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Loving the Alien: Bowie is “The Man Who Fell to Earth”



EDITOR'S NOTE: *This is actually the fabulous Sheri Quirt's post, not the editor's. Sorry, technical difficulties.*

Someone buy David Bowie a cheeseburger, stat! Skeletal and almost translucent, the singer makes a splash as a visitor from the stars in Nicolas Roeg's sprawling 1976 science fiction tale “The Man Who Fell to Earth,” screening today at 3:30 p.m. at [SIFF Cinema](#). Traveling in search of water from a home planet mired in drought, Bowie allies himself with two fellow misfits: the magnificent Rip Torn as the maverick scientist, and Candy Clark (“American Graffiti”) as the trappy rubette who proves a right good sport about discovering that her lover is actually a space creature – and one with a Ken-doll hump where the business end should be, at that. The film doesn't skimp on the traditional sci-fi ingredients of alienation, isolation, technology and paranoia. But Roeg's play with time and point of view give a shot in the arm to the “I come in peace” formula. This is one of those movies that makes incrementally more sense with repeat viewings; first-timers should just sit back and let it wash over them. However inaccessible it may seem in spots, by the time the credits roll, it'll break your heart a little. And does our hero remind anyone else of Michael Jackson in that final frame?



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