

PRESS RELEASE

29th TEDDY AWARD – The Queer Film Award at the Berlin International Film Festival

Program - February the 13th 2015, 9 pm, Komische Oper Berlin

January 22nd, 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The program for the 29th TEDDY AWARD Gala at the Komische Oper Berlin has now been finalised. The evening will be led by moderator and actor **Jochen Schropp**.

Ingrid Caven is a singer-songwriter icon, “a comet passing once in a hundred years...” as the New York Times put it. Before starting her singing career in the late seventies, she had already achieved star status in European film. More than just lifelong friendship tied her to Rainer Werner Fassbinder, who would have turned 70 this year. The two were family by choice: They were married. In a tribute to Fassbinder, Caven will perform some of her most beautiful songs, those whose lyrics he wrote on her body. Caven's long-time pianist, the extraordinary **Jay Gottlieb** will accompany.

Whether it's Evita Peron, Edith Piaf or Fanny Brice, **Katharine Mehrling** is made for the part. This musical star debuted in London's West End and played Sally Bowles in *Cabaret* 250 times at Berlin's “Bar jeder Vernunft”. Katharine Mehrling has received numerous accolades for her outstanding voice and moving acting. As part of the ensemble at the Komische Oper Berlin, she is currently playing and singing the role of Daisy Darlington in Barrie Kosky's revival of the original Weimar-era Berlin hit production *Ball im Savoy*.

Polish mezzosoprano **Agnes Zwiерko** knows the stages of the world's most renowned opera houses like the back of her hand: Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera House in London. This season, Agnes Zwiерko is guest soloist at the Komische Oper Berlin, where she is playing Tangolita in the cult operetta *Ball im Savoy*.

The two soloists will be accompanied by the house orchestra at the Komische Oper. In a segment from Barrie Kosky's rendition of Jacques Offenbach's *La belle Hélène* (The Beautiful Helen), ensemble dancers will demonstrate what overwhelming star power is gathered in the Komische Oper's ensemble, aside from great voices. **Peter Christian Feigel** conducts, **Otto Pichler** choreographed.

POP:SCH does electro-pop with queer-feminist content. This Viennese four-set mixes 80s electronic music with sing-a-long party pop and intelligent lyrics. Their new single “shut up haters” is an anti-homophobic anthem, directed at the “small-minded hypocrites” of the world.

Straight from the menagerie of the Cirque de Demain in Paris, the figure cycling duo **Felix and Flow** hits the stage at the Komische Oper Berlin with fine cycling artistry of the superior sort, featuring distinctive elements unparalleled in the international *Variété* scene. This unique act was forged in collaboration with the BASE Berlin talent works, which has been responsible for a number of artistic highlights seen onstage at the TEDDY AWARDS in recent years.

The TEDDY AFTER SHOW LOUNGE showcases the newly founded **L'ensemble transes continentales**, who will take us through an evening of our dreams to the tune of music from five continents. And DJ-Duo **Das blaue Wunder feat. Magnus und Norbert** will spin decades of collected vinyl delicacies in a musical selection once could almost call eclecticist.

After the gala, party animals can take our party-shuttle-bus to Neukölln and the **TEDDY AWARD Closing Party** at SchwuZ and dance on until morning. **Gloria V.** welcomes TEDDY guests at her legendary "Partysane". Live act **POP:SCH** and DJs **Gloria V., Pa\$cha, Black Cracker & Friends, Disco Gessner** and **hintergrundrauschen** will keep everyone in the mood. Entrance to the TEDDY Closing Party is included with the Gala ticket.

You'll find an overview of all TEDDY-DATES for the 65th Berlinale 2015 at: [LINK](#)

More information on the artists and DJs here: [LINK](#)

Tickets for the TEDDY AWARD ceremony in the Komische Oper Berlin on February the 13th 2015 are on sale now online at www.teddyaward.tv. Tickets can also be reserved by e-mail: tickets@papagena.de or by phone + 49 30 4799 7474 and at the ticket office of the Komische Oper Berlin. Tickets are also on sale without a booking fee at Prinz Eisenherz Buchladen, Motzstraße 23, 10777 Berlin.

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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.