

# Falling In Love

For all of the 1984 trappings, *Falling in Love* is a throwback to 1940s and 1950s films like *Brief Encounter* and *An Affair to Remember*, complete with two stars (Robert De Niro and Meryl Streep), a meet-cute, a budding romance no matter how hard the protagonists try to avoid it (both have settled into routine marriages), and the ins and outs and ups and downs of two people who are, yes, falling in love.

De Niro had already done *The Deer Hunter* with Streep, and he'd also worked with director Ulu Grosbard in *True Confessions* three years earlier. Working from a screenplay by Michael Cristofer (best known for his play *The Shadow Box*, and his screenplays for *The Witches of Eastwick* and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*), De Niro and Streep are simply wonderful as the star-crossed lovers, proving what superior actors can do with this kind of material and making us really care about their characters and their plight. The stellar supporting cast includes Dianne Wiest, Harvey Keitel, Jane Kaczmarek and David Clennon. New York is a major character in the film and it looks absolutely stunning thanks to cinematographer Peter Suschitzky. The film received middling reviews and it's

interesting to read them – it's almost as if they just did not want to give a great review because they felt the film was beneath its stars – they begrudgingly and halfheartedly say it's good, damning it with faint praise.

But because this kind of film has basically gone the way of the dodo bird, looked at now its pleasures are many. At times funny, at times rueful, at times beautifully romantic, at times sad, and at times painful, *Falling in Love* hits all the right notes and weaves its spell quite effortlessly. For those who've missed it all these years, it will hopefully be a wonderful discovery – and part of that discovery will be the incandescent and beautiful score by Dave Grusin.

1984 was a very busy year for Grusin. He scored *Scandalous*, *Racing With the Moon*, *The Pope of Greenwich Village*, *The Little Drummer Girl* and *Falling in Love*.

No one did this type of romantic film better than Dave Grusin. He simply and effectively captures every mood of the film, with several stunningly gorgeous melodies that weave their way throughout the score, along with some classic upbeat Grusin tunes.

As occasionally happens, several wonderful cues went unused in the film, most notably Grusin's main title theme, which was replaced with an already existing Grusin piece, "Mountain Dance" (tracked into the film several times). For this world premiere release, we're presenting Grusin's entire score, including the original main theme and all of the unused cues, exactly as he wrote it, all transferred from the original session masters housed in the Paramount vault.

It's always wonderful to be able to issue a "new" Dave Grusin score. His brilliant work has graced any number of classic films since he began – his is a distinctive and unique voice in film scoring and *Falling in Love* is yet another example of his prodigious talents.

— Bruce Kimmel