

A Moment on your Own

We open on grainy VHS. Shaky amateur cam. We are in a long corridor with silver walls that look suspiciously like tinfoil. At the end of the corridor a door opens and a small figure steps out and walks towards the lens into a mid shot. He is wearing a silver spacesuit and helmet that blocks out his face.

A white card is held up in front of the lens. Scrawled in magic markers are the words 'THE ADVENTURES OF JOHNNY LIGHTWING'. When the card is taken down the figure removes his helmet and stands heroic.

This is JOHNNY LIGHTWING. Or at least, it's an eight year old boy playing a character named Johnny Lightwing. Through the door at the bottom of the corridor a light switches on and a woman, who looks like a mother, walks past folding clothes.

Suddenly another small figure, dressed in an alien costume (made from old Halloween cast offs) runs out and begins to chase Johnny Lightwing down the corridor. The camera tracks back with the chase. However, when we come out of the corridor there is no more tin foil on the walls and we are in what looks to be the foyer of a pretty normal looking family house. The camera quickly cuts to -

OUTSIDE

The cut is rough and it should be pretty obvious that this film is being shot in sequence in the camera without any editing whatsoever.

Outside and Johnny Runs. He takes a flashy looking toy plastic dart gun and fires a couple of rounds back at the alien to no avail. We cut to -

A SPACESHIP

A toy spaceship, at a seventy five degree angle pointed up into the sky. The spaceship is strapped onto a large pink firework that is wedged into the ground ready for take off. We cut back to -

JOHNNY LIGHTWING

He enters the door of his garage. The door has been made up to look as if it's the door of the spaceship. The effect isn't great. Like the worst Godzilla effect you've ever seen. He manages to slam the door closed just as the evil alien gains on him. The alien is left huffing and puffing outside. Cut to -

INSIDE THE SHIP

Obviously Johnny Lightwing's bedroom. But really elaborately made up to look like a control pod of a spaceship. He frantically hits a button

OUTSIDE

The Space ship wobbles a little. It won't start.

Back in the control room Johnny Lightwing Frantically messes around with the buttons, executing a complicated looking bypass. A RED LIGHT flashes!

Back outside and the fuse has been lit. It burns as we track in on the spaceship ready for lift off.

It blasts into the sky. The camera pans up quickly and catches a giant black shadow. There is much wobbling and for a moment we are totally disoriented.

Then the camera fixes on a SHAPE on the ground.

The body of a man in some crazy late 19th century flying costume - all wicker and canvas - is lying on the grass. He is in agony as the rocket is piercing his chest. The camera whips around as Johnny Lightwing comes out of the house. He sees the man lying on the grass and comes over shouting and crying. The game is over as he looks at the man. The flying man looks back at him. Then Johnny notices something.

The fuse is still burning.

The camera blurs as Johnny and the Camera man run off. It then shakes as the explosion goes off. The camera falls to the ground. A plume of smoke clouds everything else. As it clears, on a low angle we see Peter (the 12 year old filmmaker) approach the scorched spot where the 'Flying Man' lay. He's gone. Disintegrated. Johnny Lightwing runs inside to tell mum. Peter walks over and picks up a broken canvas wing wondering what just happened. He stands for a moment on his own.