

**LOCO**

**THE LONDON COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL**

**26 - 29 JANUARY 2012**



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**LOCO**

LoCo presents

**THE LONDON COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL**

In partnership with the BFI

**BFI Southbank, January 26-29 2012  
Festival Programme Announced**

Already feeling a touch of the winter blues? Look no further. **LoCo** is tackling winter head-on, launching the inaugural **London Comedy Film Festival** during the UK's most depressing week of the year, 26 - 29 January 2012, in partnership with the BFI.

Over four days at BFI Southbank LoCo's first London Comedy Film Festival will champion the craft of comedy film-making with an array of previews, classics, masterclasses and parties. With help from on-screen greats ranging from **Charlie Chaplin** and **Buster Keaton** to **Kermit, Fozzie and Animal**, and with films ranging from the latest Hollywood blockbusters to independent, international films, LoCo's comedy film festival will be sure to blow those blues away.

Our favourite furry friends return to the big screen on the opening night of the Festival with a Special Preview of **The Muppets**, followed by a UK preview of French festival favourite and recent hit at the London Film Festival, **The Fairy** both on Fri 27th Jan.

LoCo is delighted to welcome **Edgar Wright**, writer-director of **Shaun of the Dead**, **Hot Fuzz** and **Scott Pilgrim vs. the World** as the first annual **LoCo Hero**, celebrating the world's best contemporary comedy film-makers. Edgar will introduce a special London-set double bill of **Shaun of the Dead** followed by a screening of one of **Mike Leigh's** best loved films, **Life is Sweet**. The screenings will be followed by an onstage conversation between Edgar and guests, then a LoCo Hero party on Sat 28th Jan.

The Festival closes on Sun 29th Jan with a special 50th Anniversary screening of the rarely screened British classic **Go To Blazes**, plus the **world premiere performance** of **The Day Off**, the legendary lost **Galton and Simpson** script for **Tony Hancock**, followed by a **Galton and Simpson Q&A**.

LoCo's year-round education programme **LoCollege** will launch at the Festival with a two-day course for young film-makers on **Kickstarting Your Comedy Career**. The **LoCo Discovery Screening** on Saturday 28th January will showcase a new British comedy short and a British comedy feature film that does not yet have distribution, giving new film-makers prestigious BFI Southbank screening slots.

And for even younger film fans, **LoCo's School of Slapstick** will fill the BFI with mini-Chaplins and Keatons on Sunday 29th January, teaching kids aged 8-12 to make their own funny silent films.

**LoCo** was founded in 2010 to champion the craft of comedy film-making. It runs a year-round programme of screening events and education. **LoCo** is delighted to be working in partnership with the **BFI** to host its flagship event for the very first time, **the London Comedy Film Festival**.

**For more information visit: [www.locofilmfestival.com](http://www.locofilmfestival.com)**

**For press information, please contact: [elizabeth@margaretlondon.com](mailto:elizabeth@margaretlondon.com)**

## **Full programme listings:**

### **FRIDAY 27th**

#### **Special Preview: THE MUPPETS**

US 2011. Dir James Bobin. With the Muppets, Jason Segel, Amy Adams, Chris Cooper.

It's time to play the music, it's time to light the lights as the Muppets return in their first film this century. On vacation in Los Angeles, Walter, the world's biggest Muppet fan, his brother Gary (Jason Segel) and Gary's girlfriend Mary (Amy Adams) from Smalltown, USA, discover the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) to raze the Muppet Theatre and drill for the oil recently discovered beneath the Muppets' former stomping grounds. To stage The Greatest Muppet Telethon Ever and raise the \$10 million needed to save the theatre, Walter, Mary and Gary help Kermit reunite the Muppets, who have all gone their separate ways: Fozzie now performs with a Reno casino tribute band called the Moopets, Miss Piggy is a plus-size fashion editor at Vogue Paris, Animal is in a Santa Barbara clinic for anger management, and Gonzo is a high-powered plumbing magnate. With Jason Segel, Amy Adams and a host of human guest stars.

Fri 27 Jan 18:30 NFT1

#### **Preview: THE FAIRY**

France 2011. Dir. Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon, Bruno Romy. With Dominique Abel, Fiona Gordon, Philippe Martz

From Jacques Tati to Michel Gondry, French cinema has produced some of the freshest, funniest visual comedies ever made. *The Fairy*, a worldwide festival favourite, continues this tradition with this romantic comedy about a hotel receptionist who meets a woman claiming to be a fairy. She offers him three wishes, which lead to a string of comic set-pieces including an underwater ballet and a hair-raising race to save a baby in peril. Prepare to be enchanted.

Fri 27 Jan 20:30 NFT1

### **SATURDAY 28th**

#### **SHAUN OF THE DEAD with Edgar Wright and guests**

UK 2004. Dir Edgar Wright. With Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Kate Ashfield, Dylan Moran

Edgar proved his gift for parody in his Channel 4 series *Spaced*. But like *An American Werewolf in London*, *Shaun of the Dead* is both a parody and a terrific example of its genre. It's also full of great performances, not just from Frost and Pegg but also Bill Nighy and Kate Ashfield, who shows a sweet, bewildered tenderness as Liz. Join Edgar for a unique celebration of his breakthrough film. And don't forget to kill Philip.

Sat 28 Jan 16:30 NFT1

#### **LIFE IS SWEET with Edgar Wright and guests**

UK 1991. Dir Mike Leigh. With Alison Steadman, Jim Broadbent, Claire Skinner, Jane Horrocks, Timothy Spall.

*Life Is Sweet* tells one family's story over a hot London summer (remember those?). Andy is a chef who dreams of freedom and has just bought a decrepit burger van. Wendy has taken a job at the world's worst French restaurant, *The Regret Rien*. Natalie dreams of America. And Nicola is having sex with David Thewlis, smeared with chocolate spread. Love, ambition, liver and lager come together in one of Mike Leigh's best-loved films.

Sat 28 Jan 18:30 NFT1

#### **LoCollege presents: DISCOVERY SCREENING**

LoCo's core ambition is to help build the careers of British comedy film-makers. Each year we will screen a new British comedy that does not yet have distribution, selected from a shortlist by a panel of industry experts. If you're looking for the next Edgar Wright, start here.

The film will be accompanied by the winner of the LoCo Short Comedy Film Award from the London Short Film Festival. Both winners will be announced in January.

Sat 28 Jan 20:30 NFT3

## **SUNDAY 29th**

### **THE CHAMPION and SHERLOCK JNR**

Two classics of silent cinema by the masters of comedy, Charlie Chaplin (**THE CHAMPION**) and Buster Keaton (**SHERLOCK JR.**), with a live piano accompaniment.

### **LoCo's SCHOOL OF SLAPSTICK**

Follow in the footsteps of Charlie Chaplin and Buster Keaton by making your own silent comedy film. We'll teach you all the cheeky tricks of the trade, then you can choose your own comedy costume and work with our cameraman to film your own funny scenes. Custard pies not included. Free to ticket holders for *The Champion* and *Sherlock Jr.* Suitable for children 8-12. Find out more at [www.schoolofslapstick.com](http://www.schoolofslapstick.com).

### **50th Anniversary screening: GO TO BLAZES**

UK 1962. Dir Michael Truman. With Robert Morley, Daniel Massey, Dennis Price, Maggie Smith, John le Mesurier, Coral Browne

When three diamond thieves have their getaway foiled by the traffic stopping for a fire engine, they use their time in prison to plan the perfect crime. Their new getaway vehicle? A fire engine. What could possibly go wrong? With an all-star cast of classic British actors, this delightful, rarely-seen comedy is the perfect period scene-setter for *The Day Off*.

Sun 29 Jan 16:30 NFT1

### **World Premiere performance:**

#### **THE DAY OFF + GALTON AND SIMPSON Q&A**

*The Day Off* is a legendary lost film of British cinema, written for Tony Hancock by Ray Galton and Alan Simpson. In this very funny, poignant comedy Hancock would have played a London bus driver on his day off. With just twenty-four hours of freedom, can he find happiness, purpose — even love? When he meets a bright young woman, Charlotte, it seems that he may have found all three. But he reckons without his greatest enemy: himself.

With Hancock at the peak of his talent, the film was set to be a hit. But Hancock rejected the script, wanting a more international story. A disappointed Galton and Simpson put it in a filing cabinet, where it remained ... until now. With Ray and Alan's kind permission we are delighted to present a unique reading of *The Day Off* with a full cast, followed by an onstage interview.

Sun 29 Jan 18:30 NFT1

### **LoCollege presents: KICKSTART YOUR COMEDY FILM CAREER**

A unique two-day course for upcoming comedy film-makers. Sessions include: Creating Great Comedy Characters, Creating Conflict, Defining the Look of your Film, Directing Comedy Performance, Editing Comedy, Choosing and Commissioning Music, and Script Development. The course includes masterclasses, workshops and previews as well as networking drinks each evening. Panellists include comedy commissioners Lucy Lumsden (BSkyB), Shane Allen (Channel 4) and Saurabh Kakkar (ITV), director Paul King, composer Steve Mason, screenwriters Manish Pandey and Tim Nuthall, and Domino Publishing's Lynden Campbell. Thu 26 and Fri 27 Jan 10:00 - 18:00 The Blue Room

## **FESTIVAL PARTIES**

### **DOMINO PUBLISHING PARTY**

Live music and DJs from Domino Publishing.

Thursday 26 Jan 20:00 - midnight Benugo Bar and Kitchen.

Free entry.

### **LoCo HERO PARTY**

Join Edgar Wright and guests plus live music and DJs.

Saturday 28 Jan 20:00 - midnight Benugo Bar and Kitchen.

Free entry.

### **FILM-MAKERS BRUNCH**

Nurse your hangover and chat with fellow film-makers.

Sunday 29 Jan 11:00 - 14:00 Riverfront Bar and Kitchen.

Space is limited, please see [locofilmfestival.com](http://locofilmfestival.com) for details.

## Notes for editors

### **About LoCo:**

Many of the world's most loved, most successful and most influential films are comedies. Yet they rarely screen at festivals or win awards: only four comedies have ever won the Academy Award for Best Picture and many of the greatest comic icons, including Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Cary Grant and Peter Sellers never won an acting Oscar.

LoCo was founded in 2010 to champion the craft of comedy film-making through screenings, education and funding. Its first event was a special 30th Anniversary screening of **Airplane!** in December 2010 with writer-directors David and Jerry Zucker and star Robert Hays. Throughout 2011 LoCo has hosted a series of screenings including the launch of **Submarine** in partnership with StudioCanal and Curzon Cinemas, and a week-long Transformations season of body-swap comedies at Wilton's Music Hall. **LoCo** is delighted to be working in partnership with the **BFI** to host the very first London Comedy Film Festival.

The film and television rights to **THE DAY OFF** have now been acquired by D5 Entertainment - a new company which brings together the creative and financial talents of producer John Lloyd (*QI*, *Blackadder*, *Not The Nine O'Clock News*), media entrepreneurs David Tabizel and Rupert Ash, and Alan Martin, co-founder of Metrodome.

LoCo's **education programme LoCollege**, which will launch at the Festival, is a year-round programme of screenings, masterclasses and education events for new and emerging comedy film-makers. Confirmed speakers for the Festival include comedy commissioners Lucy Lumsden (BSkyB), Shane Allen (Channel 4) and Saurabh Kakkar (ITV), director Paul King, composer Steve Mason, screenwriter Manish Pandey and Lynden Campbell from Domino Publishing.

LoCo's **outreach programme LoCommunity** will also launch in 2012. Ever since silent cinema, comedy films have had a unique ability to bring people of different ages and backgrounds together. But with more local independent cinemas and community buildings closing every month, many of Britain's most excluded communities are increasingly lacking shared events. LoCommunity will host comedy screenings and events in offices, factories and other local spaces, followed by a party in each venue, hosted by film-makers.

In 2012 LoCo will also launch **two membership programmes, LoConspiracy and LoCoPro**. LoConspiracy is a network for comedy film lovers, with a series of screenings and promotions to deepen your enjoyment of filmed comedy, while LoCoPro is for working comedy film-makers and includes LoCollege education and networking events. Both membership levels will offer early booking and exclusive access for LoCo events.

**Denise Hicks, Director of LoCo, writes:** We are hugely excited to be launching our first London Comedy Film Festival as the highlight of LoCo's year-round activity, championing the craft of filmed comedy. Everyone we have met in the comedy TV and film industries has been massively generous, supportive and eager to help, and we're honoured to play our part in helping to kickstart the next generation of filmed comedy talent in the UK and beyond.

**Laura Adams, Events Programmer at the BFI, writes:** BFI Southbank are delighted to confirm programme and venue partnership with the London Comedy Film Festival, taking place 26<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Providing a welcome focus on comedy and laughter in film when audiences need it most, the London Comedy Film Festival will be screening previews and shorts, with special guest appearances, workshops and education. BFI Southbank are committed to partner with LoCo in January 2012 and will give a measure of press and marketing support, full technical and front of house support and full programme support. We look forward to working with LoCo in future years.

**Jerry Zucker, LoCo Patron and writer-director of AIRPLANE! writes:** Everyone knows the old biblical phrase; "And God loves most, those who make others laugh." Clearly the London Comedy Film Festival is doing God's work. I wouldn't miss it if I were you."



NB. Further partnerships to be confirmed.