

MOVIE REVIEWS

DRINKING BUDDIES

Blurring the line with beer

Olivia Wilde and Jake Johnson toe the line of friendship and romance in latest film



Courtesy of Magnolia Pictures.

By Kirsten Coachman

Can men and women just be friends? In director Joe Swanberg's latest film, "Drinking Buddies," main characters Kate (Olivia Wilde) and Luke (Jake Johnson), who work together at a craft brewery, find themselves having to face that inevitable question after Kate finds herself suddenly single. When Luke's longtime girlfriend Jill (Anna Kendrick), who

is ready to talk marriage, heads to Costa Rica, the beer drinking friends find themselves alone for the weekend.

Wilde is captivating in her portrayal of Kate. Her character is the sole woman working among a group of men at the brewery, where she's "one of the guys," which allows for the ease of her friendship that she shares with Luke.

The onscreen chemistry between Wilde and Johnson

Drinking Buddies

Comedy | Romance. Starring Olivia Wilde, Jake Johnson and Anna Kendrick. Directed by Joe Swanberg. (R. 90 minutes.)



translates to their characters in a way that feels genuine. From the playfulness of

their banter to sharing quiet moments over a beer, it's not hard to see how the line of friendship and romance could be easily blurred. It's definitely a realistic look at a relationship between two people, especially two that are at a crossroads in their lives.

What I really enjoyed about this film is that the audience gets to see the actors truly embody the craft of acting. What the audience sees on the big screen is

entirely improvised. Hats off to Swanberg for allowing his cast the freedom to truly breathe life into their characters.

What's refreshing about "Drinking Buddies" is that it's very relevant to today's popular culture and the experiences that we, as humans, go through. During a moment of alcohol-induced clarity, Kate tells Luke, "That's the problem with heartbreak; is that to you it's like an atomic bomb and to the world, it's just really cliché, because in the end we all have the same experience."

Men and women being friends isn't unheard of, but that doesn't stop us from debating whether or not it's possible to have a platonic relationship with the opposite sex. "Drinking Buddies" keeps the conversation going.

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