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Director's Choice

Pickup on South Street



USA 1953. Production Co: 20th Century Fox. Dir: Samuel Fuller. Prod: Jules Schermer. Script: Samuel Fuller, from a story by Dwight Taylor. Photo: Joe Macdonald. Ed: Nick de Maggio. Music: Leigh Harline. Cast: Richard Widmark, Jean Peters, Thelma Ritter, Murvyn Vye. 80 mins.

A pickpocket steals a girl's wallet on the New York subway. The girl is, unknown to herself, carrying a valuable piece of microfilm from one Communist agent to another; the police watching her are too slow to catch the pickpocket, and when they bring him in he denies all knowledge of the film.

"*Pickup on South Street* is a political film in the sense that it emanates from its author's intense nationalism . . . More fundamentally, however, it bears the imprint of Fuller's sensibility, that of the crime reporter. For on a visual level, *Pickup* is a gangster film . . ." — Colin McArthur.

Pickup on South Street was shown at the 1969 Edinburgh Film Festival as part of the Samuel Fuller retrospective.