

TV Review: 'Perfect Couples' is Adequate But Far From Perfect

Submitted by [BrianTT](#) [1] on January 20, 2011 - 1:33pm

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CHICAGO – Since practically the beginning of TV, sitcoms about the trials of being in a couple are a dime a dozen. Today it takes innovative, highly intelligent writing to make the mundane, everyday challenges of being in a relationship seem exciting and—most importantly—watchable, week after week.



Television Rating: **3.0/5.0**

NBC's midseason pilot "Perfect Couples" is not innovative, nor is it highly intelligent. Still, though the format of the new show is nothing new, there are genuinely funny moments throughout this first episode.

While the hot-and-cold tempestuousness of couple Vance (David Waltoon) and Amy (Mary Elizabeth Ellis) is grating; buttoned-up self-help book devotees Rex (Hayes MacArthur) and Leigh (Olivia Munn) are sometimes deliciously funny; and "perfect" couple Dave (Kyle Bornheimer) and Julia (Christine Woods) are vanilla but likable. Yes, "Perfect Couples" features a sexy couple, a type-A couple and a "normal" couple, and the presentation of these relationship sitcom archetypes are trite at best.



Perfect Couples
Photo credit: NBC

Despite these formulae, or maybe because of them, the funniest scenes are those that happen among the men only. The larger-than-life Vance is pompously self-obsessed and melodramatic, and the scene in which he accuses Dave of abandoning him during a particularly messy fight with girlfriend Amy, and then caps off his displeasure by playing Dave a "Dave Betrayed Me" playlist on his iPod, is surprisingly funny.

Even if "Perfect Couples" isn't reinventing the wheel in formula, writing or characters, it's reasonably entertaining. Nevertheless, with all the shows that exist about couples, it's doubtful that anything that's "reasonably entertaining" will be enough to keep audiences coming back

week after week.

The pilot of "Perfect Couples" airs Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 CST on NBC. It was created by Jon Pollack and Scott Silveri, and it stars Olivia Munn, Hayes MacArthur, Mary Elizabeth Ellis, David Walton, Christine Woods and Kyle Bornheimer.



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