

## Twins ★★½

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**Year of Release:** 1988

Review by Randy Parker

**Country:** USA

**Verdict:** See It

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*Twins*, directed by Ivan Reitman, is the epitome of high-concept, disposable entertainment. In this check-your-brain-in-at-the-door movie, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito are fraternal twins, the result of a genetic engineering experiment gone awry. Schwarzenegger, as Julius, is the twin who received all the “good” genes. Raised by a scientist on an isolated tropical island, Julius is intelligent, well-educated, physically fit, and good-natured, but he lacks experience in the real world. DeVito, as Vincent, is the twin who received the “leftover” genes. Raised in an orphanage in L.A., he is a good-for-nothing car thief and general hoodlum. Separated at birth, the two brothers finally meet for the first time after Julius leaves his island-home to track down Vincent in L.A.

Given the inspired casting and the talent involved, *Twins* has very little ambition. Although the movie is consistently entertaining, it never really rises above the level of high-concept formula. *Twins* is far too willing to milk easy laughs from the striking dissimilarity between the twins and far too reluctant to develop its characters. The

strength and heart of *Twins* is the relationship between the two brothers, who grow to love and respect one another. Unfortunately, the film’s action-oriented subplots distract from the strong chemistry that develops between Julius and Vincent.

The most pleasant surprise in *Twins* is Schwarzenegger’s knack for comedy. His performance as a fish out of water unfamiliar with American culture is convincing and endearing. His social ineptitude and inexperience produce the movie’s funniest moments.

DeVito, on the other hand, is exactly what you’d expect. He plays the standard loud-mouth, smart-alec character whom we’ve come to know and hate. This incarnation of the character is not much different from his past roles; he’s as obnoxious, immature, and irritating as ever. Kelly Preston also deserves mention; she gives *Twins* a healthy dose of pulse-raising sizzle as the sexy and stunning beauty who takes interest in Julius.

Fortunately, despite all its predictable and uninspired humor, *Twins* delivers a lot more fun and entertainment than you might expect.