

By Bruce Nauckovski

**F.I.S.T.** — A United Artists presentation starring Sylvester Stallone, Rod Steiger, Peter Boyle, and Melinda Dillon. Produced and directed by Norman Jewison. The movie opens in 1937 and depicts conflict between blue-collar workers and their bosses and the difficulties encountered in managing a fledgling union. Stallone is a disgruntled factory worker who lives with his mother in a Cleveland ghetto. He joins F.I.S.T. hoping that the union will bring better pay and working conditions to his fellow workers. Though Open House, he is elected to higher and higher positions of power in the union.

In early film he meets Anna Zerinkas (Melinda Dillon), whom he later marries. Anna works as a secretary in a community center. She is very shy and seems always on the verge of breaking down, a character remarkably similar to that played by Thalia Shire in Rocky.

Abe Belkin (David Huffman), Kovak’s closest friend and F.I.S.T. with Kovak, sharing the same goals for the union. Bul Kovak organizes a strike against one union and Kovak becomes a friend of his who has ties with organized crime. Incredibly Anna never voices an opinion. She is very shy and seems always on the verge of breaking down, a character remarkably similar to that played by Thalia Shire in Rocky.

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In F.I.S.T. Stallone has a chance to do more dramatic acting than he did in Rocky. Stallone, however, seems to rarely be on the screen. Incredibly Anna never voices an opinion about her husband’s Vereinment with F.I.S.T. She does offer what really knows what’s going on? Her character needs to be made more complete.

The scenes of the 30’s and 50’s catch the spirit of the times very well. F.I.S.T. is quite suspenseful and emotional, in spite of its shortcomings.

The film in general is quite enjoyable. It seems to change its course in midstream, though. The first half has many humorous moments (much like a Rocky film), while the second half, with its emphasis on greed and corruption, is more grim. The first half has many humorous moments (much like a Rocky film), while the second half, with its emphasis on greed and corruption, is more grim.

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