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## **Summer of Sam**

LONDON FF 1999

**Fri 12 Nov 20.45 OWE2 and Sat 13 Nov 15.30 OWE2  
and Sun 14 Nov 21.00 Ritzy**

**USA**

A vibrant, violent, absorbing tale set in New York City in the summer of 1977, that utilises as its backdrop the real life Son of Sam serial killing spree mainly perpetrated in the Bronx area. Spike Lee, with his most provocative film since *Do the Right Thing*, focuses primarily on the Italian American community and how a group of male friends are torn asunder over whether one of their number might actually be a killer. This is further exacerbated by the fact that a local Mafia chief offers a bounty in the community to anyone who can find the killer. Using the music and fashion of the era to great effect (precisely at the moment when disco and punk went head-to-head), this is in-your-face bravura filmmaking from one of America's most talented and consistently controversial filmmakers. The film is also considerably enhanced by a top flight cast, especially John Leguizamo as a disco-dancing hairdresser and Mira Sorvino as his, increasingly unhappy, waitress wife.

*Adrian Wootton*

**Dir Spike Lee / Scr Victor Colicchio, Michael Imperioli, Spike Lee / with John Leguizamo, Adrien Brody, Mira Sorvino, Jennifer Esposito / USA 1999 / 142 mins / Downtown Pictures**

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