

## = Down and Dirty Duck =

Down and Dirty Duck , promoted under the abbreviated title Dirty Duck , is a 1974 American adult animated comedy film directed by Charles Swenson and starring Mark Volman and Howard Kaylan ( Flo & Eddie ) as the voices of a strait @-@ laced , low @-@ level white collar worker named Willard and an unnamed duck , among other characters . The plot consists of a series of often abstract sequences , including plot material created by stars Kaylan , Volman , Robert Ridgely , and , according to the film 's ending credits , various people Swenson encountered during the making of the film . Dirty Duck received mostly negative reviews , with many criticizing it for its crude humor and others seeing the film as an attempt to cash in on the success of Ralph Bakshi 's Fritz the Cat . Dirty Duck fared better on home video and is now considered a cult film .

## = = Plot = =

Willard Isenbaum , a lonely insurance man with wild sexual fantasies , decides to propose to the new secretary , Susie , whom he has only known for a day and to whom he has never spoken . He spends the entire morning before work fantasizing about having sex with her , but his attempts to approach her fails . His female boss sends him to investigate a claim filed by Painless Martha , an aging tattoo artist , who works in a prison . Martha believes in a Ouija board message saying that she will be killed by a wizard on a Tuesday .

When Willard tells her that the insurance company won 't pay until her death , she dies of a heart attack . Her will stipulates that her killer must take care of her duck . After the duo spend a night in jail , the duck takes Willard to a brothel . After a wild night of partying , they wind up in the desert , where the duck dresses Willard in women 's clothing in an attempt to get a ride . After several encounters with an old prospector dying of thirst , a racist police officer , two lesbians , and a short Mexican man , they are finally picked up by a trucker .

Back at his apartment , Willard creates a makeshift sex object , which the duck eats . Shortly after , Willard discovers that the duck is a girl , and has sex with her . The following morning , Willard and the duck go to Willard 's job , where Willard has sex with his female boss , and quits his job shortly after . Willard and the duck leave , and the movie ends with Willard saying that the duck was a good duck after all .

## = = Cast = =

Howard Kaylan - Willard Isenbaum / Negro Lady / Side Hack Rider

Mark Volman - Duck / Side Hack Rider

Robert Ridgely - Car Salesman / Man at Bus Stop / Negro Gentleman / Big Fag / Police Officer / Tank

Walker Edmiston - Bus Driver / Jail Orator / Small Fag / Prospector / Mexican Official / President / Man in Elevator

Lurene Tuttle - Duck 's Mother

Aynsley Dunbar - Additional Voices

Cynthia Adler - Lady In Car / Boss Lady / Small Dyke / Lady In Elevator

Joëlle Le Quément - Land Lady / Lady at Bus Stop / Madam / Big Dyke

Jerry D. Good - Transvestite Fag

## = = Production = =

After the release and success of Fritz the Cat , several animated films meant for adults rather than children enjoyed success . Fritz , a film based on a character created by artist and illustrator Robert Crumb , was the first animated movie to receive an X rating in the United States . Charles Swenson developed Down and Dirty Duck as a project for former The Mothers of Invention band members Kaylan and Volman under the title Cheap ! Had the film been released under this title , as director

Mick Garris notes , the title would have been Roger Corman 's Cheap ! However , Roger Corman observed the title as a shot at his production techniques , and asked that the title be changed . The film 's production budget was \$ 110 @,@ 000 . According to Swenson , he created almost all of the animation himself , although publicity attributed the animation work to the Murakami @-@ Wolf Production Company . Although the film was promoted as an X @-@ rated animated film , New World Pictures had not actually submitted it to the Motion Picture Association of America ( MPAA ) . The film was also promoted as Dirty Duck , although the title on the film itself reads Down and Dirty Duck .

Despite the use of the title Dirty Duck , the film has nothing to do with the Dirty Duck character created by Bobby London and published in National Lampoon and Playboy magazines .

= = Reception = =

When the film was released , the distributor did not promote it heavily , and most reviewers disliked it . Because the film was X @-@ rated , The New York Times refused to run the film 's advertisement . This was a somewhat awkward situation , as the ad included a positive review from The New York Times . According to Swenson , " it didn 't have a big following , ... but it is still in video stores . " The film played for about two weeks in New York City . Jerry Beck wrote a review in which he called the film " raunchier than Ralph Bakshi 's films . " He went on to say that the humor of the film " is good , but the design and drawing is downright awful . It seems to be sort of a cross between Jules Feiffer and Gahan Wilson , if that can be imagined . " Beck also stated that the film was " very similar to R. Crumb 's Mr. Natural and Flakey Foont . There is no reason that the duck should be a duck . Every character in the film is human , and he just seems to be a duck just to give the film a catchy title . There are some highly imaginative animated ideas here , but the film 's entertainment value is at a minimum . " Beck later called the film " one of the most overlooked animated features of the 1970s , a glorious experimental mess of a film , which , from today 's vantage point , looks incredibly creative and daring , and something current Hollywood studios would never attempt . "

Playboy noted that the advertisements for the film said , " this film has no socially redeeming value " and continued " well , that 's dead right , yet this movie has some value as a promising X @-@ rated cartoon in the tradition of Ralph Bakshi 's Fritz the Cat . The New York Times called it a " zany , lively , uninhibited , sexual odyssey that manages to mix a bit of Walter Mitty and a touch of Woody Allen with some of the innocence of Walt Disney [ and the ] urban smarts of Ralph Bakshi " . Charles Solomon of The Los Angeles Times gave the film an extremely negative review , calling " a sprawling undisciplined piece of sniggering vulgarity that resembles nothing so much as animated bathroom graffiti . [ The film is ] degrading to women , blacks , Chicanos , gays , cops , lesbians , and anyone with an IQ of more than 45 " . Variety commented that the film " has little to recommend . "