



# Married to the Mob

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***Married to the Mob*** is a 1988 American comedy film directed by Jonathan Demme, starring Michelle Pfeiffer and Matthew Modine.<sup>[1]</sup>

Pfeiffer, in something of a departure from her previous roles, gave an acclaimed lead performance as a gangster's widow from Brooklyn, opposite Modine as the undercover FBI agent assigned the task of investigating her mafia connections. As a slippery mob boss romantically pursuing Angela, Dean Stockwell was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

## Plot

Angela de Marco (Michelle Pfeiffer) is the wife of mafia up-and-comer Frank "The Cucumber" de Marco (Alec Baldwin), who gets violently dispatched by Mob boss Tony "The Tiger" Russo (Dean Stockwell) when he is discovered in a compromising situation with the latter's mistress Karen (Nancy Travis). Angela wants to escape the mafia scene with her son, but is harassed by Tony who puts the moves on her at Frank's funeral. This clinch earns her the suspicion of FBI agents Mike Downey (Matthew Modine) and Ed Benitez (Oliver Platt), who are conducting surveillance, and also of Tony's wife Connie (Mercedes Ruehl), who repeatedly confronts Angela with accusations of stealing her husband. To further complicate things, Mike Downey is assigned to monitor all of Angela's movements as part of an undercover surveillance operation, but cannot resist becoming romantically involved with Angela himself. Angela's attempts to break away from the Mob result in comic mayhem and a climactic showdown in a honeymoon suite in Miami.

## Cast

- Michelle Pfeiffer as Angela de Marco
- Matthew Modine as Agent Michael "Mike" Downey
- Dean Stockwell as Anthony "Tony the Tiger" Russo
- Mercedes Ruehl as Connie Russo
- Paul Lazar as Tommy Boyle

### Married to the Mob



Theatrical release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<span>Jonathan Demme</span>
<b>Written by</b>	<span>Barry Strugatz</span> <div></div> <span>Mark R. Burns</span>
<b>Produced by</b>	<span>Edward Saxon</span>
<b>Starring</b>	<span>Michelle Pfeiffer</span> <div></div> <span>Matthew Modine</span> <div></div> <span>Dean Stockwell</span>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<span>Tak Fujimoto</span>
<b>Edited by</b>	<span>Craig McKay</span>
<b>Music by</b>	<span>David Byrne</span>
<b>Production company</b>	<span>Mysterious Arts</span>

- [Alec Baldwin](#) as Frank "The Cucumber" de Marco
- [Joan Cusack](#) as Rose
- [Ellen Foley](#) as Theresa
- [O-Lan Jones](#) as Phyllis
- [Oliver Platt](#) as Agent Edward "Ed" Benitez
- [Nancy Travis](#) as Karen Lutnick
- [Sister Carol](#) as Rita 'Hello Gorgeous' Harcourt
- [Tracey Walter](#) as Mr. Chicken Lickin'
- [Chris Isaak](#) as The Clown
- [Obba Babatunde](#) as The Face of Justice
- [Charles Napier](#) as Ray, Angela's hairdresser
- [Frank Ferrera](#) as Vinnie "The Slug"
- [Gary Howard Klar](#) as Al 'The Worm'
- [Gary Goetzman](#) as The Guy at the Piano
- [Jonathan Demme](#) as Man getting off elevator in Miami
- [Al Lewis](#) as Uncle Joe

<b>Distributed by</b>	<a href="#">Orion Pictures</a>
<b>Release date</b>	August 19, 1988
<b>Running time</b>	104 minutes
<b>Country</b>	United States
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Budget</b>	\$10 million
<b>Box office</b>	\$21.4 million

## Reception

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### Critical response

*Married to the Mob* received a largely positive response from critics, and currently holds an 89% rating on [Rotten Tomatoes](#)<sup>[2]</sup> and a score of 71 on [Metacritic](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

[Janet Maslin](#) in *The New York Times* wrote that "*Married to the Mob* works best as a wildly overdecorated screwball farce... it also plays as a gentle romance, and as the story of a woman trying to re-invent her life."<sup>[4]</sup> *The Washington Post* described the film as "all decked out in *Godfather* kitsch, but underneath its loud exterior, a complex heroine struggles for freedom."<sup>[5]</sup> *Variety* called the film "fresh, colorful and inventive."<sup>[6]</sup> *Time Out* wrote that although the film was "relentlessly shallow, the performances, music and gaudy visuals provide a fizzy vitality for which many other directors would give their right arm."<sup>[7]</sup> [Roger Ebert](#) in the *Chicago Sun-Times* gave a more lukewarm review, but ended positively: "Still, *Married to the Mob* is loaded with wonderful offbeat touches... [and] most assuredly doesn't lack soul."<sup>[8]</sup>

[Jonathan Demme](#)'s direction was praised for its *idiosyncrasy*. *The New York Times* called him "American cinema's king of amusing artifacts: blinding bric-a-brac, the junkiest of jewelry, costumes so frightening they take your breath away."<sup>[4]</sup> *The Washington Post* wrote that "Jonathan Demme has nailed one with this playful, but dangerous, gangster farce."<sup>[5]</sup>

The acting performances were widely acclaimed, especially that of [Michelle Pfeiffer](#) in a star-making turn, "her best performance to date."<sup>[8]</sup> [Richard Corliss](#) in *Time* wrote that Pfeiffer was the "emotional anchor to his [Demme's] vertiginous sight gags."<sup>[9]</sup> *Variety* claimed the "enormous cast is a total delight, starting with Pfeiffer."<sup>[6]</sup> *The Washington Post* called Pfeiffer a "deft comedian... It's her movie, and she graces it."<sup>[5]</sup> [Matthew Modine](#) was "winning," according to *Variety*.<sup>[6]</sup>

Supporting players Dean Stockwell and Mercedes Ruehl also received praise for their performances. The *Washington Post* described Ruehl's character as "majestic in her jealousy, stealing scenes but never the show from the sweetly determined Pfeiffer."<sup>[5]</sup> Maslin in the *New York Times* thought that Pfeiffer and Modine were "readily upstaged by Miss Ruehl and, especially, by Mr. Stockwell. His shoulder-rolling caricature of this suave, foppish and thoroughly henpecked kingpin is the film's biggest treat."<sup>[4]</sup> *Variety* described Stockwell as "a hoot."<sup>[6]</sup>

Accolades

Michelle Pfeiffer was nominated for the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress - Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.<sup>[10]</sup>

Dean Stockwell was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, and won awards in the same category from the National Society of Film Critics and the New York Film Critics Circle, both of which were also in honor of his work in *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* (1988). He also shared the Kansas City Film Critics Circle Award for Best Supporting Actor in a three-way tie with Martin Landau for *Tucker: The Man and His Dream* and Tom Cruise for *Rain Man* (1988).<sup>[10]</sup>

Mercedes Ruehl won the National Society of Film Critics Award for Best Supporting Actress.<sup>[10]</sup>

Awarding Body	Award	Nominee	Result
<u>Academy Awards</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actor</u>	<u>Dean Stockwell</u>	nomination
<u>Golden Globe Awards</u>	<u>Best Actress - Motion Picture Musical or Comedy</u>	<u>Michelle Pfeiffer</u>	nomination
<u>Kansas City Film Critics Circle</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actor</u>	<u>Dean Stockwell</u>	<b>winner</b> (tied with <u>Martin Landau</u> and <u>Tom Cruise</u> )
<u>National Society of Film Critics</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actor</u>	<u>Dean Stockwell</u>	<b>winner</b>
	<u>Best Supporting Actress</u>	<u>Mercedes Ruehl</u>	<b>winner</b>
<u>New York Film Critics Circle</u>	<u>Best Supporting Actor</u>	<u>Dean Stockwell</u>	<b>winner</b>

Music

See:

- *Married to the Mob (soundtrack)*

- *Goodbye Horses*

## See also

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- List of American films of 1988

## References

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3. "Married to the mob reviews at Metacritic.com" (<https://www.metacritic.com/video/titles/marriedtothemob>). metacritic.com. Retrieved 2009-11-08.
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6. "Married to the Mob Review" (<http://www.variety.com/review/VE1117792998.html?categoryid=31&cs=1&p=0>). variety.com. January 1, 1988.
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10. "Married to the Mob (1988) - Awards" (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095593/awards>). imdb.com. Retrieved 2009-09-17.

## External links

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- *Married to the Mob* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095593/>) at IMDb
- *Married to the Mob* (<https://www.tcm.com/tcmdb/title/82978/enwp>) at the TCM Movie Database
- *Married to the Mob* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v31557>) at AllMovie
- *Married to the Mob* (<https://www.boxofficemojo.com/movies/?id=marriedtothemob.htm>) at Box Office Mojo
- *Married to the Mob* ([https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/married\\_to\\_the\\_mob](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/married_to_the_mob)) at Rotten Tomatoes
- *Married to the Mob* (<https://www.metacritic.com/movie/married-to-the-mob>) at Metacritic
- Movieline interview with Dean Stockwell on the making of *Married to the Mob* (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080725062922/http://www.dareland.com/emulsionalproblems/stockwell.htm>)

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