



TEDDY AWARD, the world's most renowned queer film award celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2011.

The TEDDY is an award for political and social commitment. It supports filmmakers and films that are engaged in queer issues on a broad social scale, thereby contributing to further tolerance, acceptance, solidarity and equality in society.

The TEDDY AWARD is culturally significant, but it also bears political meaning and responsibility. More than 30 years after the Stonewall Riots, we mustn't forget that homosexuality is still considered to be a crime and even punishable by death in some parts of the world, and even in cities like Berlin queers encounter homophobia on a daily basis

THE AWARD

The TEDDY AWARD is part of the Berlin International Film Festival. awarded in the categories of best feature, best documentary/essay film and best short. Every year a unique individual is selected to be honoured with a Special-TEDDY AWARD for outstanding artistic lifetime achievements. Films from all sections of the Berlin International Film Festival - most of them world premieres or international premieres - compete for the TEDDY AWARD every year. The list of former TEDDY AWARD winners includes internationally acclaimed directors like Pedro Almodóvar, Gus van Sant, Derek Jarman and Werner Schroeter and international film stars like Helmut Berger, Joe Dallesandro, John Hurt and Academy Award winner Tilda Swinton.

The TEDDY AWARD works on a non-profit level. It is financed through the contributions of its sustaining members, patrons of the TEDDY registered association, as well as through contributions from supporters, the commitment of numerous volunteers and sponsors and the revenues from the award ceremony.

THE GALA

In 2011, the TEDDY AWARD will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. More than 3000 guests from the cultural, financial and political realms will be attending the TEDDY AWARD gala. The TEDDY AWARD gala is one of the glamorous highlights of Berlin's cultural calendar, followed by the hottest party of the Berlin International Film Festival.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THE TEDDY AWARD THAN THAT

The TEDDY AWARD also sets the tone for gay and lesbian film festivals around the world. Every year, more than 120 festival directors from all parts of the world gather for the "programmer's meeting", the world's biggest coming together of queer festival makers. Many of the festivals' representatives who take part in the programmer's meeting face serious reprisal in their countries for their work. The TEDDY AWARD takes these issues seriously and tries to support and protect these festivals.

With the support of the TEDDY AWARD, a gay and lesbian film festival took place for the first time in St Petersburg last year. After years of pressure and prohibitions from the Russian authorities during which the film festival could only take place in relative secrecy at the St Petersburg Goethe Institute, the Russian media responded positively when the festival finally came out of the closet. The TEDDY AWARD recently committed similarly in Kiev, Jakarta and Sarajevo. The international influence of the TEDDY AWARD helps countries to break social barriers and integrate queer life into their societies.

EXCHANGE AND INFORMATION

Adding to its cultural and political goals, the TEDDY AWARD organizes different panels for and in cooperation with international filmmakers during the Berlin Film Festival in order to facilitate networking and discuss recent development in queer filmmaking. Some panels are organised in cooperation with Talent Campus of the Berlin Film Festival, shifting the focus away from programming and opening up to new generations of producers, authors and directors. One point of the agenda will be the establishment of an internet-based, centralised festival channel to provide and improve information flow and news coverage.

In the year of its anniversary, the TEDDY AWARD will take part in the founding of the Berlin Queer Academy. As a first step, the TEDDY AWARD will provide web space and capacity for video streaming. and help with the necessary logistic facilities. All festivals will be invited to partake in setting up a queer archive, thereby supporting countries whose queer infrastructures are still in the fledgling stages.

THE TOLERANTIA-AWARD 2010

This year, the TEDDY AWARD was given the European TOLERANTIA-AWARD for outstanding commitment at a ceremony held in Madrid "for their long lasting commitment to emancipation which has always been linked to overcoming homophobia and hate crimes in our society and beyond..." (taken from the jury's statement).

THE THEMES FOR 2011

Apart from celebrating its anniversary, one central point of the 25th TEDDY AWARD will be the global struggle against homophobia and hate crimes. French artist couple Pierre et Gilles has created this year's design concept for the TEDDY AWARD's anniversary, themed "1000 Kisses - Protect Every Kiss". Thus, the TEDDY AWARD will expand Berlin's Anti-Homophobia campaign to the international level. Jerzy Buzek, the president of the European Parliament,

is a guest on stage at the award ceremony to give a talk on the possibilities and activities concerning the struggle against homophobia.

South African entertainer and HIV/AIDS-activist Pieter-Dirk Uys will be given the Special-TEDDY AWARD for his commitment to AIDS education at South African schools and for his on-stage alter ego Evita Bezuidenhout, "South Africa's most prominent white woman", as Nelson Mandela once referred to her.

In cooperation with our partners and UNAIDS, the United Nations project on AIDS, we will take the opportunity to use the event to inform about the dramatic state and ongoing dangers of HIV and AIDS.

TEDDY AWARD TELEVISION BROADCAST

The TEDDY AWARD gala, including the ceremony, various show acts and discussions, will be recorded for television broadcast and DVD release. For the sixth consecutive time, ARTE will broadcast a 90-minute version of the show as part of their Saturday night program, Rundfunk Berlin Brandenburg (rbb) will air it the following day. The TEDDY AWARD ceremony has the most television viewers of any queer event in Europe.

Additionally, one will be able to stream the show online after the TV broadcast on www.teddyaward.tv. A DVD of the unabridged version of the gala will be sent to producers and partners throughout the world. The TEDDY AWARD is an important contributor to Berlin's image as a open and tolerant city.