

The Trade Off

USA 2013

produced by

Aswad Issa, Sean Weathers (executive) for Full Circle Filmworks

directed by Sean Weathers

starring Sean Weathers, Stephany Ramirez, Waliek Crandall, Anna Brown, Okema Moore, Chrystal Claire, Kimberly Pellot, Adonis Williams, Lucinda Carr, Shavon Ortiz

written by Sean Weathers

review by

Mike Haberfelner

Arthur Blake (Sean Weathers) is a guy who wants it all, a good job, a sexy wife, Rose (Stephany Ramirez), countless affairs, including one with his best friend Pete's (Walliek Crandall) wife Shelly (Anna Brown) - but now he has turned 30, his life suddenly crumbles as he loses his job, his wife announces she's pregnant, which couldn't have come at a worse time, his wife finds out about his affairs, Pete finds out he's been sleeping with Shelly, his mom tells him how disappointed she is of him, and the only answer he has to this is to sleep with his successor at his job, the socialite wife (Kimberly Pellot) of his boss who takes full advantage of him in return. Only gradually, and after his sister (Okema Moore) has talked some sense into him, does Arthur come back to his senses and starts to get his life back in order ... but by now, Pete, who wants revenge on Arthur for sleeping with his wife, has started lusting after Rose - and he might have a shot there ...

Very nice micro budget drama stylistically more reminiscent of independent cinema from the 1970's than more recent indie fare, and interwoven with a few quite strong sex scenes that are nevertheless never self-serving but do drive the narrative along. What really makes the film work though is that it gets its atmosphere just right so the audience can really identify with the character even if he's not the most admirable of persons. Recommended, actually!

review © by **Mike Haberfelner**