



N.Y., N.Y. is a February, 2016 LVCA dvd donation to the Hugh Stouppe Memorial Library of the Heritage United Methodist Church of Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Below is Kino Ken's review of that dvd film.

19 of a possible 20 points

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**United States 1957 color 16 minutes short experimental musical
Les Productions Artistes Associés**

Key: *indicates outstanding technical achievement or performance

Points:

Direction: Francis Thompson

2 Editing

2 Photography

2 Special Visual Effects

1 Lighting

2 Music: Gene Forrell

2 Design

2 Sound

2 Ambience

2 Creativity

2 Humor

19 total points

Lauded by Aldous Huxley, Francis Thompson's 1957 impressionistic compression of one day in the existence of New York City is neither documentary nor animation. Rather it combines to stunning effect features common in both. The film begins just prior to dawning of day, with rather spooky oceanside views of a massive metropolis whose inhabitants are

still for the most part slumbering. Distorted lens, split screens and superimposed images provide fractured scenery. Gene Forrell's tensely dramatic musical accompaniment further enhances contrasting meditative and hectic moods. Some objects are recognizable: Brooklyn Bridge, cars, pedestrians, construction workers in hardhats, an alarm clock, a waking man. Others are bizarrely reconfigured, most notably subway trains, buses, skyscrapers, and dancers.

Streets are nearly empty at daybreak, offices silent and unoccupied. This changes after nine o'clock as commuters rush to work, filling cubicles in Manhattan towers. Typewriters noisily hammer out symbolic lines of iconography rather than words. Nearly everything observed is pictorial except for occasional numbers. Bustle and construction, production and choreographed art, each in turn take center stage on screen.

Liberated in mid-afternoon, white-collar workers hasten to retreats of relaxation in which they leisurely stare at artistic performances. Finally, a spectacular symphony of flashing lights leads to a neon-soaked conclusion. Thompson's sixteen minutes of distilled urban activity — reflected, refracted, stretched and squeezed — makes an exhilarating and exhausting cinematic experience, a city symphony miniature for audiences with diminished attention spans. It is vigorous, colorful, utterly superficial, entirely fascinating, a unique adventure for cinema explorers of all ages. Highly recommended.