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MARCH 29, 2011 11:28 AM

# The Quiet Arrangement DVD Review

Posted by Christina Zaw adiw sky on March 20, 2011 in DVD Reviews | 6 Comments



It may be hard to believe that **The Quiet Arrangement** (released on DVD on March 22, 2011 by HWIC Filmworks/MVD Entertainment) was made on a \$2,000 budget with no actors getting paid, since this film has a professional and very sophisticated look. Even more sophisticated is its plot execution in which the same day, at varied times, is gone through twice, but the second time from a different perspective. In *The Quiet Arrangement* every character has a flaw that helps lead to their self-undoing. The film begins with the wife of a lawyer being kidnapped, but we find out that there is much more going on than this, with virtually everyone betraying everyone else (to say more would take away from the film's mystery!).

A Special Feature of this DVD, Always Leave Through The Front Door: The Making Of *The Quiet Arrangement*, explains quite a lot. Award-winning filmmaker and music video director David C. Snyder (who's done videos of the group Public Enemy and whose Hip hop icon, Chuck D, has a bit part in this film) has gathered together somewhat unknown but very dedicated actors who show us the dark side of greed, addiction, love and loyalty as they all double-cross each other with oft-times very unhappy outcomes. People pass by each other not knowing who they are, but by the second time around we know who everyone is and why they pass each other like ships in the night. The guilty appear innocent, and vice-versa. Role assignments change as the director discovers who may be better for any given part (before the movie was made).

Newcomer actress Christina Simkovitch, who just auditioned and got her desired part, is very convincing as the kidnapped Mrs. Sharon Briggs, and becomes moe dimensional as she exposes abuse from her husband, lawyer Walter Briggs (Kevin M. Hayes). Criminals abound, at the center of which is singer/actor Kyle Jason as Rick Fields (whose character proves to have a heart of gold), whereas Detective Jack Simons (Rob Stone) has many of the vices of a real criminal. This independent thriller sometimes has the look of a grey-wash watercolor as foggy as the minds of those who inhabit it. Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? Often it's hard to tell.

*The Quiet Arrangement* is quite curious and interesting and seems to have been made with a spontaneity conducive to the creative process. Just as the actions of anyone in life seem completely logical to those living them (but perhaps not to anyone else), *The Quiet Arrangement* causes us to question the nature of morality, generosity and cruelty. Everyone wants just what he or she wants, except for one kind pivotal character, but that doesn't mean that he can set everything right in the end. Money and the want of "objects" to such an extreme (with some revenge thrown in) always amazes me, but it's part of the human condition, and this film dissects this notion from many different angles.

For action lovers, there's more than enough of it; for those who study the components of the human psyche, this is done through many characterizations. Here's a bit of the dialogue — Sharon: "have you ever killed anyone for money? How much are they paying you?" Rick: "Ten thousand dollars." Sharon: "I will pay you that money and more if you kill my husband for me, there's \$20,000 in the trunk of my car" — which is totally unexpected! Some of the characters were too much for me, but probably not as extreme as they would be in real life!

### The Quiet Arrangement DVD Special Features

Always Leave Through The Front Door: The Making Of *The Quiet Arrangement* by Jordan Weeks; Director's Final Cut; Two Audio Commentary Tracks; Deleted And Extended Scenes And Alternative Endings; Short Films: Tedd's Nite Out, Still, One More Kiss

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**MPAA Rating:** Not Rated  
**Total Running Time:** 98 minutes  
**DVD Release Date:** March 22, 2011

Directed by David C. Snyder  
With Kyle Jason, Rob Stone, Kevin M. Hayes, Christina Simkovitch, Julian Hicks, Joseph D. Lane, Chuck D, John Delslerone and Jordan Weeks

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**About Christina Zawadiwsky**  
Christina Zawadiwsky is Ukrainian-American, born in New York City, has a degree in Fine Arts, and is a poet, artist, journalist and TV producer. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts Award, two Wisconsin Arts Boards Awards, a Co-Ordinating Council of Literary Magazines Writers Award, and an Art Futures Award, among other honors. She was the originator and producer of Where The Waters Meet, a local TV series created to facilitate the voices of artists of all genres in the media, for which she won two national and twenty local awards, including a Commitment to Community Television Award. She is also a contributing editor to the annual Pushcart Prize Anthology, the recipient of an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Library Association, and has published four books of poetry. She currently reviews movies for <http://www.moviescribes.com>, music for <http://www.musicroomreviews.com>, and books for <http://www.bookroomreviews.com>.  
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- Pat**  
March 21, 2011 at 8:53 pm

I guess people like this exist, but what a terrible world, the underworld of crime.

[REPLY](#)
- JP**  
March 21, 2011 at 8:54 pm

I like movies that show different perspectives in time, and would like to see this film.

[REPLY](#)
- Chris**  
March 21, 2011 at 8:55 pm

The more complex the movie, the more I like it!

- Sucker Punch \$19.0M
- Limitless \$15.0M
- The Lincoln Lawyer \$10.7M
- Rango \$9.7M

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**gman**

March 21, 2011 at 11:11 pm

A film like this which comes back to the same moment in time from different perspectives is very hard to do right. I would like to see this film and see if they got it right.

[REPLY](#)



**Joan Colby**

March 22, 2011 at 11:20 am

I love intricate and mysterious stories that gradually reveal their intent. This one seems like the TV series "Damages" which I really liked, so I'll look forward to viewing this DVD.

[REPLY](#)



**David C. Snyder**

March 23, 2011 at 11:32 pm

Thanks for the great review, Christina! The cast and crew appreciate it!  
David C. Snyder  
Writer/ Director

[REPLY](#)

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