



25th BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival

31 March – 6 April 2011

Marja Lewis Ryan to introduce the LLGFF Closing Night Gala Screening of *The Four-Faced Liar*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, Wednesday 6 April 2011:

The 25th BFI London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival's Closing Night Gala screening, courtesy of TLA Releasing, is ***The Four-Faced Liar***, adapted by New Yorker **Marja Lewis Ryan** from her own successful stage play. The multi-talented 25 year-old also produced and stars in this very accomplished debut feature about four twenty-somethings looking to find themselves in New York's West Village. They meet at a local Irish pub and their relationships with one another morph into love, betrayal and heartbreak for all. *The Four-Faced Liar* is bursting with humour and underlying heartache and this award-winning film is the perfect way to bring the 25th LLGFF to a close.

After the screening, DJs **Ruth** and **Tamsin** bring ***Unskinny Bop***'s unique blend of 'Podge Pop Anthems' and disco dancing opportunities to the **Blue Room** at BFI Southbank where Festival guests will mingle with filmmakers and a weary festival team who, after six days of long hours and hard work have a much-deserved chance to let our hair down.

In a week packed with films and events there were many highlights. **Gregg Araki** enjoyed his visit to the festival with ***Kaboom*** so much he stayed for an extra day to introduce and answer questions about his film ***Mysterious Skin***.

For those in search of the next big thing there were a number of outstanding LLGFF debuts. ***Heart Breaks Open***, the first feature from Seattle-based collaborative filmmaker **billie rain**, explores themes of love, responsibility, accountability and intervention amongst the queer community. The film also benefited from an impromptu blessing from London's ***Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence***.

Hackney-based drama ***Break My Fall***, dubbed by the director as an 'anti-date' movie, is the first-time feature from **Kanchi Wichmann**. The film centres on the chaotic, self-destructive night-time world of love, lust, music and break ups of a four messed-up East End friends.

Lucy Asten Elliot's first ever short, ***James Dean***, was one of a number of outstanding short films screened this year and was nominated for the 2011 **Iris Prize**. Other filmmakers deserving of special mention were Switzerland's **Tamer Ruggli** for ***Cappuccino*** and **Gianna Sobol** for her film ***Public Relations***. Watch out for these new talents, LLGFF predicts they are destined for big things.

After a popular special preview of television adaptation of her book ***The Night Watch***, which went down a storm with it's sold-out audience, **Sarah Waters** talked to Programmer **Emma Smart** about her career, giving insight about the processes she employs when researching and writing her hugely successful novels.

Hate crime and the lack of queer visibility were the themes of ***Queer Youth Making Changes***. Some remarkable documentaries made by young people from both sides of the Atlantic screened alongside the winning entries of Stonewall's film clip competition,

reminding us that despite a shift in attitudes in recent years, homophobia is still a major concern for young people.

Veteran Jamaican filmmaker **Lloyd Reckord** introduced his pioneering film **Dream A40**, the first ever gay themed film made by a black director and unseen for many years which was screened in a brand new print, restored by the BFI.

Virginie Despentes scooped the **Derek Oyston Film Prize** and a cheque for £2,000 from the Campaign for Homosexual Equality for her documentary **Mutantés** (*Punk Porn Feminism*). The film explores the pro-sex movement over the past three decades featuring interviews with activists, sex workers and performers including **B Ruby Rich**, **Annie Sprinkle** and **Del La Grace Volcano** and **Emilie Jouvét**.

Jouvét's feminist porno road-movie **Too Much Pussy** also set tongues wagging (not least amongst the box office staff announcing the title over the Southbank tannoy). Those two films also inspired a consciousness-raising salon asking 'What **do you think about Feminist Porn?**'

There was plenty of fun to be had away from the cinema screens too. TimeOut's cabaret columnist **Ben Walters** delighted audiences at his Burn event with some off-beat performances from **Dickie Beau** and **A Man to Pet**.

Bird Club's **Carry on Objectifying** had the ever-innovative **Bird la Bird** leading her brightly-plumed flock on a ride through some sizzling queer femme cabaret. There was brain washing, queer burlesque, a rococo communist camp and their very own rollergirl on the door.

Our cup cake logo proved a hit with the kids at our ever-popular **We are Family** event where, amongst the balloon animals and face-painting, a couple of the younger children were spotted licking our delicious posters.

A shorter Festival meant that demand for tickets was exceptionally high this year and with record-breaking seat occupancy of almost 85 percent across the festival period the screens of BFI Southbank have never been busier. Fortunately, for those people who missed out on a ticket, there will be another opportunity to catch several of the most popular films in cinemas and on DVD after the LLGFF closes tonight. **Kaboom**, **Heartbeats**, **We Were Here** and **Break My Fall** will all receive theatrical and DVD releases and **The Four-Faced Liar**, **Going South**, **Man at Bath**, **Unhappy Birthday**, **The Owls + Hooters** and **A Marine Story** are all due to be released on DVD in the coming months – Look out for them!

www.bfi.org.uk/llgff

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