Gregg Araki burst onto the independent film scene in the 1990s with the “Teenage Apocalypse Trilogy” of TOTALLY F***ED UP, THE DOOM GENERATION and NOWHERE, chronicling the lives of disenfranchised and dysfunctional youths with healthy dollops of sex and violence. Now he’s back with KABOOM, which contains just as much sex, a little less violence and extra added supernatural undertones.

An attraction at the current Sundance Film Festival that begins its theatrical release from IFC Films today in New York City (see the complete big-screen schedule here), KABOOM is an explosion of raunch and paranoia in bright primary colors, starring A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET’s Thomas Dekker as college student Smith, THE HOLE’s Haley Bennett as his acerbic lesbian best friend Stella and RUBBER’s Roxane Mesquida as her new love interest Lorelei (who may be a literal witch). Amidst their assorted sexual shenanigans, Smith begins having odd dreams that seem to be coming scarily true, involving murder, animal-masked marauders and more. So how did Araki dream up this unique cinematic concoction? Read on…

FANGORIA: Would you say that KABOOM is your most genre-oriented film?

GREGG ARAKI: Yes and no, in the sense that it definitely has genre elements in it, but it’s also kind of non-genre in the sense that it’s such an amalgamation of different things. I really wanted it to be free and not have to fit into any type of pigeonhole. It’s basically a lot of different textures; it’s got parts that are funny, sexy, scary, and some gore elements and horror elements and paranoid thriller elements. You know, this character is a witch, other characters have sort of secret powers, stuff like that.

[redacted]

[redacted]