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News ■

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Johnny Depp is one of the title rogues in PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL.

It's obvious now that Johnny Depp's fun-loving buccaneer Captain Jack Sparrow is one of the highpoints of Disney's **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF THE BLACK PEARL** – earning the actor wide acclaim from critics and fans alike – but not everybody at the studio was enthusiastic about Depp's swaying, speech-slurring, gold-toothed spin on the character from the start.

"They didn't like him in the beginning at all," Depp explains. "I think he was a little too unpredictable for them, maybe a little bit weird for them initially – which I understood, I *really* understood. They had their concerns, certainly, about the look – the look was upsetting to them," he adds with a laugh.

As production began, Depp began hearing "sideline whispering" about concerns regarding the rather offbeat direction the character was taking. He decided to broach the subject directly.

"I got wind of it, and I sat down with them and just [said], 'Look, you hired me to do this. You know the stuff I've done before, so you *had* to know, to some degree, where I was gonna go with the thing. I know what I'm doing. I really believe I can deliver an interesting character, a fun character, a character I'm pretty sure audiences could connect to, and you've got to trust me on this. If you can't trust me, then you're better off replacing me.'"

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Movie Profile Captain Outrageous

Disney took a chance on Johnny Depp's eccentric **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN** performance – and the result is one of the film's most enjoyable elements

Dateline: Wednesday, July 9, 2003

By: MICHAEL TUNISON

Managing Editor



The final one-sheet for PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN.

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Disney didn't replace him, of

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Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom star in
PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: THE CURSE OF
THE BLACK PEARL.

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course, and the result is a twist on the traditional pirate captain that seems to be an instant classic in the genre. Depp has spoken widely about how he partly based Captain Jack on a personal friend, Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, but there were other influences as well.

"There's certainly the Keith Richards kind of element, the wise kind of sage," he says. "And there was this sort of Pepe Le Pew angle, which is the guy who has blinders

on, who only sees what he wants to see. And there's also the Dean Martin kind of aspect. To me, Captain Jack is this sort of strange, pulsating organism who would shape himself to mold to whatever situation – but with a martini glass. He's the guy with the martini glass – always."

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