

A Lullaby From Rosemary's Baby (by Krzysztof Komeda)

Written by bluesever

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Rosemary's Baby begins innocently enough as a simple lullaby plays over the pink credits while the camera pans over the New York City skyline, finally panning downward on the Dakota Building on Manhattan's west side (named the Branford Building in the film). Back in 1968, only the gothic appearance and the knowledge that this story was based on Ira Levin's best selling book dealing with a Satanic cult would clue a viewer in that the story would take some bizarre twists and turns.

Rosemary`s Lullaby by Krzysztof Komeda

The Dakota Building is now more famous as the site where **John Lennon** was murdered.

Director

Roman

Polanski

has had a tragic history since the film was made with his famous wife being murdered by the Manson cult the following year.



Sharon Tate & Roman Polanski

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While these incidents may lend to the mystique of *Rosemary's Baby*, plenty of material within the film help make it one of the better horror films in history. Ironically, for a film that is classified as horror, there is almost no actual blood, gore, or scary stuff onscreen. And that's the magic of Polanski's film, for the real terror is created in your mind.



Rosemary's Baby, poster

For the score, Polanski turned once again to his frequent collaborator **Krzysztof Komeda**, with whom he'd previously collaborated on

Knife in the Water, *Cul-De-Sac*,

and most notably,

The Fearless Vampire Killers.

Komeda, already well-established as a serious talent in the avant-garde jazz scene in Europe, brought to

Rosemary's Baby

an iconic lullaby theme, an approach mimicked in many subsequent horror scores. The film's unnerving centerpiece is the hallucinatory sequence in which Rosemary (

Mia Farrow

) is impregnated by her husband – or, perhaps, by something else. Komeda scores Rosemary's feverish, drug-induced dream with tense, seesawing strings and plucked bass notes, leading into a soft, demonic chant as her horror – and helplessness – intensifies into a sexually-charged nightmare.

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Krzysztof (Christopher) Komeda, born in Poznań in 1931, studied piano and composition in



Warsaw, Poland, in 1958. He studied at the Faculty of Music at the University of Poznań, where



he studied in the years 1958-1961. He was a member of the Polish Jazz Quartet and the



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Recording session of Rosemary's Baby, Polanski (left), Komeda (right)



Polanski was the director of the film Rosemary's Baby, which was directed by Roman Polanski



Mia Farrow as Rosemary