

# American Reel



(<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/1603489h.jpeg>) (<http://www.dvdsnapshot.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/1603489h.jpeg>) **Official Synopsis:**

An overnight success, twenty years in the making...

David Carradine (Kill Bill, Bound for Glory), Michael Maloney and Mariel Hemingway (Manhattan, Deconstructing Harry) come together in this satirical buddy drama set in the dizzying whirl of fame at the heights of the music business. To screenwriters Scott Fivelson and Junior Burke, and director Mark Archer (prize-winning producer of In The Company Of Men), it's all part of the American Reel.

Ladies and gentlemen, meet singer-songwriter James Lee Springer (Carradine), whose uncompromising style has held him back for the past 20 years. "Why did it take you so long to make it?" is the question that keeps coming back at him. Springer wryly counters, "I keep punchin' out record executives."

With a great musical score by Thom Bishop, featuring songs written and performed by David Carradine, *American Reel* touches the mind and the heart in the way that it asks, "When your dream finally comes true, is it still worth it?"

## Our Take:

The last year has provided quite a few titles featuring the late David Carradine, but I would argue **American**

**Reel** to be the one he would be most proud to have in distribution. Moving away from the world of action so many came to associate him with, Carradine wrote and performed the songs in **American Reel**, providing a much deeper portrait of a character already heartbreaking enough from his tale alone.

The film has flaws, most from the production/direction standpoint, but the music and performance of Carradine as a dreamer who refuses to let go of what he knows to be right is too good for anyone behind the camera to destroy.

### Special Features:

- Exclusive Interviews with David Carradine and Michael Maloney
- 12-Song Soundtrack
- Photo Gallery

### Conclusion:

**American Reel** is pretty alright. Not fantastic, maybe memorable for awhile, but definitely far from terrible. If you want one last night of enjoying David Carradine with a film you've never seen, you could do a lot worse than this.

### Overall Picture:

Movie: **C**

Extra Features: **B**

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