

Pretty in Pink Turns 30!

11 Things You Didn't Know About this Iconic 80s Film

By: Lisa A. Beach

Like other teens in the 1980s, I grew up watching my teen angst play out on the big screen through John Hughes' string of iconic movies, from *Pretty in Pink* and *Sixteen Candles* to *Some Kind of Wonderful* and *The Breakfast Club*. The characters' struggles of unrequited love, the haves and the have-nots and the social pecking order mirrored my own teen struggles, often to some amazing soundtracks.

According to a recent *Rolling Stone* article, *Pretty in Pink* (1986) turns 30 this year. That gives us fans a great excuse to watch the movie again so we can see Molly Ringwald as a working-class outsider, Andie, Andrew McCarthy as rich, boy-wins-girl Blane, Jon Cryer as Andie's misfit best bud Duckie and James Spader as upper-crust, boy-you-love-to-hate, Steff.

To celebrate *Pretty In Pink's* 30th anniversary, I dug a little deeper into the movie to uncover these fun facts from IMDB and other sources:

1. Can you imagine anyone but Jon Cryer playing the role of lovable Duckie? Yet, if producers had their way, Anthony Michael Hall might have played Andie's oddball best friend. When Hall declined the role for fear of being typecast as a geek, Hughes thought of casting Robert Downey, Jr., but ultimately chose Cryer for the role. (Interestingly, Hall also turned down a part in *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*!)

2. It seems like Molly Ringwald was born to play Andie, and Hughes specifically wrote the role with her in mind. But, she initially turned it down. So guess who else was considered for the role? Jodie Foster, Sarah Jessica Parker, Tatum O'Neal, Brooke Shields, Lori Loughlin and Diane Lane. After hearing how the producers had a difficult time replacing her, Ringwald finally agreed to play Andie.

3. Ironically, of all the films she's made, Ringwald now cites *Pretty in Pink* as her favorite one.

4. Ever the villain at heart, James Spader (hello, *Blacklist*) turned down the role of nice-boy Blane and chose to play bad-boy Steff instead. Interestingly, another bad-boy (Charlie Sheen) also auditioned for the role of Blane.

5. *Pretty In Pink's* amazing emo-charged, new wave soundtrack made #11 on *Rolling Stone's* "The 25 Greatest Soundtracks of All Time."

6. Hughes got the idea for *Pretty in Pink* after Ringwald told him about the Psychedelic Furs' song of the same name. He wrote the screenplay a week after finishing *Sixteen Candles*, according to a 1986 article in *Seventeen Magazine* where Ringwald interviewed Hughes.

7. Jon Cryer reprised his famous Duckie dance in the record store on a recent episode of *The Late Late Show*. (As a side note, Jon Cryer missed the opportunity to play Chandler Bing of *Friends* fame due to an audition tape customs glitch while he was in the U.K.)

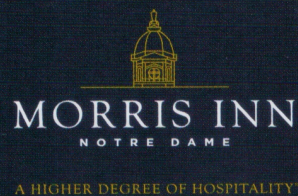
8. Both *Pretty in Pink* and *Grease* were filmed in the same high school in Los Angeles.

9. In the original ending, Andie ends up with Duckie rather than “richie” Blane. But, test audiences disapproved of the Andie-Duckie match-up and instead favored the star-crossed pairing of Andie and Blane.

10. Hughes also worried that the original ending might send the message that people of different economic backgrounds don’t belong together, so he nixed the Andie-Duckie ending and re-shot it. The problem? By the time he called back the main actors months later to re-do the scenes, Andrew McCarthy was already deep in role-prep for an upcoming play and had lost a lot of weight and shaved his head. In the film’s end scenes, you might notice McCarthy looking rather emaciated and wearing an auburn wig not quite matching his original hair color in the rest of the movie.

11. Despite their on-screen dislike for each other, in real life, Ringwald had a crush on Spader, according to an interview in *The Atlantic*.

If you don’t have your own copy of *Pretty in Pink* to watch again, check your local public library (since many now offer DVD borrowing privileges) or see if it’s available for streaming on Netflix, Hulu or Amazon Prime. ♪



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