

October Sky

US : 1999 : dir. Joe Johnston : : 108 min
 prod: : scr: Lewis Colick : dir.ph.:
Jake Gyllenhaal; William Lee Scott; Chris Owen, Chad Lindberg
 Chris Cooper; Laura Dern; Natalie Canerday; Scott Miles

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	KBytes	Ω □ ☞ Z ⚡	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
5213	1½	2	1	-	- - - -	No	unseen



Left to Right: William Lee Scott, Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Owen and Chad Lindberg
 Source: Radio Times

Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001 review:

"Heartwarming drama based on the true story of Homer Hickam Jr (Gyllenhaal), who grew up in an insular West Virginia coal-mining town. When he sees Sputnik soaring across the nighttime sky in 1957, he becomes obsessed with the idea of building his own rocket and enlists his friends to share the dream ... against the wishes of his father, a harsh man who's the mine foreman. Rich performances, well-drawn characters, and an old-fashioned sense of can-do American spirit make this something special. Written by Lewis Colick from Hickam's book "Rocket Boys". Shot in Panavision. ***½"

Radio Times review:

"Joe Johnston, director of "JUMANJI" and "HONEY, I SHRUNK THE KIDS", reins himself in for this charming true story of pluck and determination in fifties West Virginia. Although his dad (Chris Cooper) is superintendent of the town mine, schoolboy Homer Hickam (Jake Gyllenhaal) is determined to avoid a life underground. With Sputnik launching the space age, he gathers a group of friends together to build their own rockets. Droll, touching and awe-inspiring in turn, this is an engrossing tale, even if it does contain too much father-son bonding in its closing stages. ****"

No further information currently available. Two thumbs-up out of two is promising. The film would have a particular resonance for anyone who, like myself, was so fired by the Apollo programme as a boy that he built and ignited (if not launched *as such*) several experimental rockets of his own. I tried lighter fuel, then sodium chlorate and sugar, but nothing more sophisticated. Still, rehearsing the countdown was half the point of it, wasn't it?

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