

## PRESS RELEASE

**28. TEDDY AWARD – The Queer Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival  
14 February 2014 at 9pm, Komische Oper Berlin**

### DAVID KATO VISION & VOICE AWARD

30 January 2014

This year's TEDDY AWARD Gala is honoured to host for the first time the presentation of the **DAVID KATO VISION & VOICE AWARD**.

The award commemorates the life of the Ugandan human rights activist David Kato who was murdered in his home in Kampala, Uganda in 2011. **David Kato** is regarded as the founder of the Ugandan LGBTI movement. As the Litigation and Advocacy Officer for **Sexual Minorities Uganda** (SMUG) he campaigned tirelessly, in the face of considerable opposition, for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Africans. The film *Call me Kuchu*, recalling both the life and death of David Kato, won the 2012 TEDDY AWARD for best documentary and the "CINEMA fairbindet" Award by the Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The purpose of the annual award is to recognise the achievement of an individual who has shown particular courage and great leadership in fighting for the rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans\* and intersex people, in particular when their activism takes place in an environment of rejection, exclusion, isolation and persecution. The award is accompanied by a grant of 10,000 US dollars.

The award will be presented **Frank Mugisha**.

Frank Mugisha is a Ugandan lawyer whose work in fighting for LGBTI rights has been honoured previously with the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award and the Thorolf Rafto Memorial Prize. Today, Frank Mugisha, who was a close friend of David Kato, is Executive Director of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), now a coalition of four human rights organisations.

The DAVID KATO VISION & VOICE AWARD will be presented at the TEDDY Gala in cooperation with an international advisory committee including representatives from the Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF), Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, Herbert Smith LLP and ILGA-Europe.

For more information on the DAVID KATO VISION & VOICE AWARD see [www.visionandvoiceaward.com](http://www.visionandvoiceaward.com)

For more information on the TEDDY AWARD see [www.teddyaward.tv](http://www.teddyaward.tv)

Tickets for the TEDDY AWARD Gala in the Komische Oper Berlin, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014 are available from now on in the Online Shop at [www.teddyaward.tv](http://www.teddyaward.tv). Ticket reservation is possible via e-mail at [tickets@papagena.de](mailto:tickets@papagena.de) or on the telephone via the Ticket Hotline 030 – 4799 7447 and at the Ticket Office of the Komische Oper Berlin. Without booking fee the tickets are available at Prinz Eisenherz Bookshop, Motzstraße 23, 10777 Berlin

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The TEDDY AWARD is a societal engaged political award, which is given to films and people, that communicate queer themes and content on a large scale and contribute with this to more tolerance, acceptance, solidarity and equality in society.

Within the scope of the International Film Festival the TEDDY will award the queer film Award's, in the categories the best feature, the best documentaries / essay film and the best short film, as well as the Special Teddy for artistic life's work given to an outstanding personality. Movies from all sections of the International Film Festival Berlin – most of them world premieres – compete every year for the TEDDY AWARD. The line-up of the present TEDDY AWARD winners goes from international star-directors such as: Pedro Almodóvar, Gus van Sant, Derek Jarman and Werner Schroeter to international on-screen stars such as Helmut Berger, Joe Dallesandra, John Hurt and Oscar-Winner Tilda Swinton.

The slogan of this year's TEDDY AWARD is Celebrate Queer Icons! an acclamation of the lives and works of gay men, lesbians, bisexual men and women, transgender, closet queens and raging queers. From Valeska Gertto Divine, from James Dean to Barbara Stanwyck, from Sergej M. Eisensteint Virginia Woolf, we wish to commemorate talented queers who have sought both to push back the frontiers of art through their enigmatic and dazzling works and also simply to live (or sometimes only to survive) as gay men, lesbians, bisexual men and women or as trans\* in 'normal' society.

The TEDDY AWARD is a non-profit event. The TEDDY AWARD finances itself only by contributions of sustaining members and patrons of the Teddy e.V., by donation of supporters, the contribution of many voluntary helpers as well as sponsors and the earnings of the award gala.