



SLOW WEST

**Autumn
Season
2015**

Release: 2015

Cert (UK): 15

Language: English (UK)

Runtime: 84 mins

Director: John Maclean

Writer: John Maclean

Cinematographer: Robbie Ryan

Cast: Kodi Smit-McPhee, Michael Fassbender, Ben Mendelsohn



This first feature is bold, beautiful and original enough for Scottish musician turned film-maker John Maclean – formerly of the Beta Band – to plant his flag as a major new director.

We travel through the wild American frontier (naturally, shot in New Zealand) with Jay Cavendish (Kodi Smit-McPhee), an out-of-his-element rich kid who has come out west to search for his forbidden love Rose (Caren Pistorius); he knows vaguely where she is. When a lone outlaw shows up and agrees to protect Jay from bandits and Natives, Jay doesn't realise what he has let himself in for, or why.

The long, hazy trail is a mix of eye-popping imagery, sudden violence and unexpected comedy. There are dips into absurdity and encounters with a white anthropologist expert in Native American kitsch and who drops truth-bombs like "in a short time this will be a long time ago".

Slow West builds its story in flashback, filling in the blanks of Jay's parentage in pointillist style, but also allowing glorious tangents along the way. The word "slow" in the title is deliberate, but the movie is far from boring, indeed it is totally spellbinding. (Adapted from The Guardian).