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Marin Blue

An Erin O'Hara production. Produced by O'Hara. Directed, written by Matthew Hysell.

With: Cory Knauf, Najarra Townsend, Elliott Ehlers, Josh Cobb, Trista Robinson, Tanya Yarbrough, Sean Guse, Kate Melia, Brett Mann, Alanna Blair, Ramsay Palmer, Lissa Sherman, Scott Cummings, Ryan Etzel.

By [JAY WEISSBERG](#)

If Ed Wood were reincarnated as David Lynch, he might make something close to "Marin Blue," multihyphenate Matthew Hysell's airless and amateurish debut, which features embarrassing perfs from actors reciting execrable lines that could surely never have been scripted. Storyboarding also appears beyond the conceptual limitations, though Hysell tries to make the empty spaces of Los Angeles equal partners to the hollow characters he's written. Two drifters teetering on the edge of mental instability move through a netherworld in search of lost connections, but opaque developments, murky visuals and an inability to direct dialogue equals zero release potential.

Freshly arrived at a loony bin with a miniscule lighting budget, smart-alecky model type Jim (Cory Knauf) questions why he's there. When Stan (Elliott Ehlers) and Thomas (Josh Cobb) turn up claiming to be his brothers, he escapes. Marin Blue (Najarra Townsend), a rootless narcoleptic who sings to the inmates over a loudspeaker (huh?), meets up with Jim in a fully stocked, empty diner; they reunite in various vacant spaces to exchange vacuous lines. Color grading leaves black holes of undifferentiated darkness, while sound and music are uninspired.

Camera (color, HD), George Su; editors, Hysell, Erin O'Hara; music, Hysell; production designers/costume designers, Hysell, O'Hara. Reviewed at Berlin Film Festival (Forum), Feb. 6, 2009. Running time: 77 MIN.

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