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Starman: Cory McAbee

AMERICAN ASTRONAUT, THE Cory McAbee, 2001

Our rating: ★★★★★

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REVIEW

Space cowboy

With a stylistic tip o' the space helmet to David Lynch's ERASERHEAD, this debut feature by musician-animator-filmmaker Cory McAbee is a retro-futuristic sci-fi musical oozing the same black-and-white oil and axle grease, albeit with tuneful tongue-in-cheekiness. Cowboyish Samuel Curtis (McAbee), the titular spaceman, plies space in what looks like a giant hot-water heater; the interior captain's cabin resembles an old Bowery hotel room, with chintzy wallpaper and bare light bulbs. Curtis is transporting a cat to Ceres for Eddie (Bill Buell), owner of the Crossroads Bar, a saloon grizzled roughnecks pass the time competing in comradely dance competition, Eddie gives Curtis a box of DNA for cloning a Real Live film gives verbal uppercase letters to lots of Important Signifiers.) Lawrence Blueberry (Joshua Taylor), aka the Blueberry Pirate, suggest take the Real Live Girl to low-rent Jupiter mining czar Lee Vilensk



McRobbie), who regularly gathers his worker-drones in an old uni his protégé, the Boy Who Actually Saw a Woman's Breast (Gregor Cook), describes the sight and sends them on their way. Curtis exc DNA for the Boy, whom he'll take to Venus where antebellum Sou led by the cordial Miss Cloris (Annie Golden), need a new male co exchange him for the body of their old one, whom Curtis will then family on Earth for big bucks. Adding tension to this Rube Goldbe calmly psychotic Professor Hess (Rocco Sisto), who seems to have weapon in the solar system, a disintegrating gun. And brother, whe disintegrates, it really disintegrates. Setting his sights on our inner writer-director-star McAbee has produced something that's equal p Adams and Ansel Adams. Blending steampunk and cyberpunk wit for the wide-open America of Kerouac and Route 66, McAbee and collaborators (including his San Francisco-based band, The Billy N create a wry, off-kilter collage with an admirably straight-faced po The characters may be one-dimensional ciphers with nothing much boy, do they not say it with style; many shot compositions are brea outer-space still-lives, punctuated by a single moving object. That a lot of languid time-killers — the visual equivalent of a 20-minute c solo — but this midnight-movie-in-the-making compensates for th of damn good songs. The dance number "Hey Boy!" is as fine a bit as ever graced Sun Studios. — *Frank Lovece*

Country of Origin:

U.S.

Genre:

Comedy; Science Fiction

Color or b/w:

Black & White

Production Co(s).:

BNS Productions

Released By:

Artistic License Films

MPAA Rating:

NR

Parental Rating:

Cautionary; some scenes objectionable

Running Time:

91

CAST**Cory McAbee**

Samuel Curtis/Silver Miner

Rocco Sisto

Professor Heiss

Gregory Russell Cook

The Boy

Annie Golden

Cloris

CREDITS**Producer****Joshua Taylor****Bobby Lurie****William Perki****Co-Producer****Michael Kran****Director****Cory McAbee**

[James Ransone](#)

Bodysuit
[Joshua Taylor](#)
Blueberry Pirate
[Tom Aldredge](#)

Old Man
[Peter McRobbie](#)
Lee Vilensky

[Bill Buell](#)
Eddie
[Mark Manley](#)

Henchman #1 -- Hey Boy!
[Ned Sublette](#)
Henchman #2 -- Hey Boy!

[Joseph McKenna](#)
Doorman
[Doug McKean](#)
Silver Miner Jake

Writer

[Cory McAbee](#)

Editor

[Pete Beaudrea](#)

Musical Composer

[The Billy Nay](#)

Production Design

[Geoff Tuttle](#)

Casting

[Ann Goulder](#)

Sound

[Doug McKear](#)

Costumes

[Dawn Weisbe](#)

Cinematographer

[W. Mott Hupf](#)



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