

POPCORN DOESN'T HAVE CARBS, DOES IT?

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HILLBILLY ROBOT

Directed by Todd Rohal
May 5, 11 A.M. (part of the Comedy
Shorts program)

Titled with deceptive simplicity, *Hillbilly Robot* starts off as a goofy take on bigotry and ends up a weirdly touching parable of human obsolescence. An overalls-clad automaton (Chris Morse) wanders a desolate urban wasteland, stoically enduring hatred and condescension, while his seemingly inoperative wife (Kelly Conway) is abused by a demented junkman (Ivan Dimitrov) and his son (Rich Schreiber) tries to fit in with the Other Kids. *Robot* shifts from crazy parody to sly satire to underground-film huh-*wha?* with oddball comic energy (Dimitrov injects a loony whoosh whenever he appears), while writer-director Todd Rohal subtly ups the thematic ante by shooting in various ravaged corners of Baltimore and D.C. Rohal ties it all together with a final sequence in South Baltimore's abandoned Wagner's Point neighborhood that strikes poignant grace notes of loss and resilience. A strange, funny, very smart film. (Andy Markowitz)

For more on Todd Rohal and *Hillbilly Robot*,
see page 7.

STARRING
ALCOHOLIC NUNS
FREESTYLIN' MCS
MECHANICAL
HILLBILLIES
AND
BLURBS BLURBS
BLURBS!

FROM THE
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