

Home Media

MAGAZINE

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■ JUNCTURE

Street 8/12

MTI, Action, \$24.95 DVD, 'R' for violence, language, some sexuality and drug content.

Stars Kristine Blackport, John Hutton, Jeff Nicholson, Diana Dresser, Andrew Porter.

On the surface, *Juncture* might appear to be yet another take on themes familiar to viewers who have seen any number of films about vigilantes — anything from *Death Wish* to *Batman* and dozens upon dozens of other titles.

Anything familiar, though, ends there. James Seale's stylish film manages to spin in many different

directions and take on a variety of issues, but remain remarkably coherent.

Beyond the "avenging angel of death" element, the story employs conventions from other stock genres and plot trajectories, including the "only so long to live so I better wrap things up" and, to some degree, the "double life as a superhero" scenarios, but combines them in a way that feels oddly fresh and original if not always compelling and linear.

In fact, not unlike *Batman's* Bruce Wayne, Anna Carter (Blackport) leads a fairly glamorous high-society lifestyle, travelling by private

jet and limo in her role as director of a large, extremely well-endowed foundation established by a benevolent Internet tycoon (Hutton) to serve disadvantaged or abused children.

Anna uses her many opportunities to cross the country (for a presumably modestly budgeted film the use of locations in Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia and San Francisco is impressive) as a way of promoting her secret agenda, tracking down and killing people convicted

of child abuse who are now free.

Injecting a terminal-illness angle might seem odd at first, maybe even

superfluous, appearing well into the running time and, in fact, long after Anna's lethal activities have been established rather than serving as the inciting incident within the first act that starts her on her "mission." Upon analysis it

is a unique "ticking clock" device that lends an urgency and some poignancy to the action.

— David Greenberg

