

RENT

Directed by **Lyubomir Petrov Zhelev**

- Short Critique -

A new tenant moves into what at first seems like a strikingly beautiful mansion, only to be confronted with eery reflections of reality and twisted scenarios. Below, we've outlined the first impressions **Lyubomir Petrov Zhelev's** short film **RENT** has made on us.

The strong points

- Great build-up of the house as a character in itself, with not only its own personality but also recurring motifs – such as the many mirrors that are likewise used as storytelling mechanisms.
- An eerie atmosphere is expertly maintained by the score and the interaction of the score with the visuals.
- Thematically, it's sort of Seven meets Inland Empire, and I never expected such a combination to work, but it works wonderfully.
- The cinematography is top-notch and manages to maintain and push the blurred lines between reality and fantasy time and time again. Furthermore, the puppets' movements give a similar otherworldly vibe.

The weak points

- A little bit on the long side, especially for a film where very few words are uttered (minus the brief TV segment).
- The very experimental angle and slow pacing mean that RENT is not a film for everyone.

RENT is a visually striking look into a surrealist view of human nature and existence. Just as the mansion promises a new beginning and redemption via its twisted halls and mirrored hallways, the film delivers a real spectacle – with great attention to detail and care for the craft.