# 'These Lips' Were Made For Joking! Jackie Monahan's New Album Is Pretty Damn Funny

January 9, 2019 retrocrush

Jackie Monahan's new comedy album "These Lips" is a hilarious, smart, and dirty album that had me laughing throughout. Full of a good mix of stories and jokes that are full of misdirection, surprises, and a clever amount of filth that makes it all worthwhile. Jackie's not afraid to be silly in this effort, which ranges from material about giant areolas, preferring to call chicken breasts "chicken titties", and an absurd impression of Katherine Hepburn singing a Guns N Roses song that is as dumb and funny as it sounds.

I hadn't heard of Jackie prior to listening to this and was pleasantly surprised at how much I liked it. She's got a great voice to listen to and an energy that makes the hour fly right by. I particularly enjoyed a bit about Louis CK which talks about how his name's been relegated to verb status, and pointing out the irony guys would be just fine if an 80 year old lady asked if she could masturbate in front of them. I also typed that last sentence to improve my search engine results in with the granny-fucking community.

Anyway, give this album a listen. It's great. It's available anywhere you can buy albums and you can listen to it on Spotify, as well. You can follow Jackie on Twitter HERE, and visit her official website HERE.

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### These Lips by Jackie Monahan: A Comedy Album Review

January 7, 2019

I got the pleasure of reviewing Jackie Monahan's new comedy album from Uproar Comedy entitled, These Lips, and I was laughing before I even hit play, no lie. The album cover is just SO GOOD that it completely sums up her comedy vibe in one photograph, and well, makes you laugh. I cannot look at the picture without cracking up. So just by the album cover I was already amused and I knew that Jackie would be totally likable and relatable, a must for comics, in my opinion. Already in a silly mood now, I proceeded to listen to her jokes.

When you start listening to the album, you quickly realize that Jackie doesn't take herself seriously and has such a great comedic style. Her jokes are raunchy but funny. Some jokes are a little cringy, but they are supposed to be that way, that's just Monahan's vibe. A lot of the jokes build up to a kind of plot twist at the end, then you are either like "yeah, I get it!" with some or "ewwww, omg!" with others, like on track 10, I'm an Alien. The jokes aren't what you'd expect by the titles. Jackie is a damn funny comedian. I don't want to give too much away about the tracks, that way not to spoil them, and let you listen to them yourself. However, my favorite joke of the whole album was on track 11, Tinder, where she shares something funny she likes to do on her friends instagram pics and I totally relate to her humor. These Lips pushes the limits of comedy with witty jokes while paired with Monahan's effortless and confident delivery, covering relatable topics with a fantasy twist; I think anyone would enjoy this album as an escape from humdrum reality. You also get the "shock factor"

after each bit, even though you are expecting it, you are still like WOW - that's hard to achieve and Monahan cooly makes it look easy.

### Now Hear This: These Lips - Rating: \*\*\*\*

#### Jude the Comedy Dude

This latest Uproar comedy release by Jackie Monahan is called "These Lips" and it arrived in my inbox ahead of the December 14th release date.

Monahan wastes no time getting big laughs as the opening bit is dirty and dark and utterly hilarious. This is how you start a comedy album! The second bit is funny but it does lose a bit of steam from the raucous opener. We get right back on track and Monahan splits time between riffing on the differences in dating different genders and an incredible track called "Ass Magic" that ends on a great and unexpected pun. So funny. We continue with more solid bits that manage to be smart and filthy at the same time. Rare feat. "Anti-Rape Jokes" might be as triggering for some listeners as it seemed to be for the live crowd. She manages to traverse the murky waters before launching into a great Trump bit and maybe the funniest take on the Louis CK situation I've heard yet. Also, there's a Katharine Hepburn impression in there that gets the most unlikely applause break on the LP. The album ends with more big laughs and the closer called "Tinder" that isn't your run-of-the-mill hack take on the Tinder premise. Really fun special.

Jackie Monahan is raunchy without being crass and way more clever than 90% of the comics out there. Despite some slow spots and some bits that fall flat, this is a really funny album that has some jokes that will stay with the audience long after the record ends. I'm looking forward to more. I give this one a solid recommendation.

"She's got the look of your friend's hot, older sister, and the jokes of a deranged serial killer. She will kill you, and you will be smiling."

- Esquire Magazine

"Jackie Monahan is Unstoppable"

- Curve Magazine

'Queen of Deadpan and an absolute delight" - Roger Ebert

"The funniest bitch on the block"- Amy Schumer

"Jackie Monahan is smart, salty and sophisticated, with sharp, salacious wordplay. Her debut album, "These Lips," constantly ups the ante. She takes seemingly innocuous statements & warps them with a crafty subversion, or delightful depravity. Jackie is electric, less of a livewire and more of a stun gun. She administers taboos as a series of controlled shocks, providing just enough charge for audiences to enjoy the jolts. Monahan, is a master of her craft. While unapologetic and raw, she never overwhelms with crass, never overindulges with outrageousness. "These Lips" features a cool charisma, a metered balance of unassuming silliness, dry wit, and dark humor, so you can savor the unsavory. "These Lips" takes everyday thoughts and feelings, flips the zeitgeist on its head, and sears a lasting image into your brain. The highly effective and affecting album will likely change how you think, the album's title, "These Lips," an allusion to Monahan's take on an overlooked double standard, imprints a visceral, lasting visual crystallized in a brilliant, lewd joke. Jackie Monahan's brand of elusive, mischievous observational comedy manipulates the mind's desire to fill in the gaps. By the time you recognize the rich range of the comedy, connect all the dots, fully understand what and what's not being said, notice the intricate linguistics, and admire the audacity, you'll be howling, groaning, and shaking your head all at once.

- Uproar Comedy

'Wild Nights With Emily' Review: Molly Shannon Is Emily Dickinson in the Best Lesbian Comedy in Years — SXSW

## Madeleine Olnek's new film reveals the lighter, gayer side of a poet who was neither as reclusive nor severe as history would have us believe.

#### Jude Dry

Madeleine Olnek's movies may be an acquired taste, but the woman knows how to write a catchy premise. Her three feature films — all madcap comedies with absurdist leanings — include lesbian aliens looking for love, lesbian hustlers picking up women outside Talbot's — and now, lesbian Emily Dickinson traipsing across her Amherst lawn after a tryst with her sister-in-law, her petticoats flung about her head. That's the premise of "Wild Nights With Emily," and to say that they just don't make movies like this anymore would be grossly inaccurate: It's hard to imagine anyone making this movie other than Olnek.

Using Dickinson's letters and poems (with permission from Harvard University Press), "Wild Nights With Emily" paints a much sunnier portrait of the poet than that of the reclusive spinster terrified of publication. Instead, the film imagines a lively woman forced to hide a lifelong love affair whose work was mostly rejected by a literary establishment that would embrace it after her death.

'Foxy Merkins' Director Madeleine Olnek: 'Independent film loses something by just being a cookie cutter experience.'

Continuing a fruitful post-"Saturday Night Live" indie film career (she won an Indie Spirit Award last year for "Other People"), <u>Molly Shannon</u> is brilliant and warm as the literary icon. The movie begins with a lecture given by Dickinson's

first publisher, Mabel Todd (Amy Seimetz, in a rare comedic turn), who spins the yarn of the reclusive Dickinson with a syrupy grin and pink flat-top hat. Mabel's narration is a necessary reminder of the Dickinson that the world knows, and its inaccuracy is hilarious when juxtaposed against this vivacious and joyful version, known here simply as Emily.

Though it is certainly a comedy, "Wild Nights With Emily" is anchored by a surprisingly touching love story between Emily and her friend from childhood, Susan Gilbert (Susan Ziegler). Their teenage romance develops during 19th century sleepovers that would make 21st century parents blush. (Young Emily and Young Susan are played by Dana Melanie and Sasha Frolova.) Soon, Emily is heartbroken to learn about Susan's secret engagement to her brother, but softens when Susan explains her plan for them to be together. Sure enough, Susan and Austin (Kevin Seal) build their house right next door to Emily's, and a lifetime of early morning scurrying across the lawn ensues.

Olnek takes every opportunity to showcase Emily's poetry, sprinkled into the film in voiceover and graphic text. We see Emily scribbling lines on the back of a cake recipe that she stows away in her hair, and sending missives across the lawn to her constant champion and reader. The notion that she never sought publication is challenged by a meeting with the editor of the Atlantic Monthly, the bombastic blowhard T.W. Higginson (a note-perfect Brett Gelman), who dashes her hopes by suggesting she title her poems and use more rhyme.

Meanwhile, it appears that "reclusive" Emily was really only reclusive around Mabel, and that was because she was having sex with Austin in Emily's drawing room.

Olnek's films are feminist statements on several levels, most significantly in the way that she casts so many compelling women, from romantic leads to character bits. The young actresses Melanie and Frolova are both excellent, and Olnek secured memorable turns for Jackie Monahan and Lisa Haas, stars of the only true lesbian hustler comedy, "The Foxy Merkins."

Shannon keeps her natural zaniness just below the surface as Emily, but brings ever so much mirth to Olnek's humorously formal 19th century dialogue. An accomplished theater actress and repeat player in Olnek's films, Ziegler is the perfect match for Shannon, and their chemistry elevates the comedic premise into an undeniably compelling romance. It's a joy to watch them fall sideways into bed together, tumbling on guests' coats while hiding from the party downstairs. Their devotion drives home the film's ultimately political message, and elevates the poignant final image to poetic heights.

"Wild Nights With Emily" may be Olnek's most political film to date, one that could forever change the narrative of the world's most famous woman poet. In her director's statement, Olnek writes: "The idea that she wrote without wanting to be published exonerates the world that prevented her voice from being heard and also plants the idea that for women, it is wrong to desire recognition." With that in mind, here's hoping for many more movies like "Wild Nights With Emily"—though Olnek is definitely one of a kind. **Grade: A-**