

## **Review for FACES ON MARS**

### **'What Cinema Should Be'**

**by Paul Papadeas for IndyFilm,L.A.**

Two British immigrants, on the run from the INS, hide in an apartment in Los Angeles, only to fall into the deluded world of a wounded Hollywood receptionist.

If you like films like *Withnail and I* and television shows such as *The Young Ones*, you will simply adore this gem from the director of past Sundance hit *Little Noises*. A mixture of Brecht, British Social Realism and Reality TV - this low budget indie digital film, dark comedy depicts the true underbelly of "artists as struggling workers" in Los Angeles (or rather in a city on the outskirts of Tinsel Town) – all competing and conspiring against one another in a society geared toward unbridled individualism and self-promotion. Two Brits on the run from the INS in Los Angeles find themselves hiding out in an apartment inhabited by struggling actors - all of whom are taking advantage of a rich man with a trust fund who owns the apartment and wants to create an experimental/egalitarian habitat. What ensues is a hilarious examination of human behavior and the excesses of the pursuit of self-interest at the expense of solidarity. Moreover, Director Jane Spencer is highly successful on giving the film some depth through psychological side stories for our main characters. Everyone has a wound - everyone is trying to resolve it in some way. Everyone needs love and attention - but can't find it in a society where everything is for sale. The cinematography is functional and serves the chaotic purpose of the narrative. This director should make more movies – as substance of storytelling and political focus is sorely lacking in today's hyper stylized monstrosities masquerading as cinema.