

Press Release

31. TEDDY AWARD – The international Jury

Berlin, 4th January 2017

We are happy to present to you the jury of the 31st TEDDY AWARD, which will take place on February 17th in the Haus der Berliner Festspiele. Seven renowned film makers and festival organisers will choose the laureates from the queer films of the Berlinale in the categories best film, best documentary/essay film and best short. Furthermore, they will award the TEDDY Jury Award.

Gizem Bayiksel was born in Ankara in 1989. She has been working as a photographer and cinematographer in the film industry for over 5 years. Since 2012 she has also been working for numerous events and film festivals as a coordinator, programmer and film curator. Currently she is the festival coordinator and programmer of Pink Life QueerFest, the first and only queer film festival in Turkey. Pink Life QueerFest was launched in Ankara in 2011 and the festival is a space for LGBTQI individuals and artists to raise awareness for LGBTQI issues. Bayiksel's personal interest in film and photography focuses on the female gaze and queer theory. She is currently working on her first feature film project, a sequel for her short "Child's Play", relating a lesbian couple's story with Turkish politics on the background.

Sachiko Imai is the programming director of Rainbow Reel Tokyo (formerly known as Tokyo International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival), which is one of the longest-running LGBT film festivals in Asia. Sachiko studied screenwriting at Nihon University College of Art where she received a Bachelor Degree in Film. After working in publishing for a while, she started her career as a translator, specializing herself in subtitles. She has translated numerous films and TV shows in Japanese, including some queer masterpieces such as "Weekend", "Stranger by the Lake" and Showtime's "The L Word" series. Imai also works as a coordinator for various film festivals in Japan.

Hassan Kamoga is a young Ugandan human rights activist and filmmaker. In 2016 he founded the Queer Kampala International Film Festival (QKIFF), the first and only LGBTQ Film Festival in Uganda and the only gay film festival organized in a country where homosexuality is illegal. QKIFF offers a powerful platform to promote and progress LGBTIQ rights through film advocacy in homophobic Uganda. Kamoga has produced a number of short documentaries for non-profit organizations in Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Egypt, Mozambique and Swaziland. He believes that social justice film-making has the power to change hearts, minds, and laws. Currently Kamoga Hassan is in

pre-production for his latest documentary entitled 'Where is Home' about Ugandans seeking asylum in other countries.

Saadat Munir was born into the dichotomy of European and Asian cultures. From childhood, he was blessed with the opportunity to experience both cultures equally, having been raised in Denmark by his Pakistani parents. His love for culture grew and led him to receiving a degree in Communications from South Denmark University. In his short time as a filmmaker, Munir has been awarded several honours for his work and has recently been an official Talent at Berlinale 2015. Presently, Munir is a creative director of Aks Film, Art and Dialogue, a bi-national film festival for minorities and marginalized communities that illuminate sociopolitical aspects of transgender, queer, people of color (POC) living in Pakistan and Denmark. The film festival has played a very important role in bringing forth the challenges transgender women face in Pakistan and this festival is first of its kind which is officially run and organised by transgender and queer community in Pakistan.

Marjo Pipinen is programmer for Love & Anarchy – Helsinki International Film Festival, the biggest film festival in Finland. In 2002–2009, she worked as programmer for Vinokino, the Finnish queer film festival. Pipinen holds a Master's Degree in Film Studies from Stockholm University. In her Master's thesis, she wrote about archival aesthetics in New Queer Cinema. After her studies, Pipinen took office at Media Desk Finland and the Finnish Film Foundation, and she currently works in communications at the National Audiovisual Institute in Finland (formerly the Finnish Film Archive). Pipinen keeps a queer-feminist film blog ([HQFEB](#)) focusing on events around Helsinki. She is interested in cinema on the margins and she prefers to see films on the big screen. Festivals are her passion and she is voluntarily involved in the organization of many kinds of cultural events.

Carl Spence began curating films and concerts during the grunge era in Seattle. He began his festival career at the Seattle International Film Festival in 1994, helping grow the Festival to become one of the largest film events in North America over the past two decades. He also led SIFF's expansion into a year-round exhibition, making SIFF the leading independent arthouse exhibitor in Seattle by saving two historic cinemas along with the creation of a new flagship Film Center. He most recently held the position of Festival Director and Chief Curator at SIFF prior to starting his own consulting firm, CCS Arts in late 2016. He also held Director of Programming positions with the Palm Springs International Film Festival and with the San Francisco International Film Festival. In 2014, he helped create the Orcas Island Film Festival as a Festival co-director and the chief curator.

Martin Wolkner studied Linguistics and Film Studies and is the founder and head of homochrom. Established in 2009 as a monthly film series in six cities in North-Rhine Westphalia, homochrom was expanded by a queer film festival in Cologne and Dortmund in 2011. Wolkner initiated the debut film award and federal funding of the German festival co-operation QueerScope in 2016. As a member of the German Film Critics Association he writes for the gay magazine Box, among others. Martin Wolkner has previously worked for the International Women's Film Festival Dortmund | Cologne and is working in subtitling. Currently he is developing his own film projects as a writer.



Tickets for the TEDDY AWARD Ceremony on February 17th in the Haus der Berliner Festspiele are available in the online shop at www.teddyaward.org . Ticket reservations can be made via email at tickets@papagena.de or via our ticket hotline 030-47997474. Tickets can also be purchased without pre-sale fees at the Prinz Eisenherz Buchladen, Motzstrasse 23, 10777 Berlin

The TEDDY AWARD Ceremony on Feb. 17, 2017, begins at 09 pm in the Haus der Berliner Festspiele, Schaperstraße 24, 10719 Berlin. At 11 pm the hot after show Lounge and the TEDDY BACKSTAGE PARTY will take place!

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