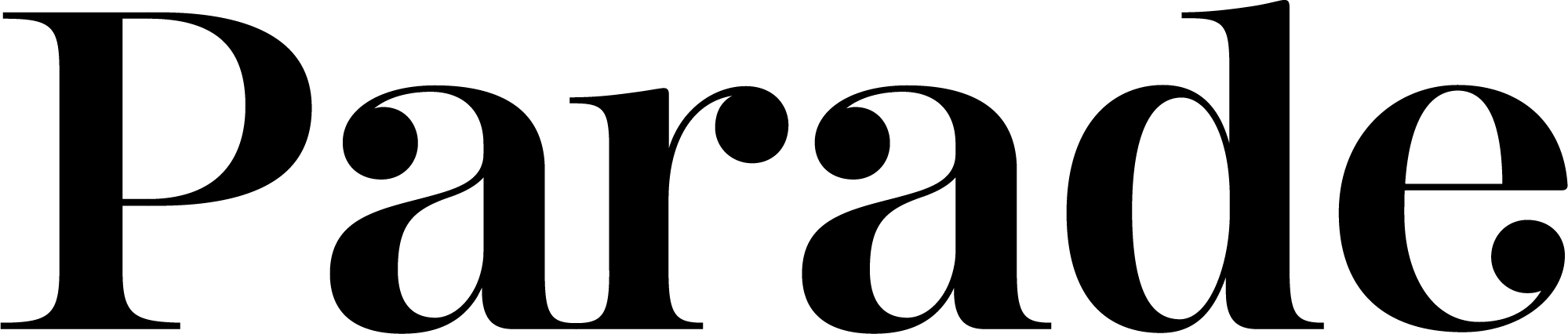
# [**Mariska Hargitay Dishes on Filming Romance Scene With Christopher Meloni**](https://parade.com/tv/mariska-hargitay-romance-scene-lion-vibe-christopher-meloni-today-show-twitter-video)

And why the Stabler and Benson slow burn is necessary.

* [SAMMI BURKE](https://parade.com/author/sammi-burke)
* 4 HOURS AGO

[**Mariska Hargitay**](https://parade.com/news/mariska-hargitay-self-care-red-light-mask-therapy-facial-fans-react-instagram-photo-2023)is finally speaking out on that [infamous Bensler scene](https://parade.com/tv/fans-react-olivia-bendon-elliot-stabler-no-kiss-law-order-svu-episode) from a recent episode of [*Law & Order: SVU*](https://parade.com/tv/mariska-hargitay-law-order-svu-star-ryan-buggle-13-birthday-instagram-photo).

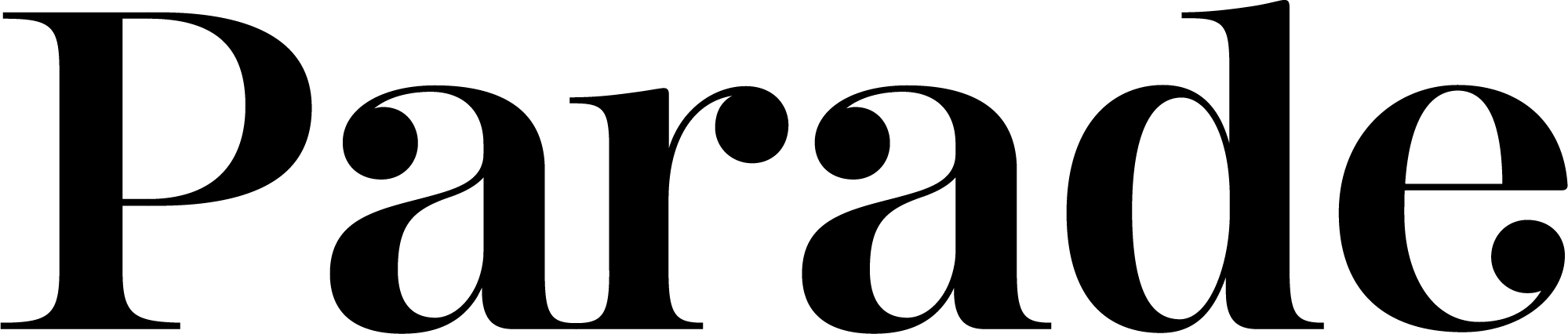
During a little downtime earlier this [morning](https://parade.com/936820/parade/good-morning-quotes/) on the set of the *Today Show*, Hargitay participated in a little Q&A for social media, where the interviewer asked the hard-hitting [questions](https://parade.com/968403/parade/questions-to-ask-a-guy/) fans were begging to know the answers to ("Interviewer deserves a raise ‼️ asks the best questions," one replied) like what finally filming an intimate scene with [**Christopher Meloni**](https://parade.com/news/chris-meloni-haircut-vacation-instagram-video-2022)was like.



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Specifically, she asked, "You recently got to film closely with Chris, for like the first time, Elliot and Olivia, so what was that experience like?"

Hargitay's answer was admittedly diplomatic as she noted that "it was such a long time coming" and something that they "just wanted to make sure and get it right."

"The good news is we are so comfortable around each other, and so it was effortless and fun, and we trust each other. It was very beautiful that way," she added.

Ultimately, though, they were both just "focused on the work."

They couldn't leave it there, though, adding a fan-requested question before the less-than-minute-long clip ended.

"The lions—did they inspire the Elliot and Olivia face-touching?" a voice off-camera asked.

"The lions?" Hargitay asked, seeming confused before the interviewer specified, "The lion [memes](https://parade.com/1334037/jessicasager/happy-birthday-memes/)." She seems to be referencing videos that Hargitay has [shared to her Instagram stories](https://twitter.com/actuallybrio/status/1628226622846279682) in the past, which some fans have taken as representations of her and Meloni's characters.

"Oh!" She laughed. "The nuzzling? You know, no, that kind of happened naturally," she said, acknowledging, "We have a little lion vibe, don't we?"

**Related:** [**Mariska Hargitay Giddily Reveals Her Nickname for 'SVU' Costar Ice-T During Walk of Fame Ceremony**](https://parade.com/news/mariska-hargitay-reveals-nickname-svu-costar-ice-t-walk-fame-ceremony-video)

Even the mere thought of [the pairing of Stabler and Benson](https://parade.com/tv/law-and-order-mariska-hargitay-christopher-meloni-selfie-photo-2022) has long sent fans into a tizzy, so it's no surprise that the teaser for the scene in question, where it seemed like [the two were finally about to kiss](https://parade.com/tv/law-and-order-svu-season-24-promo-benson-stabler-kiss-fans-react) after more than two decades, went viral.

Unfortunately, things didn't quite pan out the way fans expected when airtime came, but we're sure there's more to come!