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Jordan White (James Duval) and Xavier Red (Jonathon Schaech) in "The Doom Generation", a film by Gregg Araki



"It used to be that people would come to a Mardi Gras Film Festival because it was the only chance they would have to see gay and lesbian characters on the screen but that's not the case any more..."

adaptation of an off-Broadway play about love in the age of AIDS starring Signourey Weaver and Patrick Stewart. The Festival closes with the highly acclaimed *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love*, directed by Maria Maggenti. This year's *Go Fish*, it's the story of the rebellious tomboy Randy who falls in love with a bright, rich, beautiful black classmate. In between these two tales lies lifetimes such as:

The Buddha of Suburbia (UK). Sex and racism clash in this story based on the book of the same name by Hanif Kureishi (*My Beautiful Laundrette*). When his father becomes a suburban guru and begins an affair, his son Karim seduces her beautiful son Charlie. This epic suburban drama is set against a background of punk rock, fringe theatre, politics,

unrequited love and New York.

Talk of the Town (Germany). A hilarious new comedy centred around the exploits of Monika, a talk show host, who deals flippantly with people's everyday problems about sex. Off-air she is harassed by her mother for being single, and seeks the help of her gay brother to lodge a personal ad, an action which results in more than one twisted triangle.

Catwalk (USA). The filmmaker follows super-model Christy Turlington on a whirlwind, insider tour of the Spring Fashion Collections in Milan, Paris and New York. backstage we meet Kate Moss, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford, Claudia Schiffer, Giorgio Armani, Jean-Paul Gaultier, John Galliano, Gianni Versace, and Karl Lagerfeld with



music by Malcolm McLaren.

Fiesta (France). A disturbing look at issues of power, sexuality and ideology, *Fiesta* traces the experiences of a seventeen-year-old boy, summoned by his father to serve in Franco's army during the Spanish civil war. He is sent to receive military training under the command of his father's close friend, Colonel Masagual, a man devoted to war. Masagual's open relationship with another male officer forms the emotional framework for his macabre, deadly sense of duty and righteousness.

Ludwig 1881 (Germany). The touching story of Germany's last monarch, Ludwig, who journeys in the summer of 1881 through the south of Germany with the actor Joseph Kainz, so that Schiller's play *William Tell* can be recited to him in its historical locations. An unusual relationship develops between this somewhat mad sovereign and his uninspired subject. Helmut Berger reprises his title role from Luchino Visconti's 1973 classic.

The Doom Generation. Director Greg Araki (*Totally Fucked Up*, *The Living End*) has created a highly stylised hallucinogenic journey which charts the intense wild relationship between three hopelessly lost, hopelessly beautiful youths.

Shinjuku Boys (Japan). Set in the New Marilyn nightclub in Tokyo where the hosts are women who live as men and the clients are women, this documentary challenges all your

notions about gender and sexuality. Gaish is a cut-up, a playboy who has testosterone injections and lots of girlfriends – but won't let them touch him. Tatsuo lives with a woman, Tomoe. The film discovers their uncomplicated approach to crossing the gender barrier and the extraordinary degree of acceptance in the world around them.

Tokyo Cowboy (Canada). No Ogawa dreams of being a cowboy, so he journeys from Japan to visit his one-time pen pal, Kate. His unannounced arrival takes Kate – and her girlfriend – by surprise. Meanwhile, Kate's mother hatches a matchmaking plan which has unintended consequences.

The Mardi Gras Film Festival plays at the Academy Twin Cinema, Oxford Street, Paddington. Tickets go on sale February 8th. ■