

The Criterion An International Journal in English

Bobby's Big Bang

Tom Byers

The attentive mother tells her little boy,

"There are two things you need to know about photons, Bobby, how they can hurt you and how you can hurt them.

"Never stare directly at the sun, because you will go blind.

"And never stare at the cosmic microwave background through an Einstein ring, because you might pop an old wave like a balloon and mess up the Big Bang."