

# VH1 provides Lennon, McCartney reunion

NEW YORK (AP) — This much is true: On April 24, 1976, John Lennon and Paul McCartney happened to be watching "Saturday Night Live" when, to their glee, producer Lorne Michaels made a tongue-in-cheek appeal to them, along with their ex-bandmates.

"Lately there have been a lot of rumors to the effect that the four of you might be getting back together," said Michaels, who invited the Beatles to reunite on "SNL." And if money was the sticking point, he was ready with a breathtaking offer: \$3,000, to divvy up as they wished.

John and Paul, chortling at this gag just a few blocks from NBC, almost stunned the world by showing up for the broadcast that very night.

That they didn't, that the Beatles never played together again, that the 35-year-old Lennon wouldn't live past 40 — these and other what-might-have-beens give the new VH1 movie "Two of Us" enormous power.

But even without knowing what you know, you wouldn't want to miss this sentimental journey. Nor do you need to be a Beatles fan to care. The subject of "Two of Us" is even bigger than the Fab Four: friendship in all its complexity.

Directed by Michael Lindsay-Hogg from an exceptional script by Mark Stanfield, this sometimes joyous, some-

times wistful film premieres on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

"Hope you don't mind me surprisin' ya," says Paul (played by Aidan Quinn), who impulsively has popped in on the reclusive John (Jared Harris) at his Dakota apartment.

"It's too soon to say," John bristles. "Two of Us" makes an artful guess what happened then (McCartney wasn't consulted in the making of the film).

We see the long-estranged John and Paul spar, reminisce, catch up. They get stoned, get the munchies and John makes popcorn. They marvel at the bonafide nine-figure offers thrown at them for a Beatles reunion.

They noodle at the piano. They meditate. In silly get-ups, they take a stroll in Central Park and retire to a café and sip cappuccinos. They watch "Saturday Night Live."

For one day, they come together. And their history comes with them.

"So we're alone," says Paul on learning that John's wife and son are out of town.

"Yeah," says John warily. "You, me and everything between us."

Aidan-Quinn, speaking from his home in New Jersey, heaped credit on the script.

"If these had been completely fictional characters I would have wanted to do the film almost as much," he said.

Then he laughed. "Maybe more. The fact that this was about the Beatles gave me some trepidation initially."

Quinn makes no pretense of looking like McCartney. But he confessed that, when shooting began last fall in Toronto, he fantasized that somehow he could be transformed.

"Then I had the epiphany that it would mean plastic surgery and liposuction." He settled for contact lenses and a wig. "Once I gave up the dream of looking and sounding exactly like Paul, playing him became a lot easier."

While the 40-year-old Quinn came along too late for Beatlemania, he says he is still a fan.

"But I had no idea of the extent of Paul's contribution," he said, "particularly in keeping the group together during its later years."

In the film, Paul radiates that keeping-it-together style, even as John blasts the silly love songs of his hot band, Wings.

"Who are you, really," John storms, "if all you're concerned with is makin' other people happy?"

But Paul retorts, "Why can't making people happy be a part of who you are?"

Quinn hailed Paul's "largeness of heart and willingness to get ripped apart by this man he loves. But he defends himself. He's no wimp. He never was."

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**Aidan Quinn**  
Actor

Speaking from London, Jared Harris recalled seeing the Beatles as a toddler. "I couldn't hear a thing, and loads and loads of screaming girls were pulling each others' hair. It was just horrific."

Beyond that, he was burdened with few preconceptions. "I knew Ringo was the drummer and didn't sing much." But for several weeks before production commenced, he and Quinn buried themselves in Beatles books, interviews, newsreels and music.

What did Harris learn about John? "That he was very volatile, that he could be many different things in the course of a day. I thought, 'That's good.' I could almost be a different person in each scene."

The research was essential. "But to make your character live, you've got to

chuck away the stuff that doesn't spark your imagination."

Imaginations took flight in a wonderful scene where John and Paul board a freight elevator for the Dakota's roof. Apart from specifying that John suddenly grabs Paul and kisses him, the script left the actors to wing it.

During what becomes a full-minute elevator ride, there's horseplay, loopy banter and that out-of-nowhere smooch, which leaves Paul sputtering. "Just 'cause Yoko goes away doesn't mean you have to stop brushing your teeth!"

Filed on only their third day in front of the cameras, the scene, Harris recalled, "was the first time we went, 'I think we're gonna pull this off.'"

What they've pulled off is a yesterday to believe in.

## Research: NBC attracts richest viewers

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC, CBS and NBC are running neck-and-neck in the battle for viewers this season, but NBC can claim a clear edge in two categories crucial to the business of television.

The median household income of \$51,400 among NBC viewers is the highest of any broadcaster, according to a new study. NBC is also touting research that shows it's the network of choice among regular Internet users.

UPN, whose hike in ratings this year has been fueled largely by professional wrestling, has an audience with the lowest median income at \$35,500, said a report by TN Media, a New York advertising firm. ABC was at \$48,200, Fox at \$44,800, CBS at \$39,200 and the WB at

\$40,400. Seven of the eight network shows with the richest audience are on NBC, including "Frasier," "Friends" and "West Wing." The exception is Fox's "Ally McBeal."

"From a sales perspective, NBC has always targeted the 18-to-49-year-old upscale viewers," said Alan Wurtzel, NBC president of research and media development. "They're hard to get, and advertisers are expected to pay a premium for them."

The strategy's downside is that wealthy, well-educated people are not necessarily heavy TV viewers, according to Nielsen Media Research.

In the more mundane measurement

of average prime-time television viewers this season, ABC, CBS and NBC are separated by a mere 50,000 people for the distinction of most popular network.

ABC, the network of "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," has the narrow lead.

For years, NBC has focused so intently on a young demographic craved by advertisers that its executives effectively ignore people over age 49.

While meeting with reporters recently, NBC West Coast President Scott Sassa unveiled statistics showing NBC has a 15 percent ratings advantage over second-place ABC among television viewers aged 18-49 who also have access to the Internet.

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Andersen Consulting will be on campus interviewing for Summer Internships, Full-time positions and Student Leadership conference participants.  
Information Session for all majors—Wednesday, February 9, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., in the City Union.  
Engineering Career Day—Thursday, February 10, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Centennial Room in the City Union.  
Interviews begin Monday, February 21. Submit your resume and transcript, to the Career Services Center by February 1.