

## *Two for the Money*

College football star Brandon Lang (Matthew McConaughey) aspired to the pros. He was everything, a handsome, tall, decently spoken natural athlete with a subtly flat accent until a career ending injury on the final touchdown of a game left him face to face with the dreaded “life after sports”.

Left to find a career of his own he chooses to record the messages you hear when you call a 900 area code number. When he subs for a day for a guy who records the betting advice about football he finds a talent.

Hired and brought to New York by the major television and telephone gambling-aid mogul Walter Abrams (Al Pacino) Brandon finds a calling (sorry!) as a gambling advisor. But as he himself says in the movie: “winning is a funny thing.” Brandon slides down a slippery slope of cockyness in the game picks that he makes, resulting in his flipping a coin over the outcome of a major game.

But *Two for the Money* is still a common story with a common twist. In all of the archetypal tales of hubris there is an instigator who leads the protagonist to his eventual act of self-focus. In *Two for the Money* the instigator is none other than the role model, Walter Abrams. Abrams brings Lang into his cocky self. He even goes so far as to force upon him a *nom de plume* of John Anthony. The differences between the two men (Anthony and Lang) are crystal clear. Anthony drives a Mercedes (quite badly) and Lang rides a bike. That in and of itself is a glimpse into the psyches of the two.

A tale of choices and quiriness, *Two for the Money* kept my eyes rapt for the whole 122 minutes.

**Grade: B+**