
Film Review

SHUTTER

BY ANDRES RAMIREZ

1ST MONTHLY FILM FESTIVAL

“Shutter” by Jose Andres Ramirez Ortiz tells the story of a Police Detective that interrogates a virtuous photographer about the disappearance of a model that was last seen before the photoshoot.

The film starts with a couple of camera shots that serve as sort of a warning of what is to come which is a very intelligent way to get the audience's attention instantly and from there are taken on a ride by an excellent driver that doesn't take the same route as other drivers do.

One of the best things about this film as a whole is its simplicity, but simplicity at its finest. Even from the first moment in the interrogation room, you are taken in by the minimalism in terms of scenography, editing, camera movement, etc. so immediately, the focus is on the dialogue and the characters as it should be in a story like this.

The decision to have most of the film with no music or sound effects works perfectly here because the scenes have more dynamic and it gives more power to the actors and the characters they portray, because as a viewer you can instantly focus on the story, and from there you are becoming so invested in it, so you try to guess what has happened and how it happened? It's one of those films where your mind never wanders away.

The writer/director has a perfect idea of who the characters are, what their backstories are and it shows in the actors' creations and how wonderfully they bring out the characters to life.

Watching this film and the way it's made, it gives you tranquility despite the topic and subject matter, and then like a flash, all of a sudden, that whole tranquility and peacefulness are cut with frames that last for only a couple of seconds but have disturbing music and bright red color that very clearly symbolizes blood and madness, as if you are witness of something satanic.

“Shutter” is an outstanding drama mystery film from a director that knows what he's doing and knows how to deliver films in an intelligent, symbolic, and unconventional way.
