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MOVIE REVIEW

Four Letter Word, A



Embrem Entertainment

Cory Grant in the romantic comedy "A Four Letter Word," directed by Casper Andreas.

Good-Natured Raunchiness

By JEANNETTE CATSOULIS Published: March 28, 2008

With its breezy shots of male genitalia and characters nicknamed Long John and Tripod, "A Four Letter Word" is a surprisingly endearing romantic comedy that explores gay relationships with low-budget verve.

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The film's swishy centerpiece is Luke (Jesse Archer), a promiscuous "gay cliché" who works in a Chelsea sex shop along with his friend Zeke (Cory Grant). While Luke chases sexual oblivion, Zeke engages in social activism and a running commentary on Luke's moral shortcomings. But when Luke falls for a less flamboyant lover named Stephen (Charlie David, clearly cast primarily for looks) and decides to cut back on the sparkles, he soon discovers that his new boyfriend is even more old-fashioned than he thought.

Airily directed by Casper Andreas (who wrote the script with Mr. Archer), "A Four Letter Word" coasts on a good-natured raunchiness — a nude yoga class is particularly diverting

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— that’s explicit but never sleazy. Spinning off characters from his gloriously titled “Slutty Summer,” Mr. Andreas integrates subplots involving a gay, biracial couple and a bicurious bride-to-be (an excellent Virginia Bryan).



Though unlikely to appeal much beyond gay audiences, the movie has something to say about hypocrisy and the dangers of snap judgments. As for the male nudity, well, you won’t hear any complaints from me.

**A FOUR LETTER WORD**

Opens on Friday in Manhattan.

Directed by Casper Andreas; written by Mr. Andreas and Jesse Archer; director of photography, Jon Fordham; edited by Christina Kelly; music by Scott Starrett; production designer, Urvashi Satghare; produced by Mr. Andreas and Markus Goetze; released by Embrem Entertainment. At the Clearview Chelsea Cinemas, 260 West 23rd Street. Running time: 1 hour 27 minutes. This film is not rated.

WITH: Jesse Archer (Luke), Charlie David (Stephen), Cory Grant (Zeke), Virginia Bryan (Marilyn), Steven Goldsmith (Peter) and J. R. Rolley (Derek).

**Average Reader Rating**



4.5 rating, 3 votes

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