



[Home](#) / [Film + TV](#) / Review: *Stuff* Is An Expertly Performed Relationship Drama

Review: *Stuff* Is An Expertly Performed Relationship Drama

By [Jeremy Ross](#) on July 16, 2015



Phyllis Somerville, Karen Sillas and Yvonne Jung in *Stuff*

One of the pleasures of independent cinema is offering talented but under-appreciated actors the chance to shine, while giving unknowns the opportunity to prove their talents. The lesbian domestic drama *Stuff* exemplifies both, offering plum roles for '90s independent stalwart Karen Sillas and character actress Phyllis Somerville. Written and directed by Suzanne Guacci, *Stuff* is an expertly performed relationship drama with several notable performances.

Sillas and Yvonne Jung star as lesbian mothers who have found that their comfortable marriage has fallen apart after several years of neglect. Sillas plays Trish, a dentist who has failed to address the pain she felt after the death of her father, a situation made worse by her mother (Somerville) being the one person even worse at dealing with loss. Trish's coldness drives her wife Deb (Jung) into the arms of a free-spirited tattoo artist, Jamie (Traci Dinwiddie).

Sillas was once a staple of independent film and television, yet never achieved the stardom her talents deserved. This film is a reminder of how good Sillas can be, even if she never found the role that would demonstrate it; that she never even ended with a flashy role as district attorney on any one of the dozens of legal procedurals that dominated entertainment during that time is baffling, even if she probably deserved even better than that.

She is matched by Somerville as her mother. The actress may be most acclaimed for her role as the mother of a child molester in *Little Children*, and she rivals that work here. The most surprising performance is by Maya Guacci, the daughter of the director, who plays the outgoing daughter of Sillas and Jung. She could easily fit into any of the roles that Abigail Breslin has long outgrown.

Stuff may tread familiar territory and some of its plot points seem lifted from the more mainstream *The Kids Are All Right*, but what it lacks in originality it makes up for in poignancy. It is a testament to what talented actresses – whether as young as Guacci or as experienced as Somerville – can do.

Stuff

Aspire Productions

Now in theaters

3 Stars

Films are rated on a scale of 5 stars (must-see), 4 stars (exceptional), 3 stars (solid), 2 stars

ADVERTISEMENT



× SHOP! ×

ADVERTISEMENT



a fitter you in
just 90 days.

free 30 days of
beachbody.com
content with purchase.

shop P90X ›



(average) and 1 star (unworthy).

[Recap of Films Screened at This Year's AFI Fest](#)
November 13, 2015
In "Film + TV"

[Interview with Grandma Writer/Director Paul Weitz and His Muse for the Title Role, Lily Tomlin](#)
August 19, 2015
In "Film + TV"

[Director Fina Torres Explores the Nature of Female Friendships in Liz in September](#)
November 3, 2015
In "Film + TV"



Jeremy Ross is a Staff Reporter for Living Out Loud - LA, covering entertainment.

RELATED ITEMS FILM

[Tweet](#) [G+1](#) [Pin it](#) [Like](#) 0

← Previous Story

Review: Honest and Explicitly Modern – *Beautiful Something*

Next Story →

Review: *Tangerine* Is an Exciting, Gritty and Unconventional Film

YOU MAY ALSO LIKE...

[Knock Knock Turns Fantasies into Nightmares](#)

[Mad Monster Presents *The Devil's Rejects* 10th Anniversary Screening](#)

[Review: An Essential Documentary for Angelenos, *East LA Interchange*](#)

You must be logged in to post a comment [Login](#)
LEAVE A REPLY You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.

Video Slider

[Win Tickets to See I Love The 90's at the Microsoft Theater](#)

Menu

[Win Tickets to See Kid Koala at Royce Hall](#)

[Win Tickets to See I Love The 90's at the Microsoft Theater](#)

[Win Tickets to See I Love The 90's at the Microsoft Theater](#)

[Win Tickets to See Paquita la del Barrio at the Microsoft Theater](#)

[Win Tickets to See Mariachi Vargas De Tecalitlan at the City National Grove of Anaheim](#)

[Win Tickets to See Roberto Tapia at the Microsoft Theater](#)

[Win Tickets to See Kid Koala at Royce Hall](#)

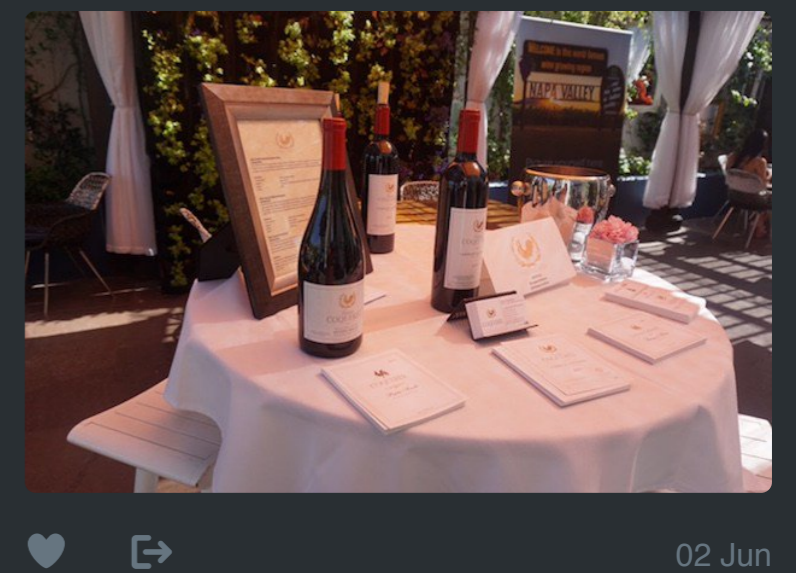


TWITTER

Tweets by @LivingOutLoudLA

Living Out Loud LA Retweeted
Parallel Worlds @PWRockShow
Thanks @LivingOutLoudLA for the great review and for joining us at the world premiere! #pwraprockshow #rockon
06 Jun

Living Out Loud LA Retweeted
Sofitel Los Angeles @SofitelLA
We're glad you enjoyed the Napa Valley E-Auction, @LivingOutLoudLA!
fal.cn/2LK4 #SofitelWorld



Living Out Loud LA Retweeted
Rachel McCord @IamRachelMcCord
Super #honored!! Napa Valley E-Auction Launches at the Sofitel Hotel - Living Out Loud Los Angeles @LivingOutLoudLA lol-la.com/napa-valley-e-...
01 Jun

Living Out Loud LA @LivingOutLoudLA
Kick off summer at Great Horror Campout (@Greathorrorcamp) this weekend.
ow.ly/u4Uc3013djb
8h

Living Out Loud LA @LivingOutLoudLA