



# 25th BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

31 March – 6 April 2011

## Gregg Araki to introduce the Opening Night Gala Screening of *Kaboom*

\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*

**London, Thursday 31 March 2011:**

As Peter Bradshaw so eloquently asserted yesterday 'This week sees the beginning of the 25th London Lesbian & Gay film festival, an event that has always seemed to me to have a completely admirable emphasis on mischief, enjoyment and fun'. ([www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk))

Tonight's Opening Night film ***Kaboom***, the latest feature from acclaimed New Queer Cinema pioneer **Gregg Araki** promises to deliver all three, with two back-to-back sold-out screenings kicking off the Festival at BFI Southbank.

We're delighted that Gregg has flown into London to introduce this very special screening, particularly given that his films have been a regular highlight at the Festival since 1989.

*Kaboom* stars **Thomas Dekker** as Smith, a regular horny teenage art student who, after he witnesses the murder of a mysterious red-haired girl, finds himself embroiled in a cataclysmic mystery that could signal the end of the world. Alongside his feisty best friend Stella (**Haley Bennett**), buff surfer roommate Thor (**Chris Zylka**) and free spirited party girl London (**Juno Temple**), Smith ends up in a race against time to uncover the truth and save mankind. As the title would suggest, *Kaboom* is an absolute blast.

After the screening, ***Lower the Tone***'s Sadie Lee and Jonathan Kemp bring their unique 'club for people who hate clubs' to the recently renamed **Blue Room** at BFI Southbank where invited guests will mingle with the likes of Will Young, Rhona Cameron, Aiden Shaw, Gurinder Chadha, Peter Tatchell and Dickie Beau as we celebrate the start of our historic 25th anniversary year.

Over the next week, the festival will bring new features from festival favourites **Bruce LaBruce**, **Barbara Hammer**, **Sebastien Lifshitz**, **Cheryl Dunye**, **Virginie Despentes**, **Rosa von Praunheim**, **David Weissman** and **Xavier Dolan**, UK debut features ***Break My Fall*** and ***Unhappy Birthday***, a preview of ***The Night Watch*** and a career interview with novelist **Sarah Waters**.

Despite being shorter this year, the LLGFF still manages to pack over 100 features, documentaries, shorts and events into it's six-day run until the award-winning ***Four-Faced Liar***, directed by **Jacob Chase** and adapted for the screen from her own play by writer/actor **Marja Lewis Ryan** brings the 25th Festival to a close on April 6. We thank everyone who has supported the Festival over the years.

[www.bfi.org.uk/llgff](http://www.bfi.org.uk/llgff)

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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