SONY PICTURES CLASSICS



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LAND HO!

Reviews

NYT Critics' Pick! "A delightful tale of two longtime friends of a certain age who embark on a classic journey of self-discovery generously embellished with laughter, otherworldly beauty and philosophical inquiries into the nature of existence perfumed by the aroma of cheerfully smoked joints."

--Manohla Dargis, New York Times

"A joyous entertainment...delightfully funny...By turns playful and wistful, the movie is anchored by its irresistible lead performances, with Mr. Eenhoorn, who played the title character in the indie gem 'This is Martin Bonner,' a perfect low-key foil for the outsize Mr. Nelson, the breakout star of this year's festival. The filmmakers adroitly skirt both the cute and the condescending — the default registers of too many movies about geezers — to offer a dual portrait of gloriously alive men who just happen to be old."

--Manohla Dargis, New York Times (from Sundance)

"Calling something a feel-good film always feels like a pejorative, so let's just say that after seeing LAND HO! you are very likely to feel a good deal better...full of surprises, rich in the way it noses around the rocky terrain of aging in an indifferent world through the engaging performances of its two stars."

--Betsy Sharkey, Los Angeles Times

"Land Ho! is a caper of sorts, made less in snooty-indie opposition to the *Grumpy Old Men* franchise than as a fond goosing of the buddy movie, plus kooky innovation."

--Ella Taylor, NPR

"A movie of a different order; its scenic wonders, off-kilter humor and pathos, and the unforced chemistry between its two central characters and the actors who play them will appeal to an audience broader than the senior-ticket set."

--Amy Taubin, Artforum

"The scenery is spectacular, the women they encounter are all marvelously independent, and Eenhoorn and Nelson make a hilarious, endearingly ribald odd couple. A serious film about loneliness, loss, and aging, it is also filled with joie de vivre from beginning to end (and a very cheeky ending it is). I'm not sure if I laughed more during *Land Ho!* or *The Trip to Italy*, which should give you an idea of how wildly witty Stephens and Katz's film is."

--Amy Taubin, Film Comment (from Sundance)

"Delightfully poignant...With its winning mix of bickering and bonding, Land Ho! is so effortlessly charming that it's only a matter of time before some big studio remakes it with Jack Nicholson and Michael Caine."

--Chris Nashawaty, Entertainment Weekly

"The EW Must List: Top 10 Things We Love This Week - #7 LAND HO! This indie charmer captures the energy of '80s buddy comedies by following polar-opposite sixty-something ex-brothers-in-law on a road trip through Iceland, where they hit everything from glacial spas to trendy clubs."

--Entertainment Weekly

- "Uproarious!"
- --*GQ*
- "Beguiling (and also commercial)."
- -- Todd McCarthy, The Hollywood Reporter
- "A balm for the harried soul, LAND HO! is part travelogue, part therapy session. Watching it could inspire you to call an old friend or book a trip to an exotic locale. Maybe both. Well worth an expedition to the movie theater."
- --Diane Garrett, The Wrap
- "The juxtaposition of mundane silliness and those primordial, mythic landscapes proves unexpectedly magical."
- --David Edelstein, New York Magazine
- "Oodles of funny and lovely moments...an unabashed wannabe crowd pleaser, but it's also one whose subtle capturing of behavior and longing resonates with clarity that stays with you."
- --Glenn Kenny, RogerEbert.com
- "The duo blooms into a perfectly calibrated chuckle machine. Both actors are superb, insinuating a spirit of youth without hammering the nostalgia...*Land Ho!* avoids schmaltz to get at that rarest of male timber: rekindled hearts."
- -- Joshua Rothkopf , Time Out New York
- "A marvelous slice of lo-fi whimsy... Land Ho! is a hot spring of a movie: It fizzes a lot, and you come out feeling better than you went in...it's perfect."
- --Ty Burr, Boston Globe
- "What Stephens and Katz achieve is done with a high degree of difficulty....One of the best, happiest movies of the year. You'll exit better than high. You'll leave on a trampoline." -- Wesley Morris, Grantland
- "We had a magical moment at LAND HO! It was beautiful. It's a PERFECT movie...Makes you so happy both as a moviegoer and as a human being. And that is about as much as you can ask for from a movie.... This, to me, is quintessential Sundance: a tiny movie that comes from nowhere and makes your day, your week, and possibly your year."
- -- Wesley Morris, Grantland (from Sundance)
- "People just stood up to cheer for the *Land Ho!* team. I'm just gonna try to hug them all... Just to be clear about 'Land Ho!': I love this movie. It deserves a good, loving, INTELLIGENT distributor."
- --Wesley Morris, Grantland (via Twitter)
- "Gently elegiac road comedy...bawdy, bittersweet ode to friendship's lasting joys and life's inevitable regrets, the film also offers sturdy testament to the rewards of working as a duo, showcasing not only pitch-perfect turns from Paul Eenhoorn and relative newcomer Earl Lynn Nelson, but also a seamless writing-directing collaboration between rising indie helmers Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz."
- -- Justin Chang, Variety

- "Handled with care, Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz's LAND HO! could be one of the year's indie breakouts. A great film, LAND HO is a gorgeous, joyous film about aging and friendship, inexplicably absent from the @sundancefest competition. Next is where it's at." --Scott Foundas, Variety (via Twitter)
- "Atmospheric exploration of two characters in an exotic landscape...unexpectedly funny and charming picaresque road trip comedy that would make Michael Winterbottom proud." --Anne Thompson, Thompson on Hollywood
- "10 Most Exciting Things We Saw & Heard at Sundance: LAND HO! Two old men decide to take a road trip through Iceland, and...yes, we know, you already have visions of Last Vegas and The Bucket List and every other golden-oldie movie that's ever been made. But Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens have added a funky, off-the-cuff touch. It's the artisanal microbrew version to those other Budweiser flicks."
- -- David Fear, Esquire
- "Unlike so many movies about aging, 'Land Ho!' never veers into the cutesy or wacky....A refreshingly naturalistic depiction of the dynamic of traveling companionship — at any age." --Sara Stewart, New York Post
- "A consistently surprising film that is equal parts comedy, adventure and coming-of-age drama...The year's most engaging buddy picture...The landscape they traverse is barren and beautiful; the emotional chasms they bridge are honest and universal." --Bill Newcott, AARP
- "Unassuming, elegantly shot collaboration...actively avoids any melodramatic confrontations or cheesy subplots. A gentle meditation on growing old and bored...carried along by a pair of actors so inherently likable from the outset." --Eric Kohn, Indiewire
- "A style of moviemaking rarely seen: realistic but not boring, with two strong, accessible performances. No grand mysteries of life are solved, but they are addressed, and in a manner that's as invigorating as a dip in a Scandinavian hot spring."
- -- Jordan Hoffman, New York Daily News
- "What turns the trip around, though, for the odd couple and for us, is their bond of deep friendship, and the slow thawing of their frozen lives in a chilly climate. 'Not dead yet,' Mitch declares happily. Not by a long shot."
- --Joe Morgenstern , Wall Street Journal
- "Katz and Stephens transcend [the buddy-comedy genre] by catching two elderly men in a state of vibrant emotional and existential bloom...That Katz and Stephens consistently catch the nuances of character that bind the two men to each other...is what gives the film its melancholic yet vibrant resonance."
- --Chris Cabin, Slant Magazine
- "Supersedes its classic genre and instead establishes itself as a warm-hearted, deeply comedic, and at times, raw and affecting account of friendship, aging, loneliness, and the existential ennui that accompanies it."
- --Interview

- "This January, a crowd-pleasing, buddy road trip bromance premiered at the Sundance Film Festival to rave reviews and high hopes. With no big stars, high-concept pitches, or groundbreaking visual effects, the film didn't win audiences over with plot twists or controversial subject matter, either. Instead, it wowed them with old-fashioned goods like great writing and genuine emotion."
- --Studio System News
- "After seeing it, I can confirm that my grandparents would fucking love it, but so would anyone else interested in seeing two old farts jet setting around Iceland while drinking, cursing, smoking pot, chasing tail, and soul searching."
 --Vice
- "From this year's overcrowded but empty film festival circuit menu comes a rare treat—a modest little cookie called *Land Ho!...* The two stars are as unlikely as the film itself, but audiences are embracing them warmly... A mild, felicitous way to spend a stress-free 90 minutes in the toxic waste of summer movies, Land Ho! is a trip worth taking."

 --Rex Reed, NY Observer
- "Rarely overtly dramatic and often sweetly absurd, Land Ho! has real emotional heft, reminding us that you're never too old to lose your way—or to find it again."
- -- Elise Nakhnikian, L Magazine
- "Compare this to the cutesy antics-heavy groove-back comedy like *Last Vegas; Land Ho!* essentially delivers a Hollywood-friendly outlook (aging doesn't have to be the end) in a more humanity-friendly package."
- -- Jesse Hassenger, L Magazine
- "Immensely charming...wonderfully freewheeling, peripatetic road movie...Contains myriad pleasures, not the least of which are the central performances."
- --Christopher Bourne, Twitch
- "Brilliant and improvised one-liners from first-time actor Earl Lynn Nelson...there's this moment in the third act that brought me to tears after all the laughing."
- -- Valentina Valentini, Twitch
- "A fun road movie...the meandering journey is exhilarating. There's an unmistakable charm... hilarious and heartbreaking... Simultaneously sad and hopeful... Unless the viewer's heart is three sizes too small. Land Ho! will warm it."
- --Film Fracture
- "Prince Avalanche and The Trip collide in Iceland and genuine hilarity ensues...a foul-mouthed-yet-somehow-still-totally-sweet romp that shows how men—whatever their age—will always be boys."
- -Michael Tully, Hammer to Nail
- "Engaging, low-key character study... Cowritten and codirected by Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens, two young indie talents who shouldn't understand the wisdom and acceptance of old age as well as they obviously do."
- -- J.R. Jones, Chicago Reader

"No lie, one of the single most enjoyable experiences I've had in a movie theater all year was watching LAND HO!...funny, poignant and well worth searching for at an art house near you... Sheer greatness... Never allows itself to become sappy or sentimental; it never even gets close. Situations play out unexpectedly, almost defiantly so at times... You will find it impossible not to love this film."

-- Steve Prokopy, Ain't It Cool News

"LAND HO! may belong to the same phylum as 'Last Vegas,' but it lacks the condescension and easy jokes. There's melancholy and life regrets, but they run underneath. They have a spark in them because age never really takes that away. Without making a meal out of it or getting remotely sentimental, LAND HO! reminds one that people remain people till the day they die."

--Metro

"Together, Martha Stephens & Aaron Katz manage to guide Land Ho! with a casual confidence that many more seasoned directors should rightly envy... And speaking of miracles, the fact that a movie such as Land Ho! exists at all, especially plopped down in the middle of a mid-year movie marketplace glutted with superheroes and transforming robots and endless duping of shrieking horror franchises, should count as some sort of providence... Has transformative powers even Hasbro couldn't imagine--it can take a sullen and cynical moviegoer and turn her/him, 95 minutes later, into someone who might once again believe that the possibility for real summer movie magic still exists."

-- Dennis Cozzalio, Sergio Leone and the Infield Fly Rule

"As a performance showcase it's intriguing simply because Eenhoorn and Nelson barely belong to the same species, so different are they in demeanor... The talk in "Land Ho!," which was beautifully photographed by Andrew Reed, ranges from '90s movie trivia to larger matters of hopes and dreams waylaid en route to the present. But the present, as Mitch asserts, is full of wonder and possibility."

--Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

"A funny film driven by memorable characters... Nelson is having his 'star is born' moment. If offers don't flood in for him to do character parts, then casting agents are wasting an amazing opportunity... The directors use the atmosphere as in a dream... If you're in a bad mood, or are having a bad series of events, drop in on Mitch and Colin."

--Patrick McDonald, Hollywood Chicago

"Like most stars of road movies, they're an odd couple; unlike most, both the friction between them and their underlying loyalty feel real, not contrived to supply a movie's dramatic arc. We come to sympathize strongly with Colin, even though he says fairly little about his romantic setbacks. As for Mitch, who never shuts up, if you can stand him for 15 minutes, he'll probably keep you chuckling for an hour and a half."

--John DeFore, Washington Post

"The mightily agreeable buddy comedy 'Land Ho!' is as refreshing as the crisp Arctic breeze that blows through the thinning hair of its unforgettable lead characters... Katz & Stephens combine sensibilities of dry wit and warm earnestness in precise proportions. It's also further proof, if it were needed, that smart, funny, entertaining films are always around, even in the dog days of summer. You just have to know where to look."

--Marc Mohan, The Oregonian

"Every once in a great while, a movie will come along that I don't have any particular expectations for, and that I might not even be that interested in seeing—but then, about five minutes into it, my eyebrows jump up and I think, *Oh, this is fantastic*. And in an even-rarer best-case scenario, that feeling continues through the whole movie. *Land Ho!* is that sort of movie... Boisterous...fresh, earnest, and charming... One of my favorite films of the year."

--E rik Henriksen, Portland Mercury

"It's fucking amazing that they made so much out of so little. Nelson relentlessly pumps out the comedy, and Eenhoorn convincingly counters this bombardment and brings a much-needed splash of sunlight to the film's end."

--Charles Mudede, The Stranger

"One of my favorite films so far this year... Bucket list meets travelogue in this winning malemenopause comedy...too charming."

--Brian Miller, Seattle Weekly

"This genial picture is a study in contrasts... The chemistry between the two leads is engaging. Nelson's Mitch gets on Colin's nerves from time to time, but his extrovert's gusto is contagious. Eenhoorn brings an understated wry quality to his performance that nicely counterbalances Nelson's unflagging bonhomie."

--Soren Andersen, Seattle Times

"A low-key but entirely pleasant excursion...the kind of gentle, grown-up cinema that has a way of lowering one's blood pressure and pasting a smile on one's face. That easy-to-embrace tone is an asset, but the real reason "Land Ho!" succeeds is the charisma of its two leads."

--Mike Scott, New Orleans Times-Picayune

"If you missed your chance of getting away for summer vacation, the low-key comedy "Land Ho!" is a great way to see the sights of Iceland with some charming traveling companions... Delights because it isn't trying to make too much of itself. It's simply a fun movie about two guys who will admit they're getting older, but are damn sure not getting old."

--Sean P. Means, Salt Lake Tribune

"It's a refreshing twist to see the 'mismatched buddy' genre given such a light touch... There's a charmingly off-hand dynamic between the two that suggests the long history between them... The scenery is lovely, the performances are pleasant, and it's the kind of movie it's hard to imagine anyone walking out of. It's nice. Yeah: It's nice."

--Scott Renshaw, Salt Lake City Weekly

"Unexpectedly refreshing... Cinematographer Andrew Reed's work belongs alongside National Geographic documentaries... The chemistry between Nelson and Eenhoorn is endearing... will leave you feeling better about growing old--or eager to book a flight to Iceland."

--Henry Molski, Arizona Republic

"I'm glad 'Land Ho!' is an American film because this makes a Hollywood remake less likely... It breaks no new ground, but the ground it travels looks and feels freshly tilled."

--Duane Dudek, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

- "A well-worn genre is brought to bottomlessly charming life by Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens... The movie's more tender than it is crass...a warm soak rather than a squirt in the eye."
- --Sam Adams, Philadelphia City Paper
- "This American indie film, an unmitigated hit at this year's Sundance, promises poignant laughs in the appropriately throwback style of the classic road-trip comedies of an earlier era."
- --Piers Marchant, Philadelphia Magazine
- "Part of the reason the film works as well as it does is thanks to Eenhoorn's balance of quiet exasperation and broken-in camaraderie... Against such a stunning backdrop, Land Ho! is a wisp of a road trip, spiriting us along through the discoveries of travel and the rediscovery of old friends. "
- -- Genevieve Valentine, Philadelphia Weekly
- "This gently invigorating meditation on mortality and companionship is a movie whose essence is meandering, yet it moves very briskly from scene to scene. That's a shrewd rhythmic balance, wholly organic to the characters' cognizance of having more life behind them than ahead."
- -- Jonathan Kiefer, SF Weekly
- "Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz manage to avoid any cute-geezer clichés in this low-key, personality-driven tale, which aims to please with vintage American-indie charm."
- —Cheryl Eddy, San Francisco Bay Guardian
- "The [Sundance Film] festival's biggest surprise was perhaps Martha Stephens & Aaron Katz's Land Ho!...it really delivered. So it's no surprise Sony Pictures Classics picked up this hot dog, aiming to bring its magic to audiences beyond Sundance. Stars Paul Eenhoorn and Earl Lynn Nelson could be looking at Independent Spirit Awards nominations. Yeah, it's a year away, but I'm calling it now."
- —Jesse Hawthorne Ficks, San Francisco Bay Guardian
- "Take a splurge vacation to Iceland in this easy-going, world-in-a-nutshell slice of life... This isn't Las Vegas. Adjust your expectations accordingly, and take in Nelson and Eenhoorn's subtle characterizations."
- --Kelly Vance, East Bay Express
- "This film works because of the wonderful dialogue...and the amazing chemistry between the two actors... It's a quiet, easy-going film that explores aging without getting you down, making you happy to have been on the trip with two interesting individuals."
- --Mike McKinney, CWAtlanta.com
- "The scenery is gorgeous, the mood is upbeat and your traveling companions are interesting fellows... Land Ho! doesn't feel written. It feels like it occurred and we are lucky enough to get to watch. It's a low-key delight... What a treat."
- --Ed Johnson-Ott, NUVO
- "Loaded with gorgeous cinematography and casual but very blue comedy... Land Ho! trumps its own heavy heart with Mitch's jabs and Colin's little epiphanies."
- --Mitch Lilly, Willamette Week

"A sweetly simple tale that underscores what we already know but too often forget: Adventurism and finding your bliss are not just for the young... A journey worth taking." -- Cary Darling, Fort Worth Star-Telegram

"Warm lead performances, dialogue and conversation whose unstructured feeling gently indicate hidden reservoirs of emotion... Much of the film's pleasure is in watching these two personalities coexist in the frame, as both performers strike an easygoing chemistry that proves undeniably appealing... An excursion I would happily go on again."

--Tom Fuchs, Milwaukee Magazine

"Warm, amusing, even wise. Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz direct with a savvy awareness of the duo's chemistry."

--Lisa Kennedy, Denver Post

"Land Ho! is the template for movies about older people at pivotal points in their lives. It's sharp, funny and barely dips into sentimentality, with a pair of superb lead performances. Plus, the killer 1980s-inspired soundtrack moves the story along without treacle... In the end, Land Ho! is like a perfect visit with old chums. It's sweet, bittersweet, and when it's over you wish it weren't."

--David Riedel, San Antonio Current

"There is a certain kind of magic when a movie makes you forget it's a movie in the first place... Often humorous, sometimes touching movie about simply appreciating life and the friendships it can provide. Nelson is an absolute hoot with smoothly delivered lines that will leave you doubled over with laughter. Eenhoorn is the Dean Martin of the two with an understated performance that's sweet and genuine... A wonderful little movie that will give you a few laughs and take you away on a magical ride."

--Michael D. Smith, KCMetropolis.org

"The real charm of Land Ho!, though, is in the candor and chemistry of its two leading men... The content and contours of the conversation and the county itself should certainly amuse and inspire. Terrific score to boot."

--Sam Allard, Cleveland Scene

"You explore lost youth, lost love, lost careers and the loneliness of advanced age and always in a funny and most charming way... For you indy movie lovers looking for something really different, this one is for you. 4.5 stars: Must see on the big screen."

--Gary Wolcott, Columbia Tri-City Herald

"A funny, astutely observed crowd-pleaser with two gloriously pitch-perfect lead performances... The duo give two of the most believably human performances I've seen this year. The film also qualifies as one of 2014's most entertaining... Thanks to directors Katz and Stephens and stars Eenhoorn and Nelson, the buddy movie has gotten its groove back. As 'Land Ho!' draws to a close, you may even find yourself longing for a sequel."

--Christopher Schobert, Buffalo News

"Has a gentle flow with enough bite (and lovely scenery) to keep us entertainingly engaged throughout... Nelson and Eenhoorn have terrific chemistry together... Respects its characters and its audience with a look at long-time pals that is as revitalizing as the mineral springs for which Iceland is deservedly famous."

--Evans Donnell, ArtsNash

- "An utterly endearing comedy... The two men are a hilarious odd couple...an unlikely but very lovable pair together. In the end, LAND HO! is a high-spirited and life-affirming film about enjoying life."
- --Rob Thomas, Madison Movie
- "Matchless scenery frames the realistic exchanges, revelations and comic asides... Small, unexpected moments elevate Land Ho!... The smart humour, deep connections and observations give it broader appeal."
- --Linda Barnard, Toronto Star
- "A lovely little movie...gentle and upbeat and life-affirming...just utterly pleasurable to watch these guys muck around for an hour and a half."
- --Norman Wilner, NOW Toronto
- "A delightfully poignant feature about the experience of aging...pitch-perfect and natural portrayals... Cinematographer Andrew Reed is the clear star of this picture...there is something captivating about watching two senior citizens chew the (beautiful) scenery... A striking adventure."
- --Matthew Ritchie, Exclaim! Magazine
- "Thank heavens this film was shot in English. If this wonderful story of two geezers on vacation in Iceland had been a foreign-language charmer instead of in the Queen's, there would already be plans afoot to remake it with Geoffrey Rush and Jeff Bridges starring. And that would be a shame, because you don't tamper with greatness."
- --Chris Knight, National Post
- "What gives the story its moment-to-moment buoyancy is the pleasure of watching two actors working brilliantly in tandem... Not only is the film laugh-out-loud funny, but it has gorgeous scenery shot on location all over the beautiful country. LAND HO! is an absolute indie delight, one you can enjoy with the whole family, especially your grandparents."
 --Alex Reynolds, Bay Observer
- "This one's perfect for summer vacation time. This amiable film will have you feeling the travel bug yourself while reflecting on the nature of friendship, old age and the contrasting personalities of a couple of geezers. It's funny, bittersweet and easy to take."
- --Volkmar Richter, Vancouver Observer
- "A story that's almost entirely picaresque, a procession of amusing incidents. But the incidents carefully enlarge the two main characters, and soon we really care about them."
- --Kurt Loder, Reason
- "A charming and light hearted tale...delivers a subtle message of life and reminds us to grab it by the balls, embrace it, and never grow up. You'll come away with a smile on your face and a warm fuzzy feeling inside, knowing that life is good."
- -- Jennifer Wallis, Ignite Film Fans
- "Land Ho! isn't Hollywood; it's humanity... Honest, refreshing, and thought provoking. And yes, heartwarming and fun and occasionally laugh-out-loud funny, too... Definitely worth your time, and your contemplation afterward."
- --Ziggy Berkeley, Cinema on the Rocks

"5 stars... As I write this, I'm not ashamed to say that I already find myself craving to watch it again... I find myself squirming a little when I think of describing a film as uplifting, life-affirming or heart-warming, but I am willing to swallow my pride and accept that LAND HO! is all of these and more... Sails forward at a breezy, satisfying pace... The laughs are thick, fast and well timed, with the comedy appropriately balanced with the necessary amount of poignant affection and reflection. So, if you want to poke that part of your consciousness that secretes an emotion much like happiness, then go and see LAND HO!; there's plenty of enjoyment to be had and it should definitely get you chuckling. If you honestly find that it fails to bring a smile to your face, then I advise you get someone to check your pulse immediately to make sure your heart is still beating. If it is, remove the stick and try again."

--Tom Palmer, Screen Relish

"Enormously refreshing! You can relax and settle into it like a place to inhabit. Very, very likable...extraordinary cast! A charming lovely little movie that I really hope people seek out." --David Sterritt, Films in Focus

"Idiosyncratic and surprisingly bawdy, 'Land Ho!' is a travel picture that takes many unexpected turns... Funny, saucy, and periodically sincere enough to launch a perfectly engaging movie with the barest of ingredients."

--Brian Orndorf, Blu-ray.com

"Left me in tears and desperate for more...one of the sweetest, most emotionally resonant films of the year."

-- IWantMyTwoDollars.com

"Earl Lynn Nelson is handed a lot of comedic responsibility (mixed in with touches of pathos) in Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz's bromance-come-lcelandic-road-movie, *Land Ho!* And he absolutely nails it, with a trick of delivering the bawdiest lines with the thunderous gravitas of James Earl Jones."

--Moviemaker

"Even in the quietest and most serene moments, there is always something interesting happening. Colin and Mitch's poignant moments are just as affecting as their comedic ones...A surprisingly contemplative meditation on the social concerns of seniors, specifically in relation to aging and marginalization. 9 out of 10."

-Smells Like Screen Spirit

"The contrast between the characters and the actors sparky chemistry means the laughs have a head start, but there is also a considerable amount of psychological terrain being covered, most notably concerning the lust for life that can come as we suddenly realise we've got more of the stuff behind us than we have in front."

--Eye for Film

"A spirited display of friendship and adventure... Quite simply, Land Ho! makes you feel good about humanity."

-- James Colon, A Blogwork Orange

"An uproarious and candid comedy with an astute sense of awareness in its characters...a gem of a film that takes us through mythic landscapes, the simple joys of life, and the beauty of friendship as we age."

--Dorothy Pranolo, FAD

- "Hilarious and heartwarming...coasts on snappy wit, brisk pace, endearing characters and magnificent locations."
- --Courtney Howard, Very Aware
- "A funny and moving film about aging...also a wacky journey across Iceland with two characters who are instantly likable and ultimately quite lovable. And with Paul Eenhoorn and Earl Lynn Nelson, it's a perfectly cast buddy romp...it's hard not to be taken in by its charm."
- --Hitfix

"I'm jaded when it comes to movies... So, I take great pleasure in sharing the movie LAND HO!...one of the best 'grown-up' movies I have seen in quite a while... The film is able to relate to audiences from mid-20's to the golden years with its honest insight and celebration of the two."

--The Senior List

"Never gets over-sentimental nor does it indulge in the kind of slapstick humor one would see in a geezer comedy like Grumpy Old Men. Instead, the exploration of Iceland's solitary alien landscape serves as an apt metaphor for our inquest into the inner life of these forever young old-timers... If you want a refreshing antidote to the usual shallow CGI spectacles currently populating multiplexes, then Land Ho! is the way to go."

--Tony Dayoub, Cinema Viewfinder

"One of the truest films ever made about male bonding...contains not one moment that isn't completely believeable... Often funny, but also a bit sad... A sneakily effective film about aging and friendship... Drop-dead beautiful... But it is the depth of the wholly natural performances that linger on after the viewing."

--Robert W. Butler, ButlersCinemaScene.com

"The two leads have good chemistry... A blend of lo-fi naturalism and the picturesque...the film is awash with inventive camera set-ups, which are achieved without creating a sense of distance between the viewer and the subjects... This warm-hearted road comedy as character study proves an easy, enjoyably thoughtful watch."

-- Jacob Powell. The Lumiere Reader

"The whole film revolves around a soul created collectively by two actors. I don't think Earl Lynn Nelson is 'that guy,' I think he's 'the guy'... As for Eenhoorn, I think we can agree: he's just a beautiful straight man... It's a real crowd-pleaser... I had a good time while watching it."
--Jake Mulligan & Sean Burns, Movie Mezzanine

"As in the earlier films of both Katz and Stephens, landscape becomes part of a film's character. The craggy hills, hot springs, and geysers of Iceland provide a steely poetic contrast to the juvenile antics and meandering conversations of our aging antagonists... The acting makes the film worth seeing... Land Ho! is the product of the natural grace that Katz and Stephens have developed as filmmakers. The film is a welcome antidote to the barrage of summer blockbusters."

--Tim Jackson, The Arts Fuse

"Comes a lot closer to life as it is lived than we're used to seeing on screen, and it's both refreshing and relaxing to see."

-- DrMathochist

- "Deftly eschews the maudlin, cutesy, or condescending trappings that infect so many films about older folks. The two leads, Paul Eenhoorn and Earl Lynn Nelson create authentic, lived-in characters who are memorable and funny without ever dissolving into poor-man's Jack Lemmon/Walter Matthau shtick... I came away from Land Ho with a feeling that I'd actually been on a journey."
- --lan Anthony Brownwell, The Film 5000 Project
- "An effervescent comedy of manners and mirth that offers a cheerful, winning respite from summer-movie overkill... Simple yet irresistibly effective film... From beginning to end, Land Ho! is a lovely lark."
- --Mark Burger, Yes Weekly
- "Land Ho! is the kind of movie I always hope to see from Alexander Payne, if he actually seemed to like and respect any of his characters... Slow down for 90 minutes and enjoy delightful characters, a fascinating landscape, and an engrossing movie."
- -- Jette Kernion, Slackerwood
- "Utterly delightful. The characters travel around Iceland doing my favorite mantra: GO. DO. LIVE. Life is an adventure...If you want a feel-good movie with laughs, this one is for you." --Vicki Batman, Movie Mom / Handbags, Books, Whatever
- "The festival's Cinderella story was 'Land Ho!', an endearingly unassuming comedy that came out of nowhere to score a healthy summer distribution deal and the most affectionate word of mouth I heard on nearly every shuttle bus all week...there's a real sweetness to the movie, and it never pushes too hard...it's easy to foresee this gentle film packing them in on the senior-centric arthouse circuit for months."
- —Sean Burns, Technology Tell
- "Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz have made a very funny comedy...Earl Lynn Nelson and Paul Eenhoorn give near perfect performances...Don't miss this wonderful little movie!" -- Spirituality & Practice
- "'Land Ho!' might initially seem slight, but it's the sort of film that sneaks up on you if you'll give it a chance, the charm gradually winning you over. It winds up being an enjoyable trip with companions you'll be happy to have been introduced to."
- --One Guy's Opinion
- "The two men who star in this quaint comedy are perfectly suited to each other... A charming little film that lets you be critical of the characters instead of begging you to like them... The humor falls more in the range of Alan Arkin in Little Miss Sunshine and June Squibb's character in last year's Nebraska. If you liked those, you'll find something to enjoy here."
- --Brightest Young Things
- "Delightfully unconventional...undeniably charming...In addition to the performances and intimate writing, the cinematography of the film is gorgeous...heartwarming outlook...its casually sweet sense of humor alone makes it a trip worth taking. It's as joyful an experience for us as it is for Colin and Mitch themselves."
- --Charlie Nash, Edge

- "What's portrayed is a deeply genuine relationship with dialogue that's refreshingly honest and realistic... Nelson and Eenhoorn each give us strong performances with which we can easily connect... The Icelandic backdrop acts as the perfect location to accentuate the strange, curious nature of the film's odd couple. It's a journey for which I'd willingly sign up." --Rich Heimlich, Slash Comment
- "Land Ho! Lovely pitched, naturalistic retiree buddy comedy. Earl Lynn Nelson comedy gold, Paul Eenhoorn perfect as straight man."
- --Amber Wilkinson, Eye for Film (via Twitter)
- "LAND HO! is about to be the breakout comedy of the summer...makes me want to plan a trip to Iceland.... When I grow up, I want to be Mitch from #LandHo!"
- --Ben Lyons, Extra/ESPN/Yahoo (via Twitter)
- "LAND HO was such a good call. So funny, so endearing -- @PEenhoorn and Earl Lynn Nelson make a dynamite comic duo."
- --Rob Thomas, 77 Square (via Twitter)
- "I am in love with LAND HO!. Just buzzing. LAND HO!: film of the Fest? 2 old guys go on a road trip in Iceland. It's funny and sweet and just absolutely great."
- --Devin Faraci, Badass Digest (via Twitter)
- "Land Ho! was the funniest film I've seen so far at Sundance and my screening also had the best audience! Highly recommended!"
- --Abe Fried-Tanzer, Movies with Abe (via Twitter)
- "Don't miss *Land Ho!* Fantastically funny senior-citizen-buddy-lcelandic-road-trip film by Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz."
- --Sarah Magill, Gimme Some Film (via Twitter)
- "Best 6 Performances at Sundance: Earl Lynn Nelson Who'd've thought a film about two old dudes road-tripping to Iceland would be such a hot commodity?...As Mitch, he combines the charm of Walter Matthau with the foul mouth of Seth Rogen to comedic perfection." --Daily Candy
- "Top 10 New Faces of Sundance: Earl Lynn Nelson Armed with zingers and an instant charm, auds will champion the character as he proves to be the ideal 'wingman' on any occasion, one that plows ahead to give the others behind him a chance to shine. We could easily see him in a Coen bros. or Wes Anderson type film in the future."

 --ionCinema
- "14 Breakouts of the Sundance Film Festival: Earl Lynn Nelson Spewing sexist remarks with salacious glee, Nelson is a complete riot in crowd-pleaser, *Land Ho!* His hilariously endearing performance as Mitch plays a huge part in the film's success -- his effortless delivery is responsible for almost every laugh in the film (and there are plenty)."
- --Indiewire
- "Best of the Sundance Film Festival" Lists:
- --The Film Stage
- --BuzzFeed
- --Movies With Dor

- -- David Fear, Esquire
- --Anne Thompson, Thompson on Hollywood

- "5 Films Worth Catching at Tribeca: A surprise favorite at the Sundance Film Festival, 'Land Ho!' is a breakout film in every way...Earl Lynn Nelson gives a grand comic performance...The rascal has a graceful foil in Australian actor Paul Eenhoorn, whose dry wit balances Mr. Nelson's extravagant gestures at every stop on their road trip."
- --Wall Street Journal
- "10 Movies You Can't Miss at Tribeca: Blessed by salty language, comfortable turns from two aces (Paul Eenhoorn and Earl Lynn Nelson) and a euphoric use of the music of Big Country, 'Land Ho!' is a winner about not losing your spark."
- --Time Out New York
- "7 Great Films at Tribeca: Fresh, sincere, and understated...Two ex-brothers-in-law journey to Iceland and, amid the country's stark beauty, discover and reflect on the simple pleasures of life and their place in the universe; their lively banter crossed with the otherworldly landscape enhances the film's profundity."
- --Vulture
- "Top 10 Movies at Tribeca: Were there a Most Charming Vulgar Old Coot award given out at the festival, actor Earl Lynn Nelson would have two-to-one odds on winning."

 --Rolling Stone
- "16 Movies to Be Excited About at Tribeca: Land Ho! is a chance to enjoy the work of two gifted older performers. Paul Eenhoorn, who after years as a working actor finally got a real showcase for his talents in last year's quietly lovely *This Is Martin Bonner*, is especially one to watch out for."
- --BuzzFeed
- "Top 5 Picks for LAFF: Filmmakers Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens, working together for the first time, take a wonderfully unhurried approach to their film, allowing the charm of their characters, marvelously played by Earl Lynn Nelson and Paul Eenhoorn, to bring a lightness to this comedy of the twilight years."
- --Screen Invasion
- "10 Best Bets at LAFF: A surprising, unhurried comedy of life and how to live it."
- --Time Out Los Angeles
- "Summer Film Preview: 20 Non-Blockbuster Films to Check Out: Yes, late-life lessons are learned; no, none of it is cloying or corny, surprisingly. If you see only one low-budget comedy about geriatric gentlemen cutting a hedonistic swath through Iceland's fjords this season, we strongly suggest you make it this one."
- --Rolling Stone
- "25 Summer Movies for Grownups: If you liked, say, *The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, as many grown ups did, then you're gonna love Aaron Katz and Martha Stephens' bawdy comedy about an odd couple of retirees."
- --The Hollywood Reporter
- "Summer Movie Preview: The 40 Indies You Must See...a beautiful, awe-inspiring journey through uncharted cinematic territory that older and younger audiences alike can appreciate."
- --Indiewire

- "10 Great Summer-Movie Hidden Gems: A totally charming road movie... The aged pair, one crude, one quiet, are a delight to hang out with, and their dynamic sometimes feels closer to a geriatric *Superbad* than *Grumpy Old Men*-style clichés. But there's also a quiet melancholy as the directors dig into questions of aging and loneliness."
- --Oliver Lyttelton, Yahoo! Movies

Film Festivals (2014)

- * Sundance Film Festival (World Premiere)
- * Tribeca Film Festival
- * Los Angeles Film Festival
- * Nantucket Film Festival
- * Traverse City Film Festival
- * Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland (Piazza Grande / International Premiere)
- * Possible Worlds Festival, Australia (Closing Night Film)
- * Bayside Film Festival, Australia (Closing Night Film)
- * New Zealand International Film Festival
- * Deauville Film Festival, France
- * Cinefest, Hungary
- * Filmomania, Croatia
- * Reykjavik Film Festival, Iceland (Opening Night Film)
- * Bergen Film Festival, Norway
- * Rio International Film Festival, Brazil
- * London Film Festival
- * Canberra International Film Festival
- * Balinale, Indonesia
- * American Film Festival, Poland
- * Stockholm Film Festival
- * Pantella Pinamar, Argentina

LAND HO!

Praise for Music from the Film

"The soundtrack, too, is a total winner with scenes punctuated by somewhat anachronistic – and yet totally right – electronic music including the film's unofficial anthem, 'In a Big Country'."

--The Film Experience

"One of my favorite side effects of going to a film festival is getting a song from a movie lodged in my head. This year at Sundance, that honor goes to 'In a Big Country' from the modestly charming Land Ho! Now, that chorus just makes me think of Paul Eenhoorn."
--Tim Grierson, film/music critic: Screen International, Deadspin, Paste and Playboy

"They make excellent use of both original synth-pop music and Big Country's 'In a Big Country.' It's a song you've heard a thousand times but that here seems newly profound: 'Pull up your head off the floor / Come up screaming / Cry out for everything you ever might have wanted.' The camera never fails to consider the scenery, so that even Mitch's bigness is unceasingly dwarfed by landscape. The camaraderie has a sense of cosmically topographical wonder. Lava fields, hot springs, mountains: They'll be there long after these two are gone. That, of course, is Mitch's point: Live now. And, mercifully, he makes it without anyone having to announce that they're dying."

--Wesley Morris, Grantland

"We've only recently begun dusting off the Best Original Song contenders section and filling it out with prospective players in the upcoming Oscar race...another song that deserves to be in the thick of it is 'Land Ho!,' Keegan DeWitt's title track from Martha Stephens and Aaron Katz's Sundance sensation."

-- Kristopher Tapley, Hitfix

"Traveling a stunning Icelandic landscape with an '80s synth-pop soundtrack (the use of 'In a Big Country' is positively glorious), the two men are a hilarious odd couple, Mitch affectionately ribbing his more reserved traveling partner every step of the way."

--Madison Movie

"And I couldn't get 'In a Big Country' by Big Country out of my head after it exploded out of the speakers in Land Ho!"

--Cyndy Drue, 102.9 WMGK, Philadelphia's Classic Rock

"Best Meta Music: 'Land Ho!' in @LandHoMovie. (Also features 'In a Big Country' by Big Country) #mysundanceawards2014"

--Leah Giblin, Cinereach (via Twitter)

"Exhilarating and/or dorky, the use of 'In a Big Country' in LAND HO! is my fave needle drop of #Sundance2014 #thecrossingonviny!"

--Joshua Rothkopf, Film Editor, Time Out New York; Flicks critic, Penthouse (via Twitter)