

- [JWR Home](#)
- [Articles](#)
 - [People](#)
 - [Title](#)
 - [Genre](#)
 - [Best of 2010](#)
 - [Best of 2009](#)
- [Directory](#)
 - [People](#)
 - [Occupation](#)
 - [Organization](#)
 - [Category](#)
- [Support JWR](#)
 - [Advertise](#)
 - [Sponsors](#)
- [Contests](#)
- [About JWR](#)
 - [FAQ](#)
 - [Submit Work](#)
 - [Employment](#)
 - [Privacy Policy](#)

THE QUIET ARRANGEMENT

Follow JWR on:





(2009) 98 min. Publish Date: July 11, 2011



by S. James Wegg

Opportunity knocks

For a first feature, director/writer David C. Snyder has done a commendable job of filling the screen with a finely twisted narrative and a fascinating array of images, textures and tones. The latter's visual bounty comes largely from cinematographer Christopher Michael's inventive interpretation of just how the purposely puzzling story ought to be framed.



Focussing on a bevy of inanimate objects (the initial long-ringing phone, then the mail box holding the kidnappers' DVD proof of the snatch—later a hood ornament and a couple of door handles), the viewer is further removed from the diverse cast of characters as they play their parts on all sides of the criminal equation.

The occasional use of "jerky" cam (notably the drug dealers' fight scene) also adds another layer of imaginative imagery to the production.

The choice of music—both standards (Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 21 in C Major is the unlikely backdrop to the crime boss; Arthur Schnabel's at times rushed version seems entirely apt) and the original score (Armand Armadollar, Chris Lash, Michael Thomas)—is at one with the action (notably the mix of guitar and "buzz" reinforces the building suspense).

Editor Stu Beetle is most certainly up to the task of seamlessly piecing together the non-linear tale of murders most foul.

The few quibbles stem from a few over-suspensions of disbelief (the residents/animals of a nearby farmhouse are oblivious to the city slickers' vehicles, yelling and barrage of bullets during the pivotal showdown on the back forty; an otherwise charming hooker takes her trick's entire wallet rather than just opting for the cash—hours later the suddenly rich detective plans his international getaway without primary ID ...) and bits of dialogue that seem culled from the dreaded book of cliché (especially from both cops when on stakeout).

Those aside, Snyder has crafted a marvellous addition to the kidnapping-gone-wrong genre, showing deft understanding of human nature: especially in the closely related arenas of greed



Convenient
Online
Degree
Programs:

- Associate
- Bachelor
- Masters

Request
a **FREE**
Brochure

[Click Here](#)

and revenge. What would you do with a cool million in cash and the rightful/wrongful owners dropping like flies the closer they get to reclaiming it for themselves?

In the acting department, Kyle Jason does a credible job playing Rick Fields—the career criminal who just wants to “get away clean” so that he can start somewhere fresh. The utilization of horn-rimmed glasses is an excellent touch of silent character development. As the abducted damsel, Christina Simkovich perhaps a tad too easily turns the tables even as her bullying spouse—Kevin M. Hayes—opts to take care of the dirty business in his own ruthless way.

Despite being saddled with some awkward lines, Julian Hicks is otherwise a pleasure portraying Detective Masterson while his more experienced partner (Rob Stone) takes his time connecting the dots. Chuck D. makes the most of his brief appearance as Captain Ambercrombie. Joseph D. Lane (Carter Booth), Jordan Weeks (Mr. Blake) and John Delserone (Mr. Parks) make for perfectly despicable bad guys (yet, in a compelling way, there are no good guys in the line-up), even to the point of choking the chicken as instant relief to the pent-up stress from pushing others into early graves.

Come for the mystery, stay for the imagery and charts, then walk away satisfied that—sometimes—justice is served without the benefit of judge or jury. **JWR**

Your comments are always welcome at *JWR*. Click here to have your say: [Feedback to JWR](#). If selected for publication, you will receive a signed copy of [JWR: The First Lustrum \(2001–2006\)](#).

Director/Writer - David C. Snyder
Producers - Davon Magwood , David C. Snyder
Cinematography - Christopher Michael
Editor - Stu Beetle
Original Music - Armand Armandollar , Chris Lash , Michael Thomas
Cast - Kyle Jason , Christina Simkovich , Rob Stone , Julian Hicks , Kevin M. Hayes , Joseph D. Lane , John Delserone , Jordan Weeks , Chuck D.

Further information, future screening/performance/exhibition dates, purchase information, production sponsors:

[HWIC Filmworks](#)

Cross-reference(s): Please click on the image link(s) below for related work:



[B.S. Child/Family Welfare](#)

Free Info for Busy Adults: Bachelor Degree in Child and Family Welfare!
www.SocialWork.DegreeLeap.com

AdChoices



MapleStory
THE WORLD'S BIGGEST
ONLINE ADVENTURE



**PLAY
FREE**



PC
ONLINE
GAME



You are the Power.
StrokeAssociation.org



Copyright © 2001-2011 JWR (James Wegg Review) Inc.

The content of this page is the sole responsibility of JWR and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of its advertisers and sponsors. All images are in the public domain or used with permission. Please contact the Managing Editor (jamesweggreview@bellnet.ca) with any concerns.

Where will you travel today?