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MAN IN THE MOON

1961

98 min.

Rental: A

Directed by Basil Dearden; screenplay by Michael Relph and Basil Dearden. With Kenneth More, Shirley Anne Field, Norman Bird.

Safely removed from the space race, it is apt that the British should come up with the first lampoon of the fearless astronauts. And lampoon they do. The film is pure and utter slapstick with an appropriate amount of corn, and the result is very funny. Kenneth More plays the not-very-willing candidate for the first trip to the moon, after being fired from a medical research center because he can't catch a common cold. Several of the sequences are completely wild.

"A noodly British farce made by a crew of subversives who have obviously heard more than they care to hear about astronauts and rocket scientists." --- Time

"Mr. More, we would say, is the breeziest and most charmingly nonchalant gent that one could rashly imagine as a pathfinding astronaut. He first proved his qualification when he drove that veteran car of his to Brighton in Genevieve. Well, now he is doing something of the same sort in this utterly slapdash film, which qualifies for attention because of its cheerfulness and Mr. More...The point is that the incidents are funny, Mr. More is abundantly droll and the rest of the cast is in good fettle for this sort of casual British farce." --- New York Times