



January 2016

## The Lure

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### Recommended Citation

Ramji, Rubina (2016) "The Lure," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 20: Iss. 2, Article 3.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol20/iss2/3>

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## The Lure

### Abstract

This is a film review of *The Lure* (2016) directed by Agnieszka Smoczyńska.

### Author Notes

Rubina (Ruby) Ramji is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Cape Breton University. After serving as a Chair of the Religion, Film and Visual Culture Group for the American Academy of Religion and then on the steering committee, Rubina continues to serve on the Executive Committee for the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion as President and is the Film Editor of the *Journal of Religion and Film*. Her research activities focus on the areas of religion, media and identity, religion in Canada, and religion and immigration.



*The Lure*  
(2016)  
Directed by Agnieszka Smoczyńska

Although the name of this Polish film is based on a band, it actually alludes to the powers that mythical mermaids had over sailors once upon a time: luring them with their siren song into the ocean, to be devoured by the mermaid.

*The Lure* tells the story about two young mermaids, Golden (Michalina Olszanska) and Silver (Marta Mazurek), who wish to come upon the land and live amongst humans and, promising to not devour the humans they see singing on the beach, they are brought ashore by a group of musicians. They have beautiful siren voices, and are quickly used for their talents by including them in the band - in fact they are used by all the humans they encounter: for sex, money, greed, entertainment, and comfort. They even create their own band called The Lure, and their music literally lures the audience to them in ecstasy. In return, they get nothing.

Although the mermaids try to fit into human culture, Golden cannot resist her true nature and devours a human being. Silver, on the other hand, falls in love with a human and even sacrifices her "animal" self, her fish tail, in order to fulfill his desires. But in the end she is spurned by her love because he is unable to see her as anything other than a fish. In fact, all the humans they encounter treat them as animals. The mermaids are willing to try their best to live amongst the humans, but it is the humans that end up showing their true animal natures. Although humans have a choice to treat others with kindness, *The Lure* reminds us that humans are in fact the most beastly of all the world's animals. Humans are the most truly evil creatures because we use other creatures for our own satisfactions and desires. We see creatures that are different from us as being beneath us. This movie makes it clear that humans are in no way superior to the other animals which inhabit the earth, real or mythical.

In the end, Golden, having lost her sister Silver to the cruelty of the humans who pretended to care for them, returns back to the ocean, singing the truth about humanity; that the waters are indeed warmer than the land, where the humans prey on others.