crossword](#)

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