



Sinners

FEATURE FILM · SOUTHERN GOTHIC HORROR · 128 PAGES · MID-TO-UPPER BUDGET

In 1932 Mississippi, twin brothers return from Chicago with stolen money to open a juke joint for their sharecropping community — and on opening night the music draws something older and hungrier than the men who own their land.

SYNOPSIS

Smoke and Stack arrive back in the Delta with a truck of liquor and a plan: buy a derelict mill, open it as a juke joint tonight, and be nobody's tenant. They recruit a cook, a doorman, a bluesman, and their young cousin Sammie, a preacher's son with a gift the old people warn about. For sixty pages the antagonists are entirely human and entirely ordinary — a patient landowner, an admiring talent scout collecting Delta music for northern labels, a deputy who needs no reason. Then Sammie plays, and the room fills with musicians from across a century, and the roof catches fire, and Remmick arrives at the door with an offer: permanence, kinship, an end to being outnumbered. At dawn, the Klan arrives to collect, indifferent to the massacre. The monsters leave. The neighbours stay.

WHY THIS FILM

The supernatural predator is the second one to arrive, and by then the audience has watched the first operate for sixty pages. That ordering is the whole argument — it converts a vampire siege into a historical one. The midpoint performance sequence, in which time collapses inside a juke joint, is written as action with no explanation, and it sells the film, the trailer and the soundtrack in a single scene.

TOPE AND COMPARABLES

From Dusk Till Dawn for the mid-film genre handover. Get Out for horror as historical argument with prestige crossover. The Witch for period-authentic dread played straight. Devil's Rejects for Southern gothic violence with charismatic antagonists.

PRODUCTION PROFILE

A period build, a large ensemble, night exteriors and practical creature work, centred on a single principal location that the reader learns completely before it becomes a battlefield. The soundtrack is a release asset rather than a line item. The material needs a filmmaker whose name can carry the tonal shift, and rewards one.

FORMAT

Feature film

GENRE

Horror / Period / Southern gothic

LENGTH

128 pages · approx. 125 min

BUDGET TIER

Mid-to-upper — period build

PERIOD

1932, Mississippi Delta

LOCATIONS

1 principal (the mill) + 8 supporting

PRINCIPAL CAST

Dual lead + 7 featured ensemble

EFFECTS

Practical creature work, night exteriors

ASSETS

Original soundtrack — extends the release window

COMPARABLES

From Dusk Till Dawn · Get Out · The Witch

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