

**PLOT** Wages of Sin is set in the backdrop of the summer of 1964 and follows Buddy, an outgoing small-town drifter. In his desperation for cash, he conceives a plan to kidnap Kathrine, the daughter of the richest man in town, with his girlfriend and accomplice Celee. What looks to be a simple plan goes completely awry when relationships develop and the kidnappers learn more details about their fragile victim.

**THE REVIEW** The plot for WAGES OF SIN is a simple one. It's 1964 and rebel outlaw couple, Buddy and Celee, have the ultimate plan to make some money. They've kidnapped Kathrine, the daughter of a supposedly wealthy man. They have her captive and tied up, as they hope that her father will be willing to fork over a huge amount of cash, in order to see his daughter freed. Unfortunately for Buddy and Celee, they soon discover that seeing their plan through won't be as easy as they once thought. The situation essentially becomes a waiting game, and during this time, things change, and tensions begin to flare. Here is Director Doug Burch's WAGES OF SIN, another film that essentially made its way to me from out of nowhere. I knew nothing about this film, not even as much as a trailer was seen, but it's plot had me interested. A film set in the '60s, a plot about kidnapping for ransom - sounds good right? Well, thankfully WAGES OF SIN actually was good! Small on virtually every level, WAGES OF SIN, a low budget film, has only three cast members, and one location. And truth be told, not a lot occurs during the film. So, how can a film that doesn't have a lot going on in it be good, you ask? Well, the answer to that is also simple...through its dialogue and characters, that's how! WAGES OF SIN is definitely a dialogue driven film. We have three characters, and they all communicate with each other. So essentially, WAGES OF SIN is a film that is all up to it's writer, Sam Ingrassia. Had he blown it, and wrote an uninteresting story and characters, WAGES OF SIN, just simply wouldn't have made it. As for a breakdown of said characters, Kathrine is a young College student, who is obviously privileged, and now she finds herself scared for her life. As for our sort of outlaw couple, Buddy and Celee, they are without a doubt amateur and ragtag. They're aimless, and really have no grip on what it is they are doing, they're a young couple who just hope to hit it rich fast. Unfortunately, their get rich scheme hits a snag, when Kathrine's "rich" dad isn't so quick to hand out the cash. On this, Buddy and Celee continuously refer to Kathrine and her father as being "rich", however, the film never truly elaborates on this, leaving the subject open for interpretation. If you want my opinion, I kind of want to believe that Buddy and Celee are delusional and that in fact, Kathrine's dad isn't exactly as rich as they think. WAGES OF SIN. and in particular, the "Buddy and Celee characters reminded me a lot of real life killer couple, Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate, in fact, the film's reference in that Buddy looks like James Dean, has me convinced that the two killers' story had an influence on the film, as it did with the film, BADLANDS in 1973 It also reminded me a little of the Linda Blair/Martin Sheen, 1975 project, SWEET HOSTAGE. In that film, Sheen, who kidnaps Blair, eventually becomes friendly with her, and even somewhat her lover. In WAGES OF SIN, after awhile, the two women Celee, and Kathrine, start to get chummy, after Celee begins to develop

sympathy for her victim. Unfortunately, however, Buddy doesn't share the same sentiments and remains focused on the money, this of course causes turmoil, which results in a pleasing twist during the film's conclusion. As mentioned, the film's script is responsible for the majority of this film, however, a big part of the film's outcome rested upon the film's three actors. After all, they are the ONLY three actors in the film, there are not other people to fall back on. I thought that everyone did a fine job here. Kathrine Everett is great as "Kathrine" the kidnappee, while Travis Quentin Young and Lauren Martin, as Buddy and "Celee", are believable as a young couple, whom are flying by the seats of their pants. The three of them work together to make the unlikeliest of situations work well. WAGES OF SIN is a very small film, with a simple story. There are no visual effects or elaborate sets, but what it does have is a script that is engaging. The film is definite proof that you don't need money to make a film that will keep an audiences attention. Yes, it's simple in every way, yet it didn't take it long to get my full attention.