

# CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME THE MOVIE!

## PRESS QUOTES

"Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same is the first feature film from indie filmmaker Madeleine Olnek who hails from New York City. The movie, a sci-fi comedy, crash-landed from outer space into the Sundance Film Festival in 2011, spreading outer-space hilarity. It is shot in black and white, paying homage to B-movies from the 1950s, and like those films, it was shot on a shoestring budget. The film stars lesbian playwright/performer Lisa Haas (pictured, left) as Jane, a shy greeting card shop assistant who falls in love with Zoinx, the lesbian alien, played by actress Susan Ziegler (pictured, right). Codependent Lesbian Space Alien also stars out comedian Jackie Monahan. Codependent Lesbian Space Alien is currently screening in New York. Filmmaker Madeleine Olnek says: "If you are a grouchy, bitter lesbian, come see the movie so you can stop complaining." We're there. At least, we will be when it lands in the UK."  
—*DIVA, the only monthly glossy newsstand magazine for lesbians and bi women in the UK.*

"Screwball comedy reaches earth in black-and-white in Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same...Madeleine Olnek gets laughs and style out of interplanetary love. Codependent will be in demand at festivals for the gay and geek public. Theatrical interest will probably be for the arthouse circuit, but the comedy's wacky black and white retro-aesthetic could give it strong international pull. Home video will also be significant for this odd but tender lesbian love story. The cast here is as strong as the no-frills production design...Lisa Haas is the earnest lonely Earth-woman who trusts her feelings against overwhelming improbability... Dennis Davis plays a CIA agent tracking the lovers who can't stop talking, but who's too dense to grasp what's going on – Olnek's symbol of the non-lesbian world out there? No-budget UFOs were the staples of the first wave of commercial independent films in the early 1960s. In a year when Sundance celebrated the king of those movies, Roger Corman, Madeleine Olnek has found a place in same satirical constellation."  
-- *David D'Arcy, SCREENDaily (SCREENInternational), The voice of the international film industry*

“Not down to earth at all (and all the better for it) was the wacky, Woody Allen – inspired Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same, a black and white riff on 50’s schlock sci-fi, starring, of course, a lesbian space alien. You’d be hard pressed to find a flick more dedicated to its bizarre (and wonderful) vision this year”

— *AFTERELLEN.COM*

“awesome...this thing is seriously funny-- still images really cannot fully convey the hilarity of deadpan monotone aliens working the lesbian singles scene in lower Manhattan...you will laugh, cry, and dance like a space alien. The real fun (as well as the real poignancy) comes from the realization that we all feel like aliens when we’re looking for love”

--*VELVET PARK/Dyke Culture in Bloom Magazine*

“Codependent is an entertaining mashup of 1950’s sci-fi spoof and romantic comedy... you don’t have to be a lesbian to relate to a culture that makes you feel alien. And that’s the brilliance of films like Olnek’s’.... I am hopeful that the arrival of exciting new filmmakers like Olnek and Rees ["Pariah"] will mean many more films with lesbian content that offer alternatives...And that’s good news for anyone who wants to see a wider breadth of stories about our lives, about human lives.”

—*Joan Lipkin, MS. Magazine*

“The title reads like a personal ad from the Twilight Zone. But it actually refers to a family-friendly lesbian sci-fi movie...a distinctively indie film, it lightheartedly pokes fun at the underlying strangeness of our courtship rituals.”

—*Michelle Ong, INTERVIEW magazine*

“Madeleine Olnek’s beaming and daffy intelligence manifests elegantly in this, her first feature, a black & white film that reminds me of early Jim Jarmusch... An absurdly touching courtship...the triumph of love over otherness... noirish..drum tight.. Olnek compares gay characters today to pinko queers in the '50s. Just as dangerous as communist "aliens," the morphing trope of alien sexuality impinging "on us" ...Olnek skillfully and pleasurably has managed to update the history of the sci-fi genre by linking it to the predicaments of the present. And finally, because Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same is a comedy, its ending has a feel-good punch. That is if you think voluntarily leaving this planet (for another one) with your alien lover is a good thing, and I do.” -- *Eileen Myles, Art in America magazine*

*The below is from renowned lesbian critic B. Ruby Rich (coiner of the term "New Queer Cinema")*

"characters that are lively and surprising; a fresh new run at science fiction... Both Pariah and Circumstance track exceptional young women in terrible circumstances. But in a galaxy far far away, and outside the competition—at a midnight screening, to be precise—things were different. Dispensing with realism, melodrama, and suffering, all in one fell swoop, writer/director Madeline Olnek's Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same marked an unlikely lesbian revival of cheesy, 1950s-era science fiction: black-and-white footage, Twilight-Zone sound effects, cheesy props and sets, and laugh-out-loud comedy. ... When alien protagonist Zoinx meets Jane, a sad-sack lesbian everywoman who works in a stationary shop, a romance blooms... Olnek gets to mock hilariously the foibles of lesbian dating and romance while adding her own interplanetary twists: aphrodisiac cheesecake, anyone?...pointed jokes and a sweetheart ending... a retrofitted lesbian fairy tale."

—B. Ruby Rich, *"Film Quarterly"*

"sweet and hilarious...a lovely, quirky, comic fantasia, with a beautifully understated performance by Lisa Haas as the sweetly codependent lesbian who's fallen in love with a space alien...Codependent offers a fun queer evening at the movies.. [and] ends up being a sweet, funny love story in which two deeply "different" women triumph over their odds" — *Jill Dolan, The Feminist Spectator*

"Sweet, funny, clever comedy seeks crossover" would be the Craigslist come-on for "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same," and it may well come true via Madeleine Olnek's wry homage to '50s sci-fi, urban dating and interspecies romance. "Codependent" could pass as a family film, given the right family. But small arthouse and huge DVD/VOD seem more likely... The pic's seat-of-the-pants aesthetic recalls "Invasion of the Body Snatchers" and the interplanetary paranoia of its genre; the odd-couple romance (and a scene near the Queensboro Bridge) suggests Woody Allen's "Manhattan"; the parallel storyline of two government agents (Dennis Davis, Alex Karpovsky) is a little bit "X-Files." But Olnek's sensibility is singular, and the work of the cast -- notably the sweetfaced Haas and the hilariously robotic Ziegler -- make for a movie that seeks, and earns, affection." -- *John Anderson, Variety*

A hilarious date movie for couples of all orientations. Tongue firmly in cheek, Madeleine Olnek's lesbian sci-fi comedy lovingly spoofs the black-and-white B-movies of yesteryear. Sure to become a staple of festival midnight-movie programs, it should also live long and prosper on DVD and late-night TV." — *Justin Lowe, Hollywood Reporter*

"In "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same," Madeleine Olnek's witty ode to urban love and shoestring sci-fi, a lonely Manhattanite and an exiled extraterrestrial find interspecies contentment. On the Earthling side is Jane (a perfect Lisa Haas), a sweet, unlucky-in-love store clerk surviving on fantasies and regular therapy. About to realize those fantasies is Zoinx (Susan Ziegler), one of three female aliens whose overabundance of "big feeling" is believed to be destroying their planet's ozone layer. Bald as eggs and with gills secreted beneath their Elizabethan collars, the aliens hope to save their home by getting their hearts broken — a task at which humans are thought to excel. Who knew "The Bachelorette" was beaming into outer space? Photographed in crisp black and white by Nat Bouman, this enormously likable movie keeps sexual politics on the back burner and the universal search for connection front and center. The budget probably had trouble stretching to a box of tinfoil, but the film's pleasures are in the details, like Jane's casual warning to "watch out for the syringes" when she and Zoinx ponder a Coney Island swim. ...A clever subplot involving the odd-couple relationship of two government agents — as well as actual news footage of a 2010 U.F.O. scare in Chelsea — cements the lighthearted tone, and toilet-flushing noises exemplify the sophistication of the special effects. Ed Wood would have been proud."

-- Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times*

"Inspired silliness--satisfyingly incongruous—and slyly subversive. The film's best joke, an absurd question [Rookie Agent] Karpovsky asks [Senior Agent] Davis after he smugly describes his happy marriage, qualifies as its own queer invasion from outer space."

--Melissa Anderson, *The Village Voice*

"The film tries to be pessimistic and optimistic, humorous and serious, ironic and earnest, a gay film straight audiences could appreciate. In other words: a surefire cinematic disaster. But with an ear for dialogue as sharp as her aliens looking for love in all the wrong spaces, director Madeleine Olnek hits the mark with this send-up of lesbian dating culture (alienation, get it?) packaged as a B-movie spoof."

--Philadelphia Weekly

"The Funniest Lesbian Movie Ever Made"

--Artistic director Jennifer Morris, *onstage at the Frameline Film Festival*

"hilarious, laugh out loud"

--Sister Dana Van Iquity in *The San Francisco Bay Times*

"You probably haven't given the sexual orientation of aliens much thought lately. (If you have, maybe there's some esoteric fetish you should let us in on.) Thankfully, director Madeleine Olnek (*Hold Up*, *Countertransference*) has done the thinking for you, and come up with a film that mixes the best parts of 1950s B movies and New York City romantic comedies: *Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same*. The plot centers on three lesbian aliens from the planet Zots, who journey here to rid themselves of any romantic emotions through heartbreak (on Zots, much like Craigslist, romance is extremely undesirable). Of course, the aliens are immediately smitten with all the fetching Earth women, and heartbreak and hilarity ensue. The 75-minute, 2D, black and white film will be playing all week in Brooklyn's reRun Gastropub Theater. But given the success the movie's had at Sundance and other festivals, it could make its way to Netflix or the Sundance Channel in the coming months."

— Jon Roth, *OutMagazine*

"As such, like the very best comedies, Olnek's are tinged with pain...Now Olnek has proven that she can make an important film without having to make a dramatic one...And while Olnek can brilliantly maneuver a script that both slices and entertains in a satirical breath, there are moments of pure, unfettered comedy, from the absurd to the slapstick, that feel classic and even quotable...As the aliens move with great difficulty through their new lives in New York City, their wit is so sharp that the original concepts and jokes become even funnier as the movie progresses. Olnek's grasp of her comedic arc is enviable. She sustains, and even pushes the laughs further, with each successive one-liner. One hopes that Madeleine Olnek will continue to work in the feature realm, and that her future films will be as hilarious as this one, our sides splitting open further with each sucker punch of ugly truth."

— *Holly Herrick, Filmmaker Magazine*

"Why She's On Our Radar: Her debut feature, the hilarious black-and-white sci-fi romantic comedy "Codependent..." charmed the pants off critics and audiences at the Sundance Film Festival where it world premiered. The film's since gone on to slay at a slew of festivals"

— *Nigel Smith in indieWIRE*

"a funny comedy of manners, a satire that encompasses 1950s second-billed drive-in sci-fi, those incredibly adventurous and annoyingly sincere lesbian indie romances, suspense thrillers involving mysterious government agents in black suits and black town cars, and U.S. consumer culture in general. The interactions between the two agents -- a dimwitted trainer and his secret-alien protégé -- are as hilariously deadpan as all of the other dialogue. Aided by wonderful cinematography that brings to mind Woody Allen's "Manhattan," Olnek clearly has a real affection for New York. Her deadpan style and sympathy with life's losers and outsiders brings to mind Jim Jarmusch's landmark indie film "Stranger in Paradise." "Space Aliens" is not only a worthy successor to that film, but it plants Olnek in the very best tradition of Downtown Manhattan indie filmmaking... She's also helped by a very talented cast. I was pleasantly surprised by "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same" ...keep an eye out for it when it comes to DVD." -- *Steve Weinstein, EDGE*

"Warm, witty, irresistible"

-- *Queerty.com*

## Top film lists:

- Picked by **AFTERELLEN.COM** as one of “five must see movies at your LGBT FEST this summer”
- Chosen for the **GLAAD.ORG** article “BEST OF THE FESTS: WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR ON SUMMER'S LGBT FILM FESTIVAL CIRCUIT” which called it “one of the most unique films you'll come across this summer.”
- Madeleine Olnek was chosen as one of the “40 New Faces of Indie Film in 2011” by **IndieWIRE**.
- **AUTOSTRADDLE** (lesbian site) “Must See Films LGBT Film Festivals 2011”
- **QUEERTY.COM**'s top ten list of lgbt films this year
- The Overlooked of 2011: **Six Great Women Directors (IFP** (Independent Film Project.org)
- “The Best Queer Movies of 2011” Top ten list/ **pDX.com-Queer news**
- “Funniest movie of 2011” **Culture Catch**

## AWARDS

**AUDIENCE AWARD/ \$3,500 cash prize—Melbourne, Australia LGBT FF**

**OUTFEST Special Programming Award Citation:** “For her witty and creative vision, her skill at eliciting memorable performances, for deftly blending old school science fiction and deadpan comedy, and for believing that true love exists even if it means going to another planet to find it.”

**FRAMELINE Outstanding First Feature Honorable Mention Citation:** “Madeline Olnek’s smart, laugh-out-loud funny ode to B-movie aesthetics and the thrills and hazards of the contemporary big-city dating scene, Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same deserves the jury’s Honorable Mention for its snappy script, inventive filmmaking trickery and hope for love beyond earthly boundaries.”

**HONOLULU RAINBOW FESTIVAL: BEST FEATURE AWARD**

**NOMINEE: GOTHAM AWARD 2011 “BEST MOVIE NOT PLAYING AT A THEATER NEAR YOU”** (The Gotham Awards kick off the film awards season in America, and this years attendees included Vera Farmiglia, Ang Lee, Jim Jarmusch, Charlize Theron, Christine Vachon, and others).

**GOLDEN KITTY AWARD for BEST LESBIAN FILM--** [www.mylesbianradio.com](http://www.mylesbianradio.com)