

COUPLE: Guadalupe

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Goodbye Girl," scripts that fairly ran over with both heartwarming and hilarious language.

Maybe the producers of "Odd II" messed with Simon's script. Or maybe it's as Royal Theater owner Jim Dee says: Nobody's going to return a script to Neil Simon and tell him, "This stinks. Rewrite it."

Since this is a road movie, it does go by fast. Matthau flies from Sarasota, Fla., and Lemmon comes from New York City to California, where they're trying to attend the wedding of Oscar's son (played by "The Single Guy," Jonathan Silverman) to Felix's daughter (Lisa Waltz).

Mishaps trip them up between LAX and "Santa Menendez" (Guadalupe to us), until at last the sheriff banishes them from the Central Coast.

Apparently the script called for an agricultural community so (1) the pair could get crop-dusted by a low-flying plane, and (2) they could catch a ride from a Latino farm worker.

The dusting is halfway humorous, but the encounter with the field worker brings the whole movie down about 15 notches.

The Latino who picks up Felix and Oscar is a cliché-spouting cartoon character. Such a stereotypical portrayal makes this movie look and sound like a piece of trash from the 1930s.

And in this part of the world, that's an incredibly stupid move on the part of the filmmakers.

So while it's fun to see little Guadalupe and our summer-roasted byways up on the big screen, it's also preferable to pay the matinee price.

REVIEW



Matthew Liddi/Times

Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon spent a week in Guadalupe last July filming "Odd Couple II: Travelin' Light." Lots of local sights made it into the movie, which is showing now at the Royal — across the street from where the cast and crew did their scenes.

'Couple': Being here is all the fun

By Diane D. Urbani
Times Staff Writer

GUADALUPE — If you're going to see "Odd Couple II: Travelin' Light," it's probably a good idea to catch it in the daytime. That way you can see the Guadalupe businesses, the Guadalupe trees, and the Guadalupe fields in their real-life glory immediately after you see them in the movie.

The Morros, Los Osos Valley, the Far Western, and the Royal Theater's blue marquee, smack in the middle of the screen — it is a kick to have these local sights playing a part in the Hollywood picture show. The hills are so brown though ... oh, yeah, filming was done last July, long before El Niño irrigated them.

In the case of "Odd," recognizing our backyard is the main kick. Walter Matthau and Jack Lemmon are no less lovable than they were for their first pairing, but Neil Simon's sequel script is a flimsy half-effort that falls flat.

You want to laugh at these guys. Felix and Oscar are, after all, part of our vernacular, the way we indulgently describe any couple with differing lifestyles.

And watching them in "Odd" No. 2 isn't really unpleasant. They exchange two, OK, three funny lines, and the movie's ending is as sweet as Hawaiian Punch.

But you have to pity the people who didn't have their little town used as the setting, because they don't have that to

distract them from the rest of the unamusing dialogue.

Those who attended a Saturday evening show at the Royal Theater stayed seated throughout the closing credits — but not because they wanted to bathe a little longer in post-cinema bliss. No, we just liked seeing "The City of Guadalupe" at the tip-top of the list of entities the filmmakers wanted to thank.

"Odd II" is rated PG-13 for some profanity and silly sexual innuendo. It's disappointing to hear that Simon resorted to the F-word and a car explosion in his effort to make the film funny. This is the man who gave us "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and "The

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