

# MOVIE REVIEW

## "TWO OF A KIND"

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There are certain names in Hollywood that seem to belong together, names that ultimately evoke the special kind of screen chemistry which guarantees audiences a memorable time. Ever since they met on screen five years ago, John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John have been recognized as that special kind of screen couple -- which is in no small measure due to the fact that their debut film together, "Grease", stands as the most successful musical of all time.

Their reunion seemed inevitable, but not until 20th Century-Fox's "Two of a Kind" is released December 16th will audiences finally see John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John back together again in the romantic comedy about a pair of star-matched lovers in whose unlikely hands rests the fate of the world.

Delighted with "Two of a Kind" writer/director John Herzfeld's script and with the prospect of working in their first non-musical together, Travolta and Newton-John arranged their hectic schedules so that they could start filming the offbeat comedy in the spring of 1983. Joining them are Charles Durning, Oliver Reed, Beatrice Straight, Scatman Crothers, and Castulo Guerra. Roger Rothstein is the producer.

John Travolta stars as Zack Melon, a would-be inventor whose awkward and unexpected meeting with Debbie Wylder, an attractive bank teller played by Olivia Newton-John, sets the stage for one of the most unusual romantic tales to unfold on the silver screen.

Travolta sequed to "Two of a Kind" directly from "Staying Alive," this summer's box office hit in which he recreates his Oscar-nominated role as Tony

Manero, the footloose maverick who took America by storm in "Saturday Night Fever." That 1977 film was followed by "Grease," "Urban Cowboy" and "Blow Out." Travolta gained national attention with his recurring role in the popular "Welcome Back, Kotter" television series, but he first impressed feature film audiences with his supporting role in "Carrie."

Newton-John made an indelible impression on audiences through a different route. The English-born Australian burst onto the American scene with several hit songs including "I Honestly Love You" and "Have You Never Been Mellow." In all, her records have sold more than 50 million copies worldwide. Her singing career continues to shine, and she was named America's Favorite Pop/Rock Female Vocalist at the 1983 American Music Awards. Her recent national concert tour was, not surprisingly, SRO. Capable of blending singing and acting careers, Newton-John is no stranger to tales of romance. Besides "Grease," she also starred in the romantic fantasy "Xanadu."

John Herzfeld makes his film directorial debut on the project. The writer of "Voices," a sensitive romantic with Michael Ontkean and Amy Irving, Herzfeld wrote and directed "Stoned," an ABC Afternoon special for television that won him a directing Emmy and the first Scott Newman Drug Abuse Prevention Award.

"Two of a Kind" producer Roger M. Rothstein most recently served as executive producer on Fox's "Max Dugan Returns." He previously co-produced "Only When I Laugh" with Neil Simon, and he has the executive producer of Simon's "I Ought To Be In Pictures," "Seems Like Old Times" and "Chapter Two."

Charles Durning, Beatrice Straight, Scatman Crothers and Castulo Guerra also star in "Two of a Kind" as a group of friendly observers looking out for our hero and heroine, while Oliver Reed plays the wicked Beazely.

Durning comes to the film following a banner year which included his Oscar-nominated role as the governor of Texas in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." He was also featured in the top-grossing comedy "Tootsie" and will be seen in another 20th Century-Fox Christmas release, "To Be Or Not To Be," starring Mel Brooks and Anne Bancroft. His earlier credits include "The Sting," "Dog Day Afternoon," "True Confessions" and "Starting Over."

Oliver Reed is perhaps the most familiar to film audiences for his roles in a pair of Ken Russel films, "Women in Love" and "Tommy." He also starred in the Oscar-winning "Oliver!", and his earliest films include a series of horror productions for Manner Films, including "Curse of the Werewolf" and "Two Faces of Dr. Jekyll." More recently, Reed has starred in "The Brood," "Lion of the Desert," "Venom" and "The Sting II."

Beatrice Straight, the Oscar-winning actress who played the neglected wife in Sidney Lumet's "Network," is also a best Actress Tony winner for her performance in Arther Miller's "The Crucible." In addition to her numerous stage appearances, she has appeared in such films as "The Nun's Story," "Patterns," "Bloodline," "The Formula," "Endless Love" and "Poltergeist."

Scatman Crothers' film credits include "The Shining," "The Cheap Detective," "Silver Streak," "The Shootist," "The Fortune," "Lady Sings the Blues," the Oscar winning "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and, most recently, "The Twilight Zone -- The Movie."

Castulo Guerra, making his feature film debut in "Two of a Kind," appeared in the recently aired NBC movie, "Prisoner Without A Name." Over the past several years, Guerra has appeared on stage in regional theatre and with Joseph Papp's Public Theatre in New York.

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