

## Document Citation

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*Angel Heart* creates a fusion of two genres: the classic Chandleresque detective story and the supernatural. Alan Parker has taken William Hjortsberg's novel 'Fallen Angel' and shifted the action down to New Orleans. A down-at-heel private detective (Mickey Rourke) is engaged by a quiet-spoken man with a silver-topped cane to do some work on the mysterious case of a missing big band singer. He is carried along into a nightmare world of voodoo and murder before a final confrontation.

The 1955 settings in the film have a de-saturated monochromatic look that creates a unified world in which powerful and dark forces operate. It is an elemental film with some extraordinary images. Alan Parker never promises a smooth ride and *Angel Heart* has its fair share of startling moments. Faint hearts may flinch here and there, but no-one should miss Mickey Rourke giving his best performance to date and Robert De Niro masterfully giving flesh to another fascinating screen role.

Apart from the rare pleasure of seeing Rourke and De Niro on screen together, there is a strong debut from Lisa Bonet (better known for her teen-queen role in TV's *The Cosby Show*,) a coolly measured performance from Charlotte Rampling, and bluesman Brownie McGhee figures among some fine local players.