

CELEBRITY COUPLES.. ON-SCREEN AND OFF!

SOMETIMES ON-SET SPARKS TURN INTO REAL-LIFE ROMANCE. BUT IS THAT ALWAYS A GOOD THING? HERE STARS SPILL ALL....

BY SONA CHARAIPOTRA



REAL LIFE VS. REEL LIFE

Above: Sophia with her fiancé, Chad. "He's an incredibly romantic person," she says. Right: Sparring with superhot shirtless guys like costar Michael Copon is all in a day's work for Sophia, here on the *One Tree Hill* set.

When **SOPHIA BUSH** got the part of feisty Brooke on *One Tree Hill*, she knew she'd landed her dream role. Little did she know she'd also meet the man of her dreams. And as quickly as you can say "Action!" her on-screen chemistry with costar **CHAD MICHAEL MURRAY** led to some serious offscreen fireworks. "Did you see the episode where Brooke and Lucas make out at the bar? What do you think?" Sophia asks, giggling. "We started hanging out all the time as friends, then we realized things clicked."

And while Lucas and Brooke's fling fizzled, Chad and Sophia's love sizzles. Yet the now-engaged costars did think twice before hooking up. "It's weird because your entire life is on the line," says Chad. "You're like, OK, if she doesn't like me, I'm [screwed] because I have to work with her for the next six years."

LIGHTS, CAMERA, LOVIN'

From small-screen sweeties such as Chad and Sophia to feature-film flames like **JUDE LAW** and **SIENNA MILLER**, on-set romances have always been hot. Remember **BRITNEY** and **JUSTIN**, who became acquainted on the set of the *Mickey Mouse Club* as tweens? "It's like sleepaway camp," says publicist Lizzie Grubman, who repped Britney when the relationship went public. "It's an intense situation, and you're bonding with that person. It's natural to fall in love."

That's certainly what happened to Jude and Sienna while filming the romantic comedy *Alfie*. "When [the director] yelled cut, they didn't stop," says one on-set witness. "They gave

their best when the cameras stopped rolling—lots of giggles, hugging.”

But while Jude proposed to Sienna, most on-set romances poop out pretty quickly: **KIRSTEN DUNST** and **TOBEY MAGUIRE**; **BRITTANY MURPHY** and **ASHTON KUTCHER**. And though high-profile couplings can score tons of publicity, they’re also risky. “It’s no different from having five classes with someone you’re dating,” says TV producer Christopher Keyser, who worked on *Party of Five*. “And then you break up and still have to see the person every day. It’s hard for actors because they have to pretend to like each other—and, worse, kiss.”

And sometimes falling for a costar can make for awkward moments on the set even before a split—especially



KISSING AND NOT TELLING While Seth and Summer’s on-again, off-again romance on *The O.C.* is no secret, Adam will only say, “I will not confirm or deny anything” about his offscreen relationship with Rachel Bilson.

when your real-life love has to make out with another actor. Just ask **MICHAEL COPON**, who cozies up to Sophia on *OTH* this season as the mischievous Felix. “There was one [kissing scene] where we were holding the position for, like, 20 minutes. Then we both looked up at the same time and just busted out laughing,” Michael recalls. “But it was uncomfortable for me. So we had a straight-up talk in the beginning. Chad said, ‘Thanks for respecting my girl.’ And I’m like, ‘No problem, man.’ Since then, everything’s been swell.”

Chad, for one, accepts that kissing strangers is just an occupational hazard he and Sophia are going to have to deal with. “I would love to go to work and make out with my fiancée,” he says. “But I don’t think that’s how the cards are going to play out.”

BEHIND-THE-SCENES DRAMA

Off-set cameras also put pressure on dating costars. While Chad and Sophia work the red carpet as a pair, *The O.C.*’s **ADAM BRODY** and **RACHEL BILSON**

won’t even admit they’re together.

“Fans don’t always like it when their favorite celeb has a boyfriend or girlfriend,” says Grubman.

That’s one reason on-set hookups generally aren’t encouraged. “Most producers would prefer that life not imitate art,” says Keyser. “But you can’t tell someone not to fall in love—and then you can’t keep them in love.” Take **JENNIFER GARNER** and her *Alias* costar **MICHAEL VARTAN**. The two dated, split and then got hot and heavy on-screen—even though Jen is now with **BEN AFFLECK** (her *Daredevil* costar). Sounds like a drama in the making, right? Not necessarily. “Jennifer and Michael are perfectly fine working together after the split,” says Grubman. “If you’re adult about the relationship, then it should all work itself out.” Whether that’s wishful thinking almost doesn’t matter. The public’s fascination with celebrity romances is only growing. Stay tuned. —Additional reporting by *Ulrica Wihlborg, Susan Christian-Goulding and K.C. Baker*



LOVE ON WHEELS The on-set swooning between *Alias* costars Sienna Miller and Jude Law took off even faster than this scooter!

CANOODLING COSTARS? WE ASKED PSYCHIC BARRIE DOLNICK, AUTHOR OF *ASTROBABE: A GIRL'S GUIDE TO THE PLANETARY POWERS OF ROMANCE*, TO GIVE US THE LOWDOWN ON WHICH ON-SCREEN COUPLES HAVE OFFSCREEN ROMANCE IN THEIR FUTURE

By S. Tia Brown



« **EMILY VANCAMP** AND **GREGORY SMITH** (*Everwood*) They are competitive with each other but have a magnetic energy, so there probably is some romance. They’ll most likely keep it [a secret].”



« **LAURA PREPON** AND **TOPHER GRACE** (*That 70s Show*) “Laura’s a little dangerous—she’s got a dark side. There’s magnetism between them, but they’re better suited to be just friends.”



« **ANGELINA JOLIE** AND **BRAD PITT** (*Mr. and Mrs. Smith*) “Brad’s going through a major crisis, and Angelina’s growing up. [If they are together], it will be just a fling.”



« **MICHAEL VARTAN** AND **JENNIFER GARNER** (*Alias*) “Since they’re no longer in a relationship, she likes him more. He feels betrayed. He would only get back together with her to dump her.”