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ANGEL CITY

JON JOST IN PERSON

"Jost may truly be said to be an 'experimental' director, not in the sense of consciously trying to appear avant-garde, but in the more important sense that he is a director who continuously evaluates the methods he is using and actively searches for alternatives." -- Allan T. Sutherland, Sight and Sound

Since the end of his imprisonment for draft evasion in 1967, John Jost has succeeded in remaining a continuously controversial filmmaker. His films, which synthesize the currents of political, avant-garde, and conventional narrative film into something distinctly his own, comprise 20 shorts and 3 features, of which ANGEL CITY is the second.

"Jost came out of seclusion in 1976 to make ANGEL CITY, a sharp and funny film and my personal favorite of his works to date. Through the personality of private eye Frank Goya, Jost draws on a classic Hollywood genre while retaining the structuralist concerns of earlier work. As Goya tracks down the murderer of starlet Gloria Franklin, wife of Pierce Delrue who owns the Raxon Corporation, the largest company in the USA, the film probes into what appear to be larger political questions. But as the investigation progresses it becomes clear that the two levels are not as separate as they seemed: Delrue has had his wife bumped off because he owed her a lot of money. 'ANGEL CITY, while being a rather vituperative critique of capitalism and Hollywood and all that, is simultaneously a film with a narrative line. It pokes fun and simultaneously provides a serious critique of Los Angeles as a structural economic system.'"

-- Allan T. Sutherland