



The Drink Tank



ISSUE THE SECOND

MORE THOUGHTS AND STRANGENESSES
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
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Hot Boy Reviewed

Student shorts can be a real drag. I've watched more than my share and quite often it is the combination of pretense and amateurism (not unlike this publication). I have to watch hundreds of them every year at various festivals and somehow I've even learned to love the bad ones on some level. A mountain of debris left behind while digging for gems doesn't bother me when I manage to find a shining piece.

And Robot Boy is an amazing piece.

Robot Boy is the story of a pair of parents who decide to have a child, but to keep him in the proper order that they lead their lives, they add robot parts. The Robot Boy grows up, befriends a girl named Molly, and the two of them build a rocket ship. That's the basic story, but the film is far more than that.

With a story like this, and likely with limited funds, director Ted Passon took the Expressionist route, with sets and props made of painted cardboard and duct tape. Never once did I question it when the rocket ship, made of cardboard and painted Tempura Yellow, began to take off. The moon in the background is a cartoon moon. The low-tech feel comes across everywhere, including in the perfect set of brilliantly low-fi songs by Kimya Dawson and Adam Green. The acoustic guitar and vocals convey the film's emotional tone while still managing to play with the aesthetic.

This is a film of amazing depth and beauty. From the beautiful Cinematography of Johnnatan Rosenberg to actress Molly McIntyre managing to pull off the 900 of acting, pure childhood innocence. The entire film is well beyond anything studios have released in the SF genre in years.

Courage and Stupidity

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The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle

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