

# SPACEMAN

A BASEBALL ODYSSEY



## SYNOPSIS:

Throughout the 1970's, Bill Lee was the ultimate gonzo baseball player, a brilliant left-handed pitcher who flouted every manager or front office executive who tried to control him. The fans loved him and so did the sportswriters who delighted in asking the usual baseball questions, only to get philosophical responses involving the relationship between Camus and the curveball or the effects of karma on a pitcher's rotator cuff.

Blacklisted from professional baseball in 1983, Lee was left to roam the world in search of a chance to play the game he loves. Harkening back to the days of barnstormers like Satchel Paige, who traveled the globe in search of good baseball, Lee's adventures have taken him across the United States to China, Russia, South America, and every province in Canada. The film follows Lee, approaching sixty years young, on a road trip from his farm in Vermont to the impoverished baseball mecca of Cuba and on his triumphant return to Fenway Park. Along the way, we hear from former teammates, family members, sportswriters, fans, and especially Lee himself about the unique life and career that spawned the legend of a ballplayer who will forever be known as the SPACEMAN.



**PRODUCTION NOTES:**

**Shooting Formats:**

24p Digital Video and Super 8 Film

**Current TRT:**

70 Minutes

**Primary Locations:**

Miami, Florida  
Havana, Cuba  
Vinales, Cuba  
Craftsbury, Vermont  
Fenway Park, Boston, Massachusetts

**Cast List:**

Bill "Spaceman" Lee  
Luis Tiant, Teammate, Boston Red Sox  
Fred Lynn, Teammate, Boston Red Sox  
Bernie Carbo, Teammate, Boston Red Sox  
Rodney Scott, Teammate, Montreal Expos  
Dan Shaughnessy, Sportswriter, Boston Globe  
Annabelle "Lefty" Lee, Aunt  
Dick Williams, Former Manager, Boston Red Sox/Montreal Expos  
Rod Dedeaux, Former Head Coach, USC Trojans  
Paul Sullivan, Red Sox fan  
Richard Lally, Biographer

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"The Spaceman" meets "Brezito the Clown" on the streets of Old Havana.



Always the pathfinder, Bill Lee blazes his own trail to the ballgame in Vinales.



#### **BRETT RAPKIN – Producer / Director**

**SPACEMAN** is Brett Rapkin's first feature documentary and has become a unique calling card for the Los Angeles native. In December 2003, he moved to New York to begin producing sports and music films for Black Canyon Productions, the Emmy and Peabody award-winning production company behind HBO Sports documentaries including: **CURSE OF THE BAMBINO**, **HITLER'S PAWN**, **:03 SECONDS FROM GOLD**, and the **WHEN IT WAS A GAME** series.

Rapkin spent the winter of 2005 in Europe, producing and directing **BODE ON THE BUS**, a weekly lifestyle segment featuring World Cup champion ski racer Bode Miller for the **Outdoor Life Network**. He has also produced and edited two **A&E Biographies**: Rod Stewart and American Idol's Randy Jackson, **REVERSE OF THE CURSE OF THE BAMBINO** for **HBO Sports**, and **FORMULA ONE: THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS** for **CBS Sports**. This past February, Rapkin traveled to Torino, Italy with **NBC SPORTS' Chevrolet Olympic Moments** unit to produce additional footage with Bode Miller at the 2006 Winter Games.



#### **JOSH DIXON - Producer**

**SPACEMAN** is also Josh Dixon's first feature documentary, the product of a journey that started five years ago. After reading an article about him in Sports Illustrated, Dixon contacted Bill "Spaceman" Lee and proposed bringing a film crew along on Lee's next barnstorming visit to Cuba. Lee accepted and shortly after, Josh met a fellow baseball enthusiast in Brett Rapkin, who took immediate interest in the idea. Along with Rapkin, Dixon has spent the last four years bringing his dream to fruition.

Dixon got his start at **CAPPY PRODUCTIONS**, working with legendary Olympic filmmaker Bud Greenspan and later on NBA commercials for **TNT SPORTS**. With the extensive skills and experience gained from producing **SPACEMAN** from the ground up, he plans to continue his career in film and television production. He currently resides in Atlanta where he is developing several documentary and television concepts.