

## Nights in Rodanthe

Hey, readers, the reason to see this flick is to see two of Hollywood's most beautiful people--and "mature" ones at that—meet semi-cute, gingerly interact, then gaze at each other on the big screen.

Adrienne Willis (Diane Lane), rebounding from a troubled marriage, retreats to the tiny coastal town of Rodanthe on North Carolina's Outer Banks, to tend to a friend's inn for the weekend and to find some solace. Potential solace arrives in the form of the only guest at the inn, the distracted Dr. Paul Flanner (Richard Gere). Flanner is not on a vacation but rather is there to confront people in the area about a medical crisis in his past--and to make a crucial decision about his future. A major storm, however, is brewing and headed towards the coast, and the two must turn to each other for support and comfort. That bonding in the tempest turns to romance that is magical at first but is eventually thwarted by fate.

Gere (59) and Lane (43) have been matched before, but in a very different way, in *Unfaithful* (2002), a film about splitting up rather than getting together. This film's surprise director is George C. Wolfe, a veteran Broadway producer/director best known for his own play "The Colored Museum" (it is adapted from a recent novel by Nicholas Sparks).

Gere, with those crinkly eyes and that perfect tousle of gray hair, is fetching here, and even has to act some as a surgeon who must find repentance from an operation gone wrong. Lane, meanwhile, is ever worth watching, one of the most naturally unaffected actresses we have in movies. In fact, with her unaffected allure, one might wonder why her wandering husband (Christopher Meloni) is straying at all... Lane's dramatic zenith comes late in the film when she holds the screen for minutes while reading (silently) a letter from her beloved—her face aching, then crumbling from its contents.

Chick flick? You bet, with a most accomplished chick.  
(*"Nights"* is rated "PG-13" and runs 97 mins.)

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