



LOCO presents

LOCO London Comedy Film Festival 2015

**Britain's only international comedy film festival,
22-25 January**

LONDON – Thursday 20 November 2014. LOCO returns early next year with four days of the world's best comedy cinema to beat what is seen as the worst week of the year for feeling seasonal 'blues'. **LOCO 2015** will feature more premieres, director Q&As and live events than ever before.

LOCO's mission is to kickstart the next generation of British comedy film-makers

LOCO awards two annual **LOCO Discovery Awards**, celebrating exciting new British comedy talent, for short films and features. This year's feature film nominations are superhero comedy **SuperBob** (dir. **Jon Drever**, written by **Brett Goldstein** and starring **Brett Goldstein** and **Catherine Tate**), spy caper **MLE** (dir. **Sarah Warren**) and **The Fitzroy** (dir. **Andrew Harmer**), set in a parallel 1950s Britain. This year's **LOCO Discovery Awards** are in partnership with **Curzon Home Cinema**, who will be bringing the nominated films to a wider audience. The winning short and feature will be announced on Wednesday 21st January, and the previous feature film winners are **Black Pond**, **Wizards Way** and **Gone Too Far!**. LOCO's Kickstart Your Comedy Career course also returns to **BFI Southbank** to give young British comedy film-makers the skills they need to build a career in comedy. **LOCO** is supported by the BFI through its Lottery Film Festivals Fund.

Denise Hicks, LOCO Director says, "**LOCO** is the UK's only international comedy film festival, celebrating the world's most original comedy

films. This year we have more new British films, more film-maker interviews and training, and a season of live events and screenings around social class and comedy, creating debate just three months before the election. Peter Ustinov once said that 'comedy is just a funny way of being serious', and this year's programme shows the extraordinary range of genres and themes that comedy can cover."

LOCO opens with *Lost In Karastan*

The 2015 opening night film is *Lost In Karastan*, a spectacular satirical comedy directed by **Ben Hopkins** and co-written by **Ben Hopkins** and **Pawel Pawlikowski**. It stars **Matthew Macfadyen** as **Emil Forester**, a down-at-heel British director who is flattered when the president of Karastan invites him to film their national epic. But with a crazed Hollywood star (**Noah Taylor**), a suspiciously seductive guide (**MyAnna Buring**) and increasingly perilous politics to navigate, can he save his creative integrity - or his life?

LOCO presents world premieres of new British Independent film-making and premiere parties created by Domino Publishing.

Highlights of the **LOCO London Comedy Film Festival 2015** include three world premieres of new independent British films (*SuperBob*, *MLE* and *The Bubonic Play*) and the UK premiere of award-winning British director **Ben Hopkins'** new film *Lost in Karastan*.

LOCO partners with campaign group 38 Degrees to explore comedy and social class in film three months before the British general election.

From Shakespeare and Chaucer to Julia Davis and Mike Leigh, comedy has often provided the most insightful and provocative analysis of the British social class system. In partnership with campaign group **38 Degrees**, and just three months before the general election, **LOCO** will be encouraging audiences to engage with the class issues explored in the 2015 programme through a series of events and screenings that look at class through a comedy lens. The season includes classic and contemporary films such as *Kind Hearts and Coronets*, *The Ruling Class* and *Abigail's Party*, which is screening complete with its own 1970s drinks party. We are also presenting a unique social class comedy gameshow in partnership with **Arts Emergency**.

LOCO premieres new international comedies

LOCO has always championed foreign language comedy, and this year returns with two remarkable international films: *Farewell To The Moon* (dir. **Dick Tuinder**, Netherlands), a dark comedy set during the Dutch summer of love, reminiscent of *The Virgin Suicides*, and *Totally Talking* (dir. **Tomáš Pavlíček**, Czech Republic), a sparkling debut with

echoes of the Czech New Wave. We also premiere cult vampire comedy **Summer of Blood** (Onur Tukul, USA).

LOCO takes you on a journey through comedy in music videos

Does This Sound Funny to You? is a unique event curated in partnership with **Pulse Films** celebrating a diverse selection of music videos that use comedy to entertain and provoke, accompanied by chat and insider knowledge from a panel of music, movie and comedy experts. All rounded off with a special live performance.

LOCO presents rare silent comedies with live accompaniment

A screening of rare British silent comedies with live accompaniment by **The Lucky Dog Picturehouse** shows how Britain pioneered silent comedy. This is accompanied by a family silent comedy screening to help engage a younger generation in the fabulous genre of slapstick.

LOCO programmes kids' screenings and workshops

For the first time, **LOCO** will be at **BFI IMAX** to screen classic Disney film **Aladdin** and **The Fisher King**; a tribute to the late, great **Robin Williams**. **LOCO** will also be featuring a tribute to another great – **Bob Hoskins**, with a special screening of **Who Framed Roger Rabbit?** **LOCO's School of Slapstick** will also be returning to train the next generation in the skills of Slapstick performance.

LOCO presents a live-drawing storytelling performance with film-maker Lisa Gornick

This one-hour show is about Grandma Ray. A cockney who sometimes went posh and who lived her life holding onto a secret. Once discovered, this very same secret helps her granddaughter to live her life with a more enlightened frou frou flourish. The set up is like an artist's room meets film set: music, ink, and lots of drawing - a **one woman show with projected image** and amplified voice - it's art meets filmmaking meets comedy storytelling.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Event title: LOCO London Comedy Film Festival 2015

Box office: www.locofilmfestival.com

Dates: 22 – 25 January 2015

Details: Britain's only international comedy film festival returns to lighten up London in the most miserable week of the year. With four days of the world's best comedy cinema, **LOCO 2015** features more premieres, director Q&As and live events than ever before.

Website: www.locofilmfestival.com

About LOCO

LOCO is a not-for-profit foundation that supports and celebrates the world's most original comedy cinema. We champion the craft of comedy filmmaking through training, screenings, outreach and funding. We also run the **LOCO London Comedy Film Festival**, the UK's only international comedy film festival, which returns to **BFI Southbank** and selected cinemas from 22-25 January 2015, lightening up London in the most miserable month of the year.

Visit www.locofilmfestival.com

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