

Document Citation

Title	Candy mountain
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Source	<i>London Film Festival</i>
Date	1987
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Candy mountain, Frank, Robert, 1987



SWITZERLAND/FRANCE/CANADA 1987

Candy Mountain

11.15 NFT1

Directors: Robert Frank, Rudy Wurlitzer

Production Company: Xanadu Film (Switzerland)/Films Plain-Chant (France)/Films Vision 4 (Canada)

Producer: Ruth Waldburger

Screenplay: Rudy Wurlitzer

Photography (Eastman Colour): Pio Corradi

Export Agent: Metropolis Film World Sales, Josefstr 106, 8031

Zurich. Telex 823530/Kurfürstenstr 12, 8000 Munich 40

Leading Players: Kevin J O'Connor, Harris Yulin, Tom Waits, Bulle Ogier

Running Time: 91 mins

Festival: Locarno

It had to come. The post-modern Beat movie. With images of the 50s and 80s coalescing and cross-fading in so many recent Back To The Future flicks, pessimistic odds were on some MTV hotshot sealing a deal to put Kerouac through dayglo hoops. Fears, though, are now allayed; celebrations in order. In *Candy Mountain*, the authentically soured spirit of the Road To Nowhere lives on: and it's Deal Culture itself which bears the savvy satire. Road movies may come marginally more hip, but never wiser nor wittier than this absurdist gem from the veteran outlaw fringe. Focusing on a hapless, no-talent wannabee hustling himself north from NY to Nova Scotia in search of the Great White (Valuable) Guitar, blacktop bard Wurlitzer and frame-poet Frank straddle the straight-white-line irony of the 80s quest – for a Self only viable if initialled with a dollar sign – and work wayward wayside wonders of character cartooning with a rare bunch of marginal musical charismatics. One for nihil desperadoes anywhere. –Paul Taylor.