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Siren (2006)



Director: [Andrew Mandapat](#),

Starring: Gregory Pedemonte, Sarah Korda, Stephanie Lytle, and Johnny Mercer

Length: 18 minutes

Rated: NR

Short Noir

by [Jonathan W. Hickman](#)

reviewed: 2006-01-10

Ned believes himself to be happily married. He also has a mistress. After discovering that his mistress is having an affair, the bottom of a liquor bottle becomes his third companion. And having three hungry mouths to feed requires a steady supply of cold hard cash. But that's not a problem because Ned works for a bank.

Andrew Mandapat's short film noir, "Siren," is an entertaining throw back jab in the eye. It is equal parts corny and sharply serious which for noir fans is a nice combination. Shot in stark black and white, filmmaker Mandapat makes good use of the short form condensing a feature full of story into 18 minutes.

"Siren" is about a guy named Ned who loves his wife and also loves his mistress. Of course, having such dual loyalties drives him to drink which further weakens his moral code. He elects to participate in a theft from the bank he works for in hopes of breaking free of either his marital bonds or the lusty hold that his mistress has on him. This kind of story cannot end happily.

I especially liked the craggy worn look of actor Gregory Pedemonte who inhabits the role of Ned, the poor sap played by his mistress and his wife. You see, in every good nourish film, everyone plays a solo tune looking for what's in it for them first and foremost. Like all films of this nostalgic but long enduring genre, "Siren" is about resisting temptation and the consequences of giving into it. Keeping his tongue firmly tucked in his cheek, Mandapat is able to eek out more entertainment than would have been achieved had the story been longer and straighter.

"Siren" tells us that the search for happiness can lead to murder, betrayal, and corruption of one's soul. And it's amusing to watch these things happen so long as you're not on the receiving end.

[Jonathan W. Hickman](#)

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