

THE SECOND ROOM

22mins/35mm

A Bryan W. Simon Flick



With some intricate plot twists, great cinematography and a fine cast, director Bryan W. Simon has made a most enjoyable film in *The Second Room*.

Stanley is a typical middle-class working stiff. The kind of guy that works a shitty job and doesn't have the clout or the charisma to get a woman. While eating lunch one day, Stan bumps into a woman that will haunt him in a different way for the rest of his life.

Instantly in love, Stanley shifts all of his desires to the woman. Through what appears to be psychotherapy, Stanley realizes the troubled situation love has put him. With the help of flashbacks, we realize that the story he is telling his shrink, in no way gels with what really happened between him and the mysterious woman.

Director Simon takes great care in making sure we don't immediately catch on to how fucked up Stanley really is. We are taken on a tour that becomes more and more delusional until, almost by accident, it becomes obvious that our protagonist is really stalking this woman.

The ambiance by director of photography Lloyd Freidus and the screenplay by Ron Winterstein really make the film work. With plenty of imagery and some marvelous camera work, it is easy to just float into the dementia Stanley is going through. Richard Neil is very effective as the troubled, yet likeable Stanley, and C.C. Pulitzer is somewhat haunting in the role of Stanley's unknowing conquest.

Add to this a good score and the look of a film that can only come with some real money, *The Second Room* is a hot feature from a director to be on the look for.