



# Cuddles

... the antidote to LBD



**Karen Stephens**



**Janet Carabelli**



**Susie Taylor**



Written & Directed by Paul Seligmann Jordan  
 Produced by Janet Carabelli and Paul Seligmann Jordan  
 Run time: 16:24

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# A Word From The Director



When I was thirteen, my mother showed up at dinnertime wearing a T-Shirt that read: “A Woman Needs a Man like a Fish Needs a Bicycle.” She showed us a casserole she’d left in the fridge and went off to her first of many Actions in Favor of the ERA. My father was livid – not just because she left him to fend for us, but because his worst fear was that she didn’t need him at all.

When Showtime’s “The L Word” premiered in 2004, not only was it a revolutionary in showcasing the lives of lesbians as an insular world, nothing like

it had ever been on the air. Gay women followed it adoringly. Straight women watched in groups. Straight men watched in secret, trying to decode this world to gather intel on the women in their lives. It became a sensation.

Nothing quite like it has happened since. Except for “Orange is the New Black,” although lesbian characters pop up in unexpected places throughout the television and film world, there are no shows just for them, about them and their world.

As a production duo, Janet Carabelli and I wanted to create an insular lesbian world where they are in on the joke and we can laugh along because it’s truly funny. A good belly laugh is especially needed now.

Thus was born Cuddles, where the L Word meets I Love Lucy. A 16 minute 24 second snippet from a day in the life of two of Monica Shaw-Johnson (Esquire) and Farah Johnson-Shaw (PhD) whose zany marriage works because they balance each other out.

Paul Seligmann Jordan

## **Bio: Paul Seligmann Jordan**

A Colombian native, Paul Seligmann Jordan, first stepped onto a soundstage at age four to accompany his comedic actor father. By his teens Jordan was writing screenplays, filming 16mm shorts and winning awards for poetry and short stories.

The mid 80's took him to San Francisco amidst the AIDS crisis. The experience (along with the tremors and earthquakes) shook him profoundly. He began to see the importance of media as the death toll rose and the news stopped covering it. Back home in Miami, as a long-time survivor of AIDS, he has been an outspoken activist. He has appeared on Spanish language television many times to promote understanding and awareness, most recently as the PrEP Coordinator for Care Resource.

His first screenplay, **Café Cubano**, written in 1991, was optioned by Crayola Studios. Those original characters and situations have been brought into the present time in **Cuban Coffee** as a twelve episode series and being developed as a novel. The short based on this material, **6/\$5** was shot in 2018 and is in post production.

He co-founded the Screenwriter's Workshop at the Miami Light Project with Dr. Frances Negrón-Muntaner in 1999. Public readings of his screenplays **Divine Intervention**, **Little Black Dresses**, as well as **Strands** were held at local acting academies.

His South Beach **Nightmare Chronicle** (a trilogy, 2013) and his novel **Lazarus Rises** (2017) are seeking representation.

In **Cuddles** he's created an insular world (think "The L Word" marries "I love Lucy") where the technology that has given us mediated intimacy has robbed us of human contact. He hopes it gives audiences belly laughs.

On June 1, 2019 Cuddles premiered at Regal Cinemas in Jacksonville as part of the Southeast Regional Film Festival. The film was awarded Runner up Best Comedy Short, which included a cash prize as well as Laurel and trophy.

## Bio: Janet Carabelli



Janet Carabelli considers this the Prime Time of her life. She's a female actor who doesn't hide her naturally gray hair or the smile lines the years have added to her face. Not surprisingly, the roles for which she is most often invited to audition are grandmothers, socialites and doctors.

Thankfully not all the roles in the past few years have been less-than-sizzling secondary or tertiary characters. Several recent indie films gave her the chance play leading roles into which she could really sink her teeth; "Lay me down" and "6/\$5" are currently in post-production and "Love & Interest" recently screened at Silverspot Downtown Miami as part of the Ibero-America Film Festival and

was well-received by the audience.

Over the past 7 years, Janet has had lead roles in over a dozen independent films and nearly 100 television commercials, talk shows, PSAs and industrials.

Janet produced the comedy short Cuddles as a way of taking reign of her own career path, playing a vibrant somewhat goofy lesbian in a happy marriage at the center of a funny story.

In real life, she has been married to her high school sweetheart since 1977. Though they never had kids of our own, they are surrogate parents to a niece whom they love and adore. Through her she's grandma to a lively four-year old boy.

Her passions -- besides acting -- are fitness, cooking, gardening and travel. She has enjoyed time in 47 countries on 5 continents, and will happily jump on a plane to go anywhere, anytime!

Resume, clips and photos appear at [www.JanetCarabelli.com](http://www.JanetCarabelli.com)  
<https://www.castingnetworks.com/JanetCarabelliBMGATL>  
and [https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4997156/?ref=fn\\_al\\_nm\\_1](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4997156/?ref=fn_al_nm_1)

## Cuddles - Synopsis

When we meet Monica Shaw-Johnson, she is joyously singing in the shower and humming as she sips her coffee to meet her day. She's after the brass ring today and as a corporate lawyer, she's not type to let it slip out of her grasp.

Her wife, Farah Johnson-Shaw, a family therapist, isn't having as good a start to her day. She likes her quiet time in the morning. Their next door neighbor, Rose came in unannounced and proceeded to have a full-on white girl melt down. Next she notices that something's up with Monica and then, she gets a disturbing email from her publisher.

Monica doesn't notice. She's too busy thinking about her plan – she's gonna get so rich! She's certain that there are matching luxe convertible hybrid SUV's in their future! She's gonna be on the board of 'Cuddles' a lesbian dating app, she's gonna become the go-to divorce lawyer for the gay community... it's gonna be a bonanza! This new app will bring women together, they'll move in too quickly, get married too quickly and she'll be there to help them divorce. Money coming in when they get together; money coming in when they divorce: a perfect plan.

Farah's writing a book to help solve LBD (lesbian bed death) and has a shocking revelation: it's snuck its ugly head right into her own house...they're not doing it!

Monica's gonna change that, even if it means getting girly to do it! Their marriage works because they're the perfect complementary comedy duo.

Cuddles: a short feature fiction comedy, running time 16 minutes, 24 seconds filmed in Digital HD.

- All Florida Production
- Filmed at a Certified Wildlife Habitat
- Special thanks to SAG-AFTRA.
- "Let's Do It (Let's Fall In Love)"  
Written By Cole Porter  
WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)
- US Copyright pending
- Award Winner — Runner up, Best Comedy Short, Southeast Regional Film Festival 2019

## CREDITS:

Monica Shaw Johnson  
Farah Johnson Shaw  
Rose Levy-Sanchez  
Deliveryman  
Jeff  
Richard  
Jack  
Spike  
Nessy

Janet Carabelli  
Karen Stephens  
Susie Taylor  
Sean Jaffe  
Jerome Rigoroso  
Travis Neff  
Dick Jordan  
Boris  
Chessie

### Music

South Beach Chamber  
Ensemble Pleyel – Minuet  
Michael Andrews – Cello  
So Long by Alice Marie

### Camera

Editor  
Sound  
Makeup/Hair  
Script Supervisor  
Director/Script  
Drone

Jorge Parra  
Ronald Garcia  
Ivan Zervignon  
Carolyn Jones  
Travis Neff  
Paul Seligmann Jordan  
Paul Charles Demos

### Special Thanks

Jorge Carabelli  
Dr Katerina Seligmann

### Location

El Portal, Florida  
Certified Wildlife Habitat

“Let’s Do It (Let’s Fall In Love)”

Written By Cole Porter  
WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

US Copyright pending

This is an all-Florida production - writer, cast, crew and location



With special thanks to SAG-AFTRA