

CODEPENDENT LESBIAN SPACE ALIEN SEEKS SAME

PRESS QUOTES

After screening at Sundance, Seattle International, Festival do Rio, Athens International and the Viennale-- among others -- this tongue-in-cheek cult favorite of the festival circuit played to sell-out crowds and garnered rave reviews.

"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... this enormously likable movie keeps sexual politics on the back burner and the universal search for connection front and center... 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. Ed Wood would have been proud."

-- Jeannette Catsoulis, The New York Times

"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" -- Justin Lowe, *Hollywood Reporter*

"Sweet, funny, clever comedy..."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

“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. 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. In a year when Sundance celebrated the king of those movies, Roger Corman, Madeleine Olnek has found a place in the same satirical constellation.” --David D’Arcy, *SCREENDaily*

“Inspired silliness--satisfyingly incongruous—and slyly subversive”
--Melissa Anderson, *The Village Voice*

“Why she’s on our radar: Her debut feature, the hilarious black and white sci-fi 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, *indieWIRE*

“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...—things were different. Dispensing with realism, melodrama, and suffering, all in one fell swoop, writer/director Madeleine 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.” --B. Ruby Rich, *Film Quarterly*

“A black-and-white sci-fi retro-New York micro-budget completely absurdist independent comedy, which also manages to thoughtfully address the pain and confusion of sexual prejudice...Olnek has proven that she can make an important film without having to make a dramatic one.” --Holly Herrick, *Filmmaker Magazine*

“Not down to earth at all (and all the better for it) was the wacky, Woody Allen – inspired ‘Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same’...You’d be hard pressed to find a flick more dedicated to its bizarre (and wonderful) vision this year” --Danielle Riendeau, *AFTERELLEN.COM*

“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*

"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... This film should cross the line that segregates most "gay movies" from the rest, because it's worlds, nay, galaxies superior to the vast nothingness of most mainstream films."

-- Tara Murtha, *Philadelphia Weekly*

"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*

"'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, [premiered at] 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 as Jane, a shy greeting card shop assistant who falls in love with Zoinx, the lesbian alien, played by actress Susan Ziegler. [The film] also stars out comedian Jackie Monahan...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, *UK's premiere lesbian magazine*

"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....[and includes] a very talented cast... As someone who normally rolls his eyes at the pretentiousness of most indie films, I was pleasantly surprised by "Codependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same."

-- Steve Weinstein, *Edge Magazine*

"You probably haven't given the sexual orientation of aliens much thought lately, ...[but] thankfully, director Madeleine Olnek ('Hold Up', 'Countertransference') has done the thinking for you, and [has] come up with a film that mixes the best parts of 1950s B movies and New York City romantic comedies"

--Jon Roth, *OutMagazine*

"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** “Must See Films LGBT Film Festivals 2011”
- **QUEERTY.COM**'s top ten list of LGBT films this year
- Chosen for 2011 as one of “**Six Great Women Directors**” IFP (Independent Film Project.org) article.
- “The Best Queer Movies of 2011” Top ten list/ **pDX.com-Queer news**
- “May be the funniest movie of 2011” **Culture Catch**

AWARDS

- **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.”
- **AUDIENCE AWARD — 22nd MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL**
- **HONOLULU RAINBOW FESTIVAL: BEST FEATURE AWARD**
- **GOLDEN KITTY AWARD** for BEST LESBIAN FILM-- www.mylesbianradio.com
- **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 Farmigilia, Ang Lee, Jim Jarmusch, Charlize Theron, Christine Vachon, and others).