

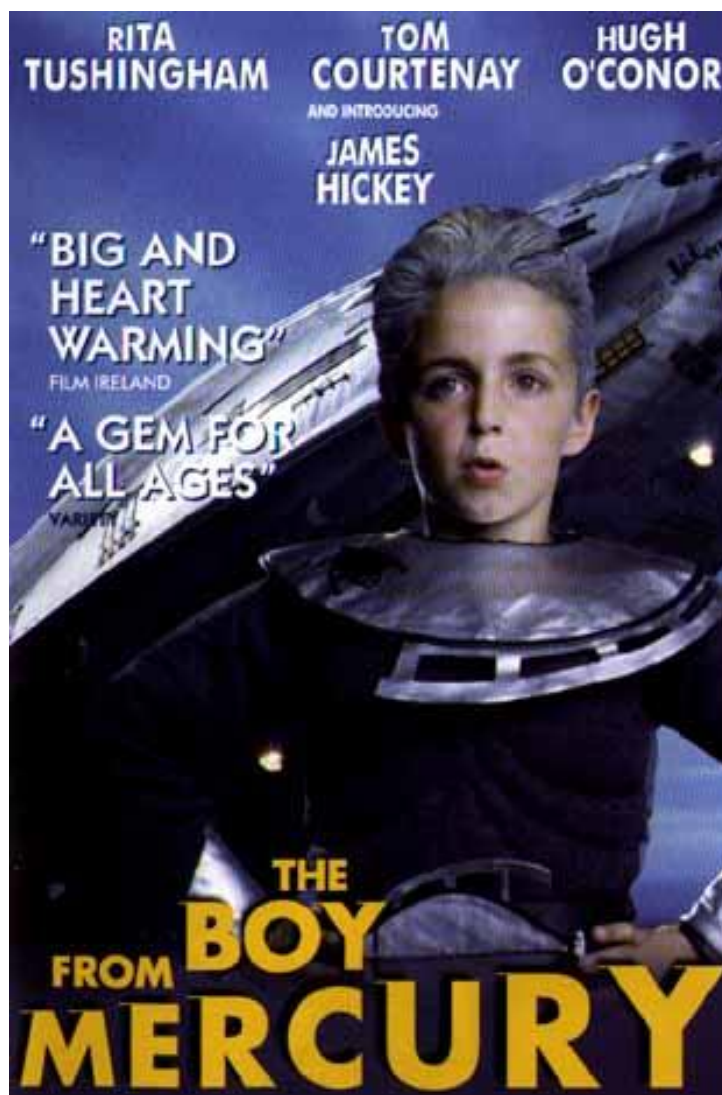
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The Boy From Mercury

UK / France / Eire : 1996 : dir. Martin Duffy : : 84 min
prod: : scr: Martin Duffy : dir.ph.: Seamus Deasy

[James Hickey](#) [d]; [Sean O'Flanagan](#)
Rita Tushingham; Tom Courtney; Hugh O'Connor; Ian McElhinney; Kevin James; Aisling Duffy Neenan;
Joanne Gerrard; Liam Heffernan; Rachel Martin; Paddy Nalty; Patrick J. Brady; Irene Parsons; Brendan Morrissey;
Ciaran O'Brien; Graham Reddy; Mark O'Regan; Carl Brennan; Gerard Cannon; Eamonn Chapman; Cathal Cooney;
Declan Dalton; Stephen Devine; Ian Fitzgerald; Stephen Hayes; Simon Jewell; Mark Kiernan; Mark Kilgallon; Alex
Killen; Johnny Lambert; Leon Leonard; Stephen Mulligan; Jamie Drew McGann; Colm McNally; Robert O'Neill;
Stephen Quinn; Gary Ryan; Dean Sherlock; Danny Shields; Gerard Tighe; Johnny Ward; Daniel Whelan

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	♂	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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NASA cautions us that boys from Mercury are invariably **hot**. Why, even the soccer fields there are made of moulten lead. They make good messenger boys though, reportedly.
Source for all stills: CVMC website



*What do you mean you don't want to see an Irish kids' film with Cantonese subtitles? Whyever not? Right: an "abusive teacher", whatever that may be. Oh yes, a **male** teacher. I understand now...*

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"Martin Duffy made his debut as a writer/director with this semi-autobiographical tale set at the dawn of the space age. Paying homage to both fifties sci-fi and sixties kitchen sink drama, Duffy not only gets the fashions and furnishings right, but also re-creates the cinematic look of the period thanks to Seamus Deasy's ingeniously faded photography. James Hickey is magnificent as the eight-year old who compensates for the loss of his dad by adopting Flash Gordon as his hero and claiming interstellar ancestry. Sean O'Flanagan is equally engaging as his bullied, cowboy-crazy pal, while there are expert cameos from Rita Tushingham and Tom Courtenay. All in all, a gem. **** "

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"Eight year old Harry (James Hickey) believes he is an alien sent from the planet Mercury to observe and report on human behaviour. Might there be some truth to this, or is our little hero simply trying to cope with the loss of his father, abusive teachers [sic], bullies and an unsympathetic teenage brother (Hugh O'Connor)? Generally cute and fun.
Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; violence; profanity

Language: English (with Chinese subtitles)
Categories: Best Buddies, Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Bullies & Teasing, Drama."

Cast:

Harry**James Hickey**
Uncle TonyTom Courtenay
Harry's motherRita Tushingham
PaulHugh O'Connor
Sara, Paul's girlfriendJoanne Gerard
Sean McCarthy**Sean O'Flanagan**

[no listing in "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001"]

No further information currently available. It seems symptomatic of contemporary writers that the natural free-ranging childhood imagination should always be coupled to a very short list of “*ishooz*” they’re being confronted with in real life: bullying at school, bullying at home, sexual interference, divorce, terminal illness, and sexual interference again. It’s the filmic equivalent of poring over a child’s paintings for clues to some concealed domestic trauma. So Harry has lost his dad, and *that’s* why he thinks he’s from a planet of liquid lead. Right.

If we’re looking for a thematic linkage here though, it would not be with “**RADIO FLYER**” and other dramas of childhood trauma, but with titles like “**JOSH AND S.A.M**” (boy convinces his younger brother he’s a “Strategically Altered Mutant”), “**D.A.R.Y.L.**” (boy with amnesia comes to the realisation he’s a prototype military android) and the kids series “**I Was a Rat**” (escaping rat assumes boy-form for ease of concealment). The dual-life motif has a vivid appeal to children, and most of the more popular comic book superheroes were “secret identities” living behind a façade of normalcy. This theme is explored more in the subject index category **SECRET LIVES / SECRET IDENTITIES**. Nothing else is known of James Hickey. Teenage brother Hugh O’Conor earlier played the title role in “**LAMB**” (86).

See subject index under [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES](#), [BULLYING](#), [SCHOOL](#) and [SCIENCE FICTION](#).



Boys from Mercury also have nipples in surprising places. Remember – you learned it here first.

