

"The Rocket Man" Transforms Childhood Grief Into Mesmerizing Adventure at Dances With Films



Los Angeles, California Jun 8, 2025 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - "*The Rocket Man*," a profoundly personal 18-minute science fantasy drama that director **Laurence Cohen** began crafting in response to losing his mother to cancer, will make its world premiere at the prestigious *Dances With Films* festival on **Sunday, June 22nd at 2:45 p.m.** at the *TCL Chinese Theater*.

The film stars **Connor Price** in a breakthrough dramatic performance, delivered years before his emergence as a celebrated recording artist, alongside **Samantha Somer Wilson, John Boylan, Drew Nelson, Ingrid Haas, and Shawn Reynolds**. The casting emerged during the film's nearly two-decade development process, during which **Cohen** edited major studio releases including *Netflix's "Blackout"* (starring **Josh Duhamel** and **Nick Nolte**), *Lionsgate's "Guest House"*, contributing to *Apple TV+'s "Invasion"* and *NBC Universal's "Endgame"*, while editing theatrical campaigns for *Sony Pictures'* biggest tentpole films.

"*The Rocket Man*" weaves together parallel narratives following **Benji**, a troubled boy forced to spend a day at his father's mysterious workplace, and **The Rocket Man**, a young hero preparing for a one-way journey to save an alien world. When **Benji** discovers a caged girl in the basement, both stories converge, exploring themes of loss, acceptance, and saying goodbye.

"This film came from the hardest moment in my life - losing my mom to cancer and being unable to say goodbye," says **Cohen**. "Every minute essentially represents a year's worth of learning, 1 minute per year. So 18 minutes, 18 years of work, step by step. There were no elevators on this one. Having this film about the most difficult time of my life premiere through *Dances With Films*, a prestigious showcase for independent cinema, at the *Chinese Theatre, the world's most famous cinema*, is a dream come true."

Shot by transforming university spaces into otherworldly environments, the film demonstrates **Cohen's** signature ability to create expansive emotional landscapes within intimate constraints.

Cohen's credits include editing *Netflix's "Blackout"*, which reached 15 million viewers in its first week and debuted at #2 globally, and "*Guest House*," which topped *Amazon's* charts for 37 days. His directorial work has screened at *Festival de Cannes*, with "*Rusted Pyre*" winning the *National Screen Institute's* prestigious Drama Prize and recognition among the Top 100 Films of 2011.

Cohen is currently slated to direct the horror-comedy "*The Cheerleaders Must Die!*" with Emmy-nominated producer **David Cormican** under his *Fun Republic Pictures* banner.

"*The Rocket Man*" was completed in **November 2024** and will screen **Sunday, June 22nd at 2:45 p.m.** at the *TCL Chinese Theater* as part of *Dances With Films*.

Trailer and tickets here: <https://www.instagram.com/laurencecohenfilm>

Photo Link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fXc4BFxJP7FTNdib0AumSV6Y5Y-ER9Xt?usp=drive_link

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