

Diva Days:

A celebration of women cyclists



Bring out your inner diva at the Bike Gallery's weekend-long celebration packed with speakers, clinics, bike demos, organized rides and more.



1996 & 2000 Canadian Olympic Team member



503.416.BIKE
BIKEGALLERY.COM

The Hollywood Bike Gallery will host the event which kicks off on **Friday, May 20 at 6:30 pm**, with a reception featuring Olympic mountain biker Lesley Tomlinson. Saturday and Sunday are full of events just for women cyclists: go for a ride, learn about cycling, bikes and bike gear, or try a demo bike. For complete details visit our website at bikegallery.com or call the Hollywood Bike Gallery at 503-416-BIKE.

LIVE, LOVE, & LOOK OUT...

For yourself and your partners!
Find out today, get tested!

Free anonymous or
confidential HIV testing

*By appointment or walk-in

*No needles with results in a week.

Mondays 3:30-7:30pm



**Clackamas County
Public Health**



Beavercreek Clinic
1425 S. Beavercreek Rd.
Oregon City, OR 97045

Call (503) 655-8471
for an appointment,
or (503) 742-5382
for more information.

FILM

Skin deep

After years of mediocrity,
Gregg Araki finally comes into his own
as a major artist

Mysterious Skin

Writer/director Gregg Araki was one of the lesser lights of the '90s New Queer Cinema movement, with middling-good but rather overcooked films about polysexual teen angst, drug fantasies and the occasional space alien. Think *Totally F**ked Up*, *Nowhere*, *The Living End* and *The Doom Generation*. He did have a penchant for picking pretty faces, and that skill is evident in his latest film, *Mysterious Skin*, but there is so much more in this masterpiece that it's hard to believe it's from the same guy.

The difference may be that here he's using somebody else's source material, Scott Heim's well-regarded 1996 novel. (Heim co-wrote the script with Araki.) Or maybe the challenge of the controversial subject matter forced him to think more carefully about this film than in the past. Whatever the reason behind this achievement, Araki here comes into his own as a major film artist.

Set in the entropy of small-town America (Hutchinson, Kan.), *Mysterious Skin* tells parallel stories of two troubled 18-year-old boys. Brian Lackey (Brady Corbet) begins the film with a memory: "The summer I was 8 years old, five hours disappeared from my life. Five hours, lost, gone without a trace." Troubled by nightmares and barely socialized, he's convinced he was abducted by aliens during those "lost hours." His classmate Neil McCormick (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is a hustler whose memories also filigree the film. But they're of a decidedly different order. McCormick was taken not by aliens but by his handsome Little League coach (Bill Sage), who molested him starting at age 8.

Both boys are on a search for their missing childhood, but it takes them in very different directions. Repressed Brian hooks up with a disabled, slightly demented girl who also believes she was "beamed up" by aliens. Meanwhile, Neil looks for meaning in the local park, where he hustles older men. Eventually he moves to New York City for more harrowing adventures. In both cases, their mothers are sympathetic but not privy to what is really going on with their kids. The film moves into high gear when Brian is able to track down Neil and reaches a devastating conclusion.

Mysterious Skin (opening June 24 at Cinema 21) does the unimaginable in cautiously visualizing the quiet nightmare of molestation. These scenes are played elliptically, sampling rather than lingering on the troubling images. They gain much of their power by showing the victimizer not as a freak but as a trusted, handsome coach, a surrogate father for a lonely boy. But these scenes are part of a

much wider canvas of exploration of Brian and Neil's damaged lives. More a series of striking vignettes than a straight narrative, *Mysterious Skin* expertly weaves in and out of past and present and through these boys' attempts to come to grips with something beyond their control.

The acting is first-rate throughout, with Corbet and Gordon-Levitt simply brilliant as the teen-age Brian and Neil. Lesser roles are played with refreshing realism, particularly Neil's wonderful gay Goth-boy friend Eric (Jeff Licon) and quasi-girlfriend Wendy (Michelle Trachtenberg). Credit also goes to the two kids who play Brian and Neil as 8-year-olds—very difficult roles.

In a just world, there would be Oscar nominations for everyone concerned with this brilliant film, certainly for Araki. But despite its frequent appearances in indie films (*L.I.E.*, *Happiness* and *Eban and Charley* come to



From left, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Jeff Licon and Michelle Trachtenberg deserve mainstream accolades for *Mysterious Skin*.

mind), pedophilia, however sensitively portrayed, remains too volatile a subject to be acknowledged by the mainstream.

—Gary Morris

My Summer of Love

Mona (newcomer Nathalie Press) lives above a saloon with her born-again brother, Phil (Paddy Considine, the father from *In America*), who has converted it into a way station for others in search of Jesus. Tamsin's (newcomer Emily Blunt) parents are too wealthy to pay attention to her and have left her alone in their vast, fairy tale mansion for the summer. When the two meet, Mona is riding her engineless scooter through the depressed Yorkshire countryside and Tamsin pulls up on a thoroughbred horse. This, in one moment, illustrates all the ways in which they are different and sets up an intoxicating opposites-attract love story.

With nothing else to do and no one else to play with, Mona and Tamsin become fast friends, spending their languid summer days as any teen-agers without supervision would: drinking too much and getting into trouble. Together, they carry out vengeful plans against anyone who has ever hurt them, in between