

## PRESS RELEASE

**28. TEDDY AWARD – The Queer Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival**  
**Launch of the poster for the 28th TEDDY AWARD Berlinale 2014**  
**TEDDY AWARD celebrates the life and work of Valeska Gert**  
**ARTE to broadcast the TEDDY AWARD Gala for a 9th successive year**

6 January 2014

With today's launch of the TEDDY poster, the countdown has begun towards the 28th TEDDY AWARD taking place in the framework of the 64th Berlin International Film Festival from 6 to 16 February 2014. The 28th TEDDY AWARD will climax on 14 February 2014 with a glittering awards ceremony at the Komische Oper Berlin. The Franco-German TV station ARTE will broadcast the TEDDY Gala for a 9th successive year.

The artwork for the 28th TEDDY AWARD is taken – as it was last year – from the portrait series *Golden Queers* by Berlin-based artist **Rinaldo Hopf**. Under the banner *Celebrate Queer Icons*, the TEDDY AWARD will once again recall the life and work of exceptional queer individuals. The aim is to commemorate talented queers who sought both to push back the frontiers of art and to live (or sometimes only to survive) as gay men, lesbians, bisexual men and women or as trans\* in 'normal' society.

The design of this year's TEDDY AWARD focuses on the avant-garde Berlin artist, dancer, cabaret performer and actress **Valeska Gert** (1892-1978). In the 1920s and 1930s she was a well-known figure far beyond her native city of Berlin. In everything she did, she was unstintingly modern and artistically uninhibited. Sexual, geographical and societal boundaries were there to be transgressed. Valeska Gert was an artist of exceptional modernity. Her avant-garde solo dance performances were well ahead of their time and influenced the decades that followed.

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. Eisensteinto 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.