

Document Citation

Title	By rocket to the moon
Author(s)	Waly.
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1931 Feb 11
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Frau im mond (Woman in the moon), Lang, Fritz, 1929

By Rocket to the Moon

(GERMAN MADE)

(Synchronized)

Ufa production and release. Directed by Frits Lang. At the Cameo, N. Y., beginning Feb. 6. Running time, 95 minutes.

Prof. Manfeldt.....	Klaus Pohl
Wolf Hellus.....	Willy Fritsch
Friede.....	Gerda Maurus
Alias Turner.....	Frits Rasp
Gustav.....	G. Gattetenbauer
Windegger.....	G. Wagenhel
Windegger.....	G. Wagenheim

A freak which will make plenty of money as such. It's along Jules Verne lines and, atmospherically, is much like Fox's "Just Imagine," except that here it's drama. Way too long in its present footage, but if drastically cut would have a punch sufficient to venture into some of the best houses, even though it's merely synchronized.

Lang, directing, has permitted too much mugging and more often than not the tempo is painfully draggy. Miles of film could be eliminated. Performers are always "acting" and camera conscious except in some of the story's highlights.

The rocket trip to the moon is surrounded by a hackneyed melodramatic frame and a bedraggled romance. The girl has no more warmth than the men and is the least convincing member in the cast.

There is a good suspense, and some excellent work on gigantic sets of mechanical order just before and when the rocket is released. The different air pressures and the interior of the projectile is also unique entertainment. The trip, however, is such a lengthy one in footage that part of the time it impresses like a vacation cruise.

Shots of the moon, especially the approach as seen from a window in the rocket, are worthy. The fall upon the surface of the moon and the discovery that humans can live in the luna atmosphere also is full of interest. A trip over the moon to a cave of gold arouses doubt even in a fictional version of such an occurrence. People are shown walking through boiling geysers apparently oblivious to what screens as molten.

In the course of the visit the melodrama is laid on thickest. Shooting and quarrels, futile efforts at romance, etc. The piercing of the oxygen tanks and the fact that one man must remain on the moon so that the others may survive the return trip is done in the usual style.

Picture is silent with a disc orchestral score which repeats almost endlessly the classic "Going Home."

Waly.

2-11-31