



museum of arts and design

**FIRST AMERICAN RETROSPECTIVE OF NEW QUEER CINEMA PIONEER  
GREGG ARAKI THIS SEPTEMBER AT MAD**

**“God Help Me: Gregg Araki” Series To Feature Never-Aired, Rare And Early  
Works Selected By The Director**

**Master Class With Araki On September 28**



Nowhere, image courtesy Warner Brothers

New York, NY (August 19, 2013)— The Museum of Arts and Design presents the first American retrospective of New Queer Cinema cult auteur Gregg Araki this fall from September 19 through October 26. *God Help Me: Gregg Araki* will survey the director’s career thus far, with 9 films selected by Araki himself, including his rare early work *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (1987), the never-aired MTV pilot *This is How the World Ends* (2000) and the complete *Teenage Apocalypse* trilogy. MAD will also host a rare master class with the director on September 28.

“Araki is a pioneer of American ‘90s independent cinema. He’s a filmmaker whose distinct voice and intelligent perspective on youth and queer culture have influenced so many others. His work plays with genres and narrative tropes, breaking from traditional structures, while addressing serious issues in culture. I hope that this retrospective will give audiences a rare opportunity to see all of Araki’s work, and introduce him to a new generation,” says Jake Yuzna, MAD’s Director of Public Programs.

Widely regarded as one of the key directors of 'New Queer Cinema'—alongside figures such as Todd Haynes, Derek Jarman, Isaac Julien, Tom Kalin and Jennie Livingston—Araki came to prominence in 1992 with *The Living End*, a raw and intense road movie that premiered at the Sundance Film Festival that year. The film follows a drifter and a film critic, both gay and HIV positive, as they embark on a road trip and crime spree across America. Exploring the anger and alienation triggered by an HIV positive diagnosis, the film was described as simultaneously honest, humorous and heart-rending in the exploration of its lead characters' plight.

Araki further cemented his status as cult filmmaker with *Totally F\*\*\*\*ed Up* (1993), *The Doom Generation* (1995), and *Nowhere* (1997), known together as the "Teenage Apocalypse Trilogy." Navigating adolescent transformation, alternative models for sexuality and love, alien visitors, and the effects of HIV/AIDS on Generation X, Gregg Araki blended and parodied influential cinematic genres from the coming-of-age to road trip to science fiction, to craft a body of groundbreaking films that continue to reverberate today.

The series will also give the public a chance to discover Araki's first film, *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (1987), shot guerilla-style in black and white with a spring-wound Bolex camera and a budget of only \$5000, as well as the pilot for a never-realized TV miniseries *This is How the World Ends* (2000). Araki showed equal ease and gained wider mainstream recognition with a more traditional narrative in *Mysterious Skin* (2004), which explores the long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse on the trajectories of two young men. In 2010, Araki switched back to his signature style with the comedic and wildly libidinous dystopian sci-fi film *Kaboom*, which won the first ever Queer Palm at that year's Cannes Film Festival.

Taking audiences on a turbulent and thrilling ride through celebrity mania, doomsdays, sexual awakenings, neo-Nazis, and teenage wastelands, Araki's daring cinematic voice has crafted a complex pop portrait of adolescent America as it transitioned into a new millennium.

### **RARE MASTER CLASS BY GREGG ARAKI**

On Saturday, September 28 at 3pm, Araki will lead an intimate master class at the Museum. This seminar-style program will offer the opportunity to hear Araki speak on the trajectory of his career, see sneak-peaks from his newest film, and gain insight into his process and inspiration.

*666: A Master Class with Gregg Araki* will take place in the MAD Theater.

<http://www.madmuseum.org/events/666-master-class-gregg-araki>

### **ABOUT THE SERIES**

*God Help Me: Gregg Araki* is organized by Jake Yuzna, Director of Public Programs.

Movie tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for members and students with valid ID. Tickets to *666: A Master Class with Gregg Araki* are \$35 for the general public and \$15 for members and students.

Tickets may be purchased by phone at (800) 838-3006 or online via

<http://www.madmuseum.org/series/god-help-me-gregg-araki>.

All screenings and the master class will take place at the MAD Theater, located on the below-street level of the museum at 2 Columbus Circle at 59th Street.

For more information about the series, go to <http://www.madmuseum.org/series/god-help-me-gregg-araki>

The MAD Theater will screen nine films from Araki's oeuvre, including:



**The Living End**

*Thursday, September 19, 2013, 7 p.m.*  
\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Araki's entry into the New Queer Cinema movement, *The Living End* humorously and honestly tackles the effects of HIV on Generation X through the experiences of star-crossed lovers that take to the American roads in search of a future for themselves.



**Three Bewildered People in the Night**

*Friday, September 20, 2013, 7 p.m.*  
\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Araki's first feature film, *Three Bewildered People in the Night* (1987)—made with only \$5,000—follows an unlikely threesome who fall head-first into a love triangle that forever changes their lives.



**The Doom Generation**

*Thursday, September 26, 2013, 7 p.m.*  
\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

A road-trip film like no other, *The Doom Generation* established Rose McGowan as a rising star for her portrayal of 1/3 of a criminal ménage à trois who embarks on a crime spree across America. Encountering a bizarre cast of characters, played by

shadows of the American dream.

**Nowhere**

*Friday, September 27, 2013, 7 p.m.  
\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students*

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Aptly described by director Gregg Araki as Beverly Hills 90210 on acid, *Nowhere* features a sterling cast of has-beens and yet-to-bes including Shannen Doherty, Traci Lords, Ryan Phillippe, Heather Graham, Mena Suvari, Christina Applegate, and John Ritter tooling around the teenage wasteland of L.A.



**666: A Master Class with Gregg Araki**

*Saturday, September 28, 2013, 3 p.m.  
\$35 General, \$15 MAD Member and Students*

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Join Gregg Araki for a rare and intimate master class. The session follows the trajectory of Araki's career and includes segments from his newest film, giving insight into the practice behind this original's greatest cinematic works.



**Totally F\*\*\*\*ed Up**

*Thursday, October 3, 2013, 7 p.m.  
\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students*

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

A vivid portrait of the lives of six young gay and lesbian characters as they tackle everyday adolescent pressures compounded by a host of extraordinary burdens: AIDS, homophobia, gay bashing, parental rejection, and escalating gay teen suicide rates.





**This is How the World Ends**

Friday, October 4, 2013, 7 p.m.

\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Director Gregg Araki describes this pilot episode of a never-realized television show, *This is How the Worlds Ends*, as "Twin Peaks for MTV." Dancing midget rock fans transform into gun-wielding robbers. Things that are, aren't. Zombie, a narcoleptic, keeps waking up in bizarre situations. A rare glimpse into the Araki TV show that never was!



**Mysterious Skin**

Thursday, October 10, 2013, 7 p.m.

\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Based on the novel by Scott Heim, Gregg Araki's poignant and touching *Mysterious Skin* stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a tale that explores the long-term effects of childhood sexual abuse on the trajectories of two young men.



**Kaboom**

Saturday, October 26, 2013, 3 p.m.

\$10 General, \$5 MAD Member and Students

[more info](#) | [tickets](#)

Unapologetically libidinous and hilarious, *Kaboom* follows a college student, Smith, as he begins to uncover the truth about his birth, fate, and cult prophecies. College isn't what it used to be as Smith and his friends face the troubles with dating witches, the issues around drooling over your hunky roommate Thor, and—of course—the end of the world.

**ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF ARTS AND DESIGN**

The Museum of Arts and Design explores the intersection between art, design, and craft today. The Museum focuses on contemporary creativity and the ways in which artists and designers from around the world transform materials through processes ranging from the artisanal to digital. The Museum's exhibition program explores and illuminates issues and ideas, highlights creativity and craftsmanship, and celebrates the limitless potential of materials and techniques when used by gifted and innovative artists. MAD's permanent collection is global in scope and focuses on art, craft, and design from 1950

to the present day. At the center of the Museum's mission is education. The Museum's dynamic new facility features classrooms and studios for master classes, seminars, and workshops for students, families, and adults. Three open artist studios engage visitors in the creative processes of artists at work and enhance the exhibition programs. Lectures, films, performances, and symposia related to the Museum's collection and topical subjects affecting the world of contemporary art, craft, and design are held in a renovated 144-seat auditorium.

For press images, visit our [press image archive](#):

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### **PRESS CONTACTS**

Claire Laporte/ Canelia Garcia

Museum of Arts and Design

212.299.7737

[press@madmuseum.org](mailto:press@madmuseum.org)