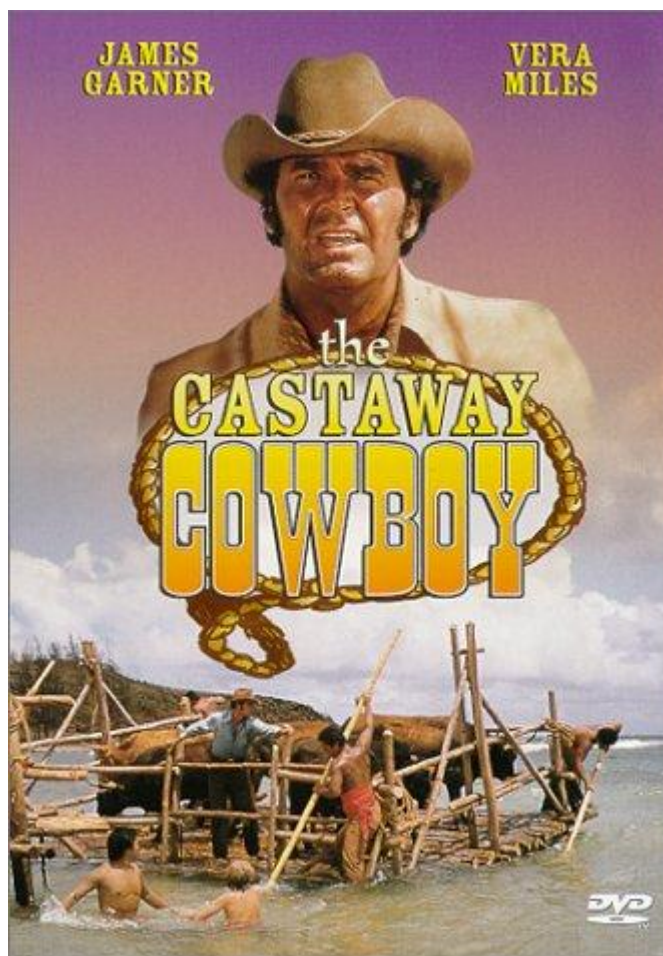


The Castaway Cowboy

US : 1974 : dir. Vincent McEveety : Disney : 91 min
 prod: Ron Miller & Winston Hibler : scr: Don Tait : dir.ph.: Andrew Jackson
[Eric Shea](#)
 James Garner; Vera Miles; Robert Culp; Elizabeth Smith; Manu Tupou; Gregory Sierra

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	€	M	⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
2260b	2.5	9	1	1,101	3	-	-	-	-	No	Unseen



Source: [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide
 1996 review:

"Cowboy Garner is shipwrecked on Hawaiian island, runs into pretty widow and bad guy Culp who wants her land. Old B-Western plot, Disney-fied on Hawaiian locations. ** "

Speelfilm Encyclopedie review - identical to above

Halliwel's Film Guide review:

"In 1850, a Shanghaied sailor on Hawaii helps a lady potato farmer to turn her land into a cattle ranch. Unexciting and unexceptional family fare. * "

The Disney Films comment:

"A ship-wrecked cowboy finds romance and adventure on a Hawaiian island."

"...[**"BEDKNOBS AND BROOMSTICKS"**] was not a major box-office hit... and it dampened the studio's interest in doing other musicals, or large-scale productions of any kind. Instead, the company was content to continue turning out an average of four films a year, alternating between gimmicky slapstick comedies (**"\$1,000,000 DUCK"**, **"NOW YOU SEE HIM, NOW YOU DON'T"**) and homespun stories about nature, children and animals (**"THE WILD COUNTRY"**, **"THE BISCUIT EATER"**).

In 1973 James Garner signed on for two films with Disney. It was a mutually promising agreement; Garner was looking for good movie vehicles, and Disney was happy to have a star of his stature on board. (Though the studio's films were always well cast, it was rare to find a box-office name above the title. Audiences generally went to see "a Disney film", not "the new Dean Jones comedy". Garner even acknowledged the unlikelihood of his working for the studio in an amusing coming attraction trailer for his first film.) But neither **"ONE LITTLE INDIAN"** nor **"CASTAWAY COWBOY"** fulfilled anyone's expectations."

Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89 review:

"Amiable family fare which bears the authentic stamp of Disney quality. James Garner is a Texan who finds himself in Hawaii in 1850 where he gives in to the pleadings of a widow and her charming son to turn their farm into a cattle ranch. *** "

Video Movie Guide 1993 review:

"James Garner plays a Texas cowboy in Hawaii during the 1850s. There he helps a lovely widow (Vera Miles) start a cattle ranch despite problems created by a land-grabbing enemy (played by Robert Culp). Good family entertainment. Rated "G". ***1/2"

DVD sleeve notes:

"Lincoln Costain (James Garner) has been rescued from drowning by a 12- year-old boy on the island of Kauai. As he helps the boy's widowed mother turn a scrubby potato farm into the island's first cattle spread, he must outwit the treacherous local witch doctor, turn a bunch of happy-go-lucky islanders into cowhands, and head off a disastrous midnight stampede."

Amazon.com website review:

"Texas cowpoke Lincoln Costain (James Garner) washes ashore on the Hawaiian island of Kauai and helps the widowed owner of a potato plantation (Vera Miles) turn her ailing farm into a thriving cattle ranch, despite the machinations of a sneaky local merchant (Robert Culp). **"THE CASTAWAY COWBOY"** has all the qualities of Disney's other live-action movies from the 1970s: a clear, straightforward story; serviceable, unfussy acting; a dose of ethnic stereotypes (in this case, the simple, happy-go-lucky islanders); a mixture of sentiment, slapstick, and modest adventure; and a cute, spunky kid, for whom the hero becomes a substitute parent. Garner's easy charm makes the proceedings pleasant enough, though the cultural chauvinism doesn't date well."

– Bret Fetzer

Amazon.com customer reviews:

"Great James Garner Movie. I just saw this movie and it is very funny! James Garner even sings! And not bad either! Excellent family entertainment."

– Carrollton, Texas, July 2000

"Family Viewing. I saw this movie when it first came out. It was a good family movie then and it still is a good family movie now. It's a classic. "

– Kathleen Bounds, Huntsville, Alabama

[no listing in "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "A Pictorial History of the Talkies", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Sunday Times Guide to Movies on Television", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video

Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

Radio Times review:

"Walt Disney's lightweight heartwarmer finds widow Vera Miles and her son befriended by shipwrecked cowboy James Garner. Disney's pleasant reteaming of Garner and Miles from its 1973 film **"ONE LITTLE INDIAN"** boasts attractive performances, an unusual setting and eye-catching Hawaiian locations. ** "

"Disney Western starring James Garner, Vera Miles, Robert Culp. A Texan cowboy, shipwrecked in Hawaii, joins forces with a widow to transform her struggling potato farm into a cattle ranch. But the widow's unscrupulous suitor wants the land."

The Moving Picture Boy entry on Shea:

"Eric was a floridly freckled little chap who, given a bristling moustache and some pince-nez, would have had a certain Teddy Roosevelt

quality. His screen image was plucky and argumentative, not to say uppity. He showed true American grit as the SS Poseidon capsized around him, and (well cast) as Mitch Vogel's kid brother in the Civil War adventure **"MENACE ON THE MOUNTAIN"**; he was resourceful in **"CASTAWAY COWBOY"**, a sort of Hawaiian Western, and peddled nude snapshots of aspiring beauty queens in **"SMILE"**.

Many of his cinema and TV films were for Disney, and when Yul Brynner made a comeback as the King of Siam in a TV serialisation of **"Anna and the King"**, Eric played astonished son to Samantha Eggar's Anna. One of his later performances, a break from his normal role of dear little pest, was as a bullying lout in **"WHEN EVERY DAY WAS THE FOURTH OF JULY"**. Eric had two elder brothers, Michael and Chris, both of whom were useful actors around the same time."

No further information currently available. Buxom frecklefeast Eric Shea was 14. His earliest known role was as Lucille Ball's youngest in **"YOURS, MINE AND OURS"** (68), but he also graced such forgettable titles as **"THE COCKEYED COWBOYS OF CALICO COUNTY"** (70), **"ACE ELI AND RODGER OF THE SKIES"** (73) and **"THE WHIZ KID AND THE MYSTERY AT RIVERTON"** (74). As Lewis Leonowens he was altogether too contemporary and American of course, but then **"Anna and the King"** for TV was mere exotic romantic fluff, with scant historical verisimilitude.

See also **"[ONE LITTLE INDIAN](#)"** (with Clay O'Brien), and subject index under **[DISNEY](#)**, **[FARMS & FARMING](#)**, **[WESTERNS](#)** and under **[DIRECTORS](#)** for other titles by McEveety.