



cinematical

Killer B's on DVD: Beer Drinkers In Space

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1983's *Beer Drinkers in Space* began life when several Disney World employees working on the design and construction of Epcot Center sought to channel their creative energies into a project of their own. The film originated as a multi-part comedy sketch to be serialized on a public access cable show, but wound up as a stand-alone 90-minute feature that made its grand world premiere at a Ground Round in southern Florida. The DVD version of the film, dubbed the "Sober Director's Cut" which trims the film down to a much leaner 60 minutes or so, will be available on July 17 through [Tempe Video](#). So obscure is this little oddity, that the Internet Movie Database has apparently never heard of it.

The crew of the Stro-Light (beer drinkers out there will get that joke) are en route to Nebula 711 to deliver a badly needed shipment of beer. The populace of 711 has been beer-less for six months, thanks to a previous shipment being intercepted and destroyed by an alien race called the Prohbes. The Prohbes are a race without beer, have no concept of fun, and have no tolerance for those who do. Commanding the Stro-Light is Captain Slosh (Marc Delle), a

square-jawed hero whose resemblance to Captain James T. Kirk extends to the fact that Captain Slosh wears a Starfleet uniform. Also manning the bridge of the Stro-Light are Topsy (Ron Cookson), a flamboyantly gay pilot much in the style of [Stephen Stucker](#)'s character from *Airplane*, and navigator Tank, played by director Frank Delle.

The Prohbes, of course, attack and they take Captain Slosh's ex-girlfriend Tress (Anne Barco Delle) hostage. Complicating matters are the Leshinboons, a small race of rubber hand puppets who have infested the Stro-Light's air ducts and are after the ship's cargo of beer (oddly, these little buggers reminded me a lot of the space aliens from [Toy Story](#)). Captain Slosh is known to frequently give the order "keep drinking, men." He's also known to sound "red alert" which, as we eventually learn, means to continue drinking so if something bad happens you won't mind it so much.

As the opening scrawl explains, *Beer Drinkers in Space* was shot on VHS tape at the slow speed, allowing director Delle and his crew to get the maximum amount of footage on a single cassette and assuring that the video quality would suck like the vacuum of space itself. The image and sound were degraded further by the editing process, so the end product is a third generation dupe. Sadly, muddy video is the least of the film's problems. The filmmakers recommend two or three beers to enhance the experience. I complied. It didn't help. The acting is bad and is hampered even further by the fact that, according to the behind the scenes feature, real beer was being consumed on the set. I can see how some of the jokes might have looked good on paper, but neither the performers or editors show any sense of comedic timing. A lot of work obviously went into the construction of the sets and the space ships which were culled from bits and pieces of various model kits, but the Tom Baker era *Dr. Who* still looks state of the art by comparison.

Extras include an audio commentary, a one hour behind the scenes feature called *Keep Drinking, Men: The Story of Beer Drinkers in Space*, even more behind the scenes stuff in a 15 minute featurette called *More Beer!*, and an audio commentary with the director and cast. While the extras sport production values light years ahead of the main feature, they still offer little of interest.