

## PRESS RELEASE

**29<sup>th</sup> TEDDY AWARD** – The Queer Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival

February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

UDO KIER, INGRID CAVEN UND FASSBINDER – (FILM) HISTORY AND STORIES

Dear Journalists,

the 29<sup>th</sup> TEDDY AWARD pays tribute to **RAINER WERNER FASSBINDER**. An icon of a new departure in both German film and theater, a theorist and a humanitarian, Fassbinder would have turned 70 this year.

On the evening of February 13<sup>th</sup> 2015, at the official 29<sup>th</sup> TEDDY AWARD ceremony, Fassbinder's companion, spouse and protagonist **INGRID CAVEN** takes the stage at the Komische Oper Berlin to perform songs that Fassbinder once wrote for her on her own body. "Simply spectacular" (The New York Times).

This year's Special TEDDY AWARD honors another Fassbinder veteran: **UDO KIER** is an artist, actor and world star who gleefully and totally confounds the fields between low-budget, arthouse, factory, museum and multiplex.

For those who would like to tune in before the TEDDY AWARD ceremony at the Komische Oper Berlin, we've planned two special public events as part of the series **Berlinale Talks** at Marlene-Dietrich-Platz.

Anyone who has ever seen Udo Kier in person will know that he is a magnificent solo entertainer. In the context of Berlinale Talks, the actor will speak with Deutschlandradio Kultur about his life's work, his love for art and his collaborations with internationally renowned directors. He will also discuss his connection to Berlin and what the Special TEDDY AWARD means for him, as well as charm us with witty anecdotes from his eventful life. Udo Kier, a great and eccentric German Hollywood star live in Berlin: an absolute must for all film fans.

### **FRIDAY February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 2 pm**

BERLINALE TALK @ Berlinale Lounge

with [UDO KIER](#)

Audi Berlinale Lounge at Marlene-Dietrich-Platz

Free entry

Ingrid Caven and Udo Kier were important figures in the life of the great German director Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Ingrid Caven and Fassbinder were bound by a lifelong friendship, he himself described their relationship as "family by choice". Caven appeared in numerous Fassbinder film and theater productions, and the two were even married for two years.

Udo Kier met Fassbinder in Cologne's red light district when they were both 15. Kier went on to play in *Berlin Alexanderplatz*, to name just one example, and would share his apartments in both Munich and Paris with Caven and Fassbinder. For Berlinale Talks, the two world stars will meet for a unique conversation about their time with

TEDDY AWARD im Rahmen der 65. Internationalen Filmfestspiele Berlin von 5.2.- 15.2.2015. Der 29. TEDDY AWARD ist eine Produktion von cine plus Mediaservice in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Teddy e.V. mit freundlicher Unterstützung der Internationalen Filmfestspiele Berlin/KBB, supported by Harald Christ. [www.teddyaward.tv](http://www.teddyaward.tv) – [info@teddyaward.tv](mailto:info@teddyaward.tv)

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Fassbinder. An extraordinary evening with two exceptional artists looking back on the formative years of their lives, in memory of an exceptional German director.

**THURSDAY February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 8 to 9 pm**

BERLINALE TALK @ Berlinale Lounge

“The Fassbinder Years”

[UDO KIER](#) and [INGRID CAVEN](#)

Audi Berlinale Lounge at Marlene-Dietrich-Platz

Free entry

You'll find an overview of all TEDDY-DATES for the 65<sup>th</sup> Berlinale 2015 [here](#)

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The TEDDY AWARD is the world's most prestigious queer film prize. As a symbol of political engagement, the award is presented in recognition of films and individuals involved in communicating queer issues to a wider audience and who, as a result, contribute to greater tolerance, acceptance, solidarity and equality throughout society.

The TEDDY is awarded during the Berlin International Film Festival in the categories: best feature film, best documentary and best short film and as a special TEDDY AWARD presented to exceptional individuals for their lifetime achievement. Films from all sections of the Berlin International Film Festival compete every year for the much coveted TEDDYs. Previous winners of the TEDDY AWARD include leading international directors such as Pedro Almodóvar, Gus Van Sant, Derek Jarman and Werner Schroeter and international screen stars such as Helmut Berger, Joe Dallesandro, John Hurt and Oscar-winning actress Tilda Swinton.

The theme of this year's TEDDY AWARD is *Celebrate Queer Icons*. This is a celebration of gay men, lesbians, bisexual men and women, transvestites, closet queens and raging queers. From Valeska Gert to Divine, from James Dean to Barbara Stanwyck, from Sergei M. Eisenstein to Virginia Woolf, we aim 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 TEDDY award is a not-for-profit event and is financed exclusively through the contributions and donations of the sponsors and benefactors of the TEDDY foundation, the hard work of its many volunteers and through sponsorship and ticket sales for the event itself.