



PRESENTS

CALL ME KUCHU

DIRECTED BY KATHERINE FAIRFAX WRIGHT AND MALIKA ZOUHALI-WORRALL



OFFICIAL MOVIE SITE: callmekuchu.com
87 MINUTES / ENGLISH / NOT RATED
OPENS NY 6/14 and LA 6/21

TO ACCESS FILM MATERIALS:

<http://press.cinedigm.com/call-me-kuchu/>
cinedigm_press
c1n3digm

DISTRIBUTION CONTACT:

Laura Sok
Cinedigm
O: 646-259-4128
lsok@cinedigm.com

PUBLICITY CONTACTS:

NEW YORK
Adam J. Segal
The 2050 Group
O: (212) 618-6358
adam@the2050group.com

LOS ANGELES

Nancy Willen
ACME PR
O: 310.963.3433
nancywillen@acmepr.net

SUMMARY

In Uganda, a new bill threatens to make homosexuality punishable by death. David Kato – Uganda’s first openly gay man – along with retired Anglican Bishop Christopher Senyonjo and his fellow activists work against the clock to defeat the legislation while combatting vicious persecution in their daily lives. But no one, not even the filmmakers can be prepared for the brutal murder that shakes the movement to its core and sends shock waves around the world.

SYNOPSIS

In an unmarked office at the end of a dirt track, veteran activist David Kato labors to repeal Uganda’s homophobic laws and liberate his fellow lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender men and women, or “kuchus.” But David’s formidable task just became much more difficult. A new “Anti-Homosexuality Bill” proposes death for HIV-positive gay men, and prison for anyone who fails to turn in a known homosexual. Inspired by American evangelicals who have christened Uganda ground zero in their war on the “homosexual agenda,” the bill awaits debate in Uganda’s Parliament.

While most religious leaders in Uganda support the Bill, one lone voice from the Church is willing to speak out against it: Bishop Christopher Senyonjo, a purple-robed sage who has been expelled from the Anglican Church of Uganda for his theological defense of Uganda’s LGBT community. Armed with a PhD in human sexuality and a thorough understanding of Biblical scripture, this octogenarian doggedly continues his work to establish a kuchu counseling center and safe house in Kampala.

Meanwhile, local newspapers have begun outing kuchus with vicious fervor under headlines such as: “HOMO TERROR! We Name and Shame Top Gays in the City.”

David, Uganda’s first openly gay man, is one of the few who dare to publicly protest state-sanctioned homophobia. Working with an idiosyncratic clan of fellow activists, David fights Uganda’s government and tabloids in the courts, on television, and at the United Nations. Because, he insists, “if we keep on hiding, they will say we’re not here.”

But one year into filming CALL ME KUCHU and just three weeks after a landmark legal victory, the unthinkable happens: David is brutally murdered in his home. His death sends shock waves around the world, and leaves the Bishop and Kampala’s kuchus traumatized and seeking answers for a way forward. With unprecedented access, CALL ME KUCHU depicts the last year in the life of a courageous, quick-witted and steadfast man whose wisdom and achievements were not fully recognized until after his death, and whose memory has inspired a new generation of human rights advocates.

DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

During our first days in Kampala, Member of Parliament David Bahati told us: "There is no longer a debate in Uganda as to whether homosexuality is right or not – it is not." We were tempted to believe him. State-sanctioned homophobia was gaining momentum across the African continent, with a recent volley of attempts to pass homophobic laws and arrest LGBT people in countries from Senegal to Burundi.

But during that first week in Uganda we also met David Kato. Initially, he played something of a fixer, our main liaison with the LGBT, or "kuchu" community. We soon realized, however, that the man known as the "grandfather of the kuchus" was one of the most outspoken and inspired activists in East Africa. The more time we spent documenting his work, the more evident it became that, contrary to the M.P.'s claim, David and his fellow activists were, in fact, generating a public debate in Uganda that was shaking the foundations of the country's discriminatory status quo and drawing international attention. Uganda, it seemed, had become a frontier in the global battle for LGBT rights.

Our goal with this documentary – our first feature film – was to ensure it took the viewer beyond the chronicle of victimization so often depicted in the international news media: to tell the nuanced story of David and Kampala's kuchus as they work to change their fate. First and foremost, we wanted it to be an intimate, character-driven film, as much because we felt that would be a more powerful advocacy tool as because of our stylistic preferences.

Over the course of two years, we documented the daily lives and courageous work of David and his fellow kuchus. We were there when David appeared on television to call for an end to LGBT persecution, we were there when David won his case against gay-bashing tabloid Rolling Stone, and we were there during David's rare moments of respite, when he'd kick back, open a beer and tend to his small farm.

So David's brutal murder in January 2011 came as a terrible shock to us both. Nonetheless, we proceeded to film because we believed that we had a responsibility to David, as well as to his community, family and friends, to document the impact of his death and the legacy of his life.

In telling this crucial story, we explore the paradox of democracy in a country where a judiciary recognizes the civil rights of individual kuchus, yet the popular vote and daily violence threaten to eradicate those rights altogether. We also examine the nature and consequences of profound religious faith, as expressed both by American and Ugandan evangelical leaders, and by the LGBT community and its allies.

Since its world premiere, CALL ME KUCHU has played at more than 100 festivals, and received theatrical distribution in Germany and the UK, as well as the US. We are currently laying the foundation for an outreach and advocacy strategy with the aim of incorporating the film into LGBT rights campaigns around the world.

David Kato shared our strong belief in the power of film to document, educate, and, perhaps most importantly, humanize Kampala's kuchu movement. It is with David in mind that we are determined to bring CALL ME KUCHU to the most crucial audiences and to ensure it can have the broadest impact possible. A story told in his words, David Kato's final testimony lives on in this film, while his work is carried on by those he left behind.

FILM SUBJECTS

DAVID

In public, David is passionate, relentless, fiercely intelligent. In private, at home on his small farm, a charismatic yet vulnerable individual emerges: a man with a sharp sense of humor and a deep-seated fear of sleeping alone at night. In those rare moments away from the daily toil of his activism, David daydreams about one day building a gay village on his land, where Kampala's kuchus can live and work in solidarity.

NAOME

A warm-hearted and motherly activist who has experienced more than her fair share of persecution, Naome is David's closest friend and an equally gutsy advocate in Uganda's fledgling LGBT rights movement.

BISHOP SENYONJO

Bishop Senyojo has been expelled from the Anglican Church of Uganda for his theological defense of Uganda's LGBT community. Nonetheless, armed with a PhD in human sexuality and a thorough understanding of Biblical scripture, this purple-robed sage doggedly continues his work to establish a kuchu counseling center and safe house.

STOSH

After enduring a "corrective" rape at a young age, Stosh spent years living lonely, confused, and suicidal. But the female-to-male transman found solace in Kampala's tight-knit LGBT community.

LONGJONES

An LGBT counselor, Longjones has always shied away from the limelight of his sexual orientation. But in the wake of David's death, Longjones feels compelled to sustain the veteran activist's crusade for human rights, and steps forward to become one of the public faces of kuchu activism in Uganda.

THE TEAM

KATHERINE FAIRFAX WRIGHT (DIRECTOR, DP, EDITOR)

Katherine Fairfax Wright graduated from Columbia University with a double major in Film Studies and Anthropology. She produced GABI ON THE ROOF IN JULY (2010), associate-produced the award-winning documentary LUMO, and has worked in a producing role on several other films. She is also an award-winning photographer. Katherine is a Chaz & Roger Ebert Directing Fellow, as well as an alumnus of the Film Independent Documentary Lab, the Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant at Full Frame, and the Film Independent Producing Lab. In 2012, Filmmaker Magazine named Katherine one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Film. She is currently producing Malik Vitthal's Watts-set gangster drama IMPERIAL DREAMS.

MALIKA ZOUHALI-WORRALL (DIRECTOR, PRODUCER)

Malika Zouhali-Worrall is a British-Moroccan filmmaker and journalist based in New York. Her work has been published in The Financial Times and at CNN.com, for which she has reported from India, Uganda, China and the U.S. Malika is a graduate of Cambridge University and holds an MA in International Affairs from the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po), where she studied under an Entente Cordiale full scholarship. She is a Chaz & Roger Ebert Directing Fellow, and an alumnus of the Film Independent Documentary Lab and the Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant at Full Frame Documentary Film Festival. In 2012, Filmmaker Magazine named Malika one of the 25 New Faces of Independent Film. Next up, Malika will be producing LONG YEAR BEGIN, a documentary by David Osit about the Global Seed Vault and humanity's perpetual quest for self-preservation.

JON MANDABACH (COMPOSER)

Jon Mandabach lives in Los Angeles, where he passionately creates music for film, commercials and sound art installations. As well as composing, performing and recording the entire soundtrack for CALL ME KUCHU almost singlehandedly, Jon recently finished a new art piece, "Escapes," which was exhibited at the Suzanne Geiss Company Gallery in New York earlier this year, and he is currently finishing the score for a web series to be released by the Museum of Contemporary Art Los Angeles (MOCA) in September 2012. In his commercial work, Jon has worked with QDepartment and Apple's Media Arts Lab, and he is a playlist curator for The Playlist Generation. Jon is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, where he concentrated in Philosophy and Sound Installation. He has great dreams for sound and its personal and cultural resonance.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

December 22, 2008 - The High Court of Uganda rules in favor of LGBT activist Victor Mukasa and a co-plaintiff in their suit against Uganda's Attorney General. The judge rules that a police raid on Mukasa's home violated his right to privacy.

March 2009 - Three American evangelicals, including Scott Lively, lead a workshop in Uganda that details the "evil institution" of the "gay movement." The event is attended by Ugandan politicians.

October 14, 2009 - The anti-homosexuality Bill is introduced in Uganda's Parliament by Member of Parliament David Bahati. The legislation proposes the death penalty for HIV-positive gay men and prison for anyone who fails to turn in a homosexual.

May 2, 2010 - American evangelical Lou Engle holds a prayer rally in Kampala during which he praises the Ugandan government for its righteousness in fighting the homosexual agenda.

October 2, 2010 - Photographs of David, Bishop Senyonjo and Naome appear in Ugandan tabloid Rolling Stone as part of a front-page story that lists Uganda's 100 "Top Homos" under the headline "Hang Them."

November 2, 2010 - After David and two other plaintiffs file a lawsuit against Rolling Stone, Uganda's High Court issues a temporary injunction ordering the newspaper to stop identifying people it claims are homosexual.

November 18, 2010 - David and Longjones meet with other human rights activists at the UN office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR) to compile a document on LGBT persecution for the upcoming human rights review of Uganda at the United Nations.

January 3, 2011 - Uganda's High Court rules that Rolling Stone threatened the "fundamental rights and freedoms" of David and others, and violated their constitutional right to privacy. Rolling Stone is ordered to pay David and the other plaintiffs 1.5 million Ugandan shillings (\$600) each.

January 26, 2011 - For reasons that remain unknown, David is attacked at his home and bludgeoned with a hammer. He dies on the way to the hospital. David's murder is condemned by US President Barack Obama, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the European Union and the Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

May 2011 - The Ugandan Parliamentary session closes without a vote on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

August 10, 2011 - Uganda's LGBT activist community launches the "Hate No More" campaign to combat state-sanctioned homophobia in the country.

October 2011 - Uganda's Parliament votes to reopen debate on the Anti-Homosexuality Bill.

October 2011 - During the United Nations Human Rights Council's review of Uganda in Geneva, the document of human rights violations compiled by David, Longjones and other colleagues months earlier informs the recommendations of numerous countries that call on Uganda to end LGBT persecution.

November 10, 2011 - Sidney Nsubuga Enoch is found guilty of David's murder, and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

January 29, 2012 - In a ceremony in London, Jamaican LGBT activist Maurice Tomlinson receives the David Kato Vision & Voice award, sponsored by sexuality and gender rights organizations including the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and Sexual Minorities Uganda, of which David was a founding member.

March 14, 2012 - Ugandan LGBT rights group Sexual Minorities Uganda and the US-based Center for Constitutional Rights file a lawsuit in a US federal court against American evangelical Scott Lively. The suit alleges that Lively's involvement in anti-gay efforts in Uganda constitute persecution.

CREDITS

DIRECTORS

Katherine Fairfax Wright
Malika Zouhali-Worrall

PRODUCER

Malika Zouhali-Worrall

EDITOR

Katherine Fairfax Wright

MUSIC

Jon Mandabach

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Katherine Fairfax Wright

WRITERS

Katherine Fairfax Wright
Malika Zouhali-Worrall

CONSULTING EDITORS

Yana Gorskaya
Greg O'Toole

SOUND RECORDING

Katherine Fairfax Wright
Malika Zouhali-Worrall

ADDITIONAL SECOND CAMERA

Sam Falconi

ADDITIONAL CAMERA

Henrik Christofferson
Ana Grillo
Patrick M. Guex

Emanuel Haglund
Raphael Khisa
Brooks Lockwood
Katja Lenart
Keith Moreau
Allie Mutaka
Brian Nkoyooyo
Jan Kristoffer Rooslien Persson
Patrick Verstraete

ADDITIONAL EDITORS

Mariana Blanco
Mikaela Shwer

ASSISTANT CAMERA

Marshall Perryman

STILL PHOTOGRAPHY

Katherine Fairfax Wright

FIXER AND TRANSLATOR

Moses Bert Mabonga

COLORIST

Brian Hutchings

ON-LINE EDITOR

Matt Radecki

HD SERVICES

Different By Design & HD Cinema

RE-RECORDING MIXER

Joe Dzuban

SOUND EDITOR

Justin Dzuban

MUSIC ENGINEER

Nick Feil

ASSISTANT PRODUCER

Sarah Tabet
Christine Pfister

POST-PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS

Nadia Awad
Kellianne Jones
Melissa Passarelli

ADDITIONAL TRANSCRIPTION

Caroline Canton
Lori Fried
Stefani Saintonge

POSTER DESIGN

Alicia Haberman
Sarahana Shrestha

LEGAL COUNSEL

Donaldson & Callif
The Law Firm of Rosalind Lichter

PUBLICITY

Adam J. Segal - The 2050 Group
Nancy Willen – ACME PR
David Magdael, David Magdael &
Associates

INTERNATIONAL SALES

Catherine le Clef, CAT&Docs

NORTH AMERICAN SALES

The Film Sales Company
Andrew Herwitz, President

ADDITIONAL FOOTAGE
COURTESY OF

Ntare Guma Mbaho Mwine
The Refugee Law Project
Justin Dralaze
Tom Walsh

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL

Avaaz.org
BBC World Service
The Daily Monitor
Dobroide
El Comercio
France 24
MSNBC / NBC Universal
NTV Uganda
NTV Kenya
The Observer
Public Radio International
Red Pepper
Reuters
Rolling Stone
Uganda Broadcasting Corporation
Voice of America
Wavah Broadcasting Service
WGBH Boston

SPECIAL THANKS

American Jewish World Service
Amnesty International UK
Arsenal Distribution
Daniel Baer
Jeffrey Blitz
Arnaud Braud
Lisa Kleiner Chanoff
Shane K. Chase
Bonni Cohen
Hussain Currimbhoy
Lisa E. Davis
Dogwoof Pictures
Scilla Elworthy
Brian Frye
Laura Gabbert
Leah Giblin
Yana Gorskaya

Andy Greenberg
The Human Dignity Trust
Human Rights Watch
Harrold Huttas & Scott McPhail
The Kaleidoscope Trust
Jennifer Kushner
Adella Ladjevardi
Penny Lane
Caroline Libresco
Rosalind Lichter
Hudson Lines
David McFarland
Sean McManus
Julia Meltzer
Laura Nix
Ian Olds
Mark Perrin
Antonia Porter
Thom Powers
Charles Radcliffe
Rachael Rakes

Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights

Jen Robinson
Ron Valdez
Ligiah Villalobos
Christina Weisner
Josh Welsh
Dr. Richard F. Wright

The Filmmakers Would Also Like to Thank:

Dechen Albero
Jen Arnold
Fellipe Barbosa
Peter Brown
Nick Cain
Nekisa Cooper
Dimitri de Gruben
Ewan Chung
Michael Collins
Iluke & Jo Cresswell
Heather Courtney
Kirby Dick
Julie Dorf
Sean Farnel
Leslie Fields-Cruz
Sasha Friedlander
Javier Fuentes-Leon

Howard Gertler
Sam Greenberg
Dimitri de Gruben
Jenia Gorton
Kenza & Alex Hagon
Johanna Hamilton
Kristine Harris
William Haugse
Michaela Hayes
Brent Hoff
Simeon Hutner
Scott Insley
Chris Iversen
Chunwoo Kae
Juli Kobayashi
Susan Lewis
Diana & Derek Lidow

Hudson Lines
Steve McNicholas
Paula Simas Magalhaes
Louise Mirren
Maisha Film Lab
Dipika Nath
Jennifer Nedbalsky
Pete Nicks
Rev. Canon Albert Ogle
David Osit
Katelyn Ott
Bent-Jorgen Perlmutter
Malcolm Pullinger
Helge Renner
Jean-Michel & Tatyana Richaud
Maia Rossini
The Refugee Law Project
Ashley Sabin & David Redmon
Loretta Sacco
Carolyn Sams
Adam Segal
Joanna Senez
Wieland Speck
Joe Speicher
Jessica Stern
Morgan Stiff
Pierre Strauss
Paul Sturtz
Marty Syjuco
Jesse Szymanski
Frederic Tcheng
Benjamin Turshen
Doug & Rochelle Turshen
Julia Turshen
Danielle Vacarr
Nadya Wasylko
David Wilson
Joe Wilson
Jeffrey Winter
Richard C. Wright
Christine Wright-Ott
Julie Youngblood
Tadej Znidarcic
Steve & Naima Zouhali-Worrall

And Thanks to the Generous
Kickstarter Donors
That Supported The Film:

Tim Allen
Jimmy A. Anderson
Kalomira Apostolidis
Jordan Backman
Chris Baio
William Baldwin
Neelu Bhuman
Cynthia Black
Judy Boncaro
Lisa Booth
Cricket Boyett
Luann Brenner
Ellen Brodsky
Laura Jane Bry
Steve Burwell
Ryan Carr
Douglas Cole
Gabrielle Coppola
Christopher Cox
Nancy Crane
Justin A. Chortie
Joshua Coale
Megan Donohue
Timothy Donohue
Darren Ewert
Chad Fahs
Jesse Farrell
Maria João Fonseca
Gary Greenberg
Tenny Greenberg
Jim Goldblum
James Gottfried
Charles & Diane Hill
J. J. Hillard
Mark Himmelsbach
Nancy Johnson
Anne-Marie Kadima
Flora Kampogo
Gary Lapon
Mark Larrimore
Wayne Ma
Nuria García Martínez
Meghann Matwichuk
Allyson McDuffie

Richard McKewen
Claude Meyer
David Min
Melina Moe
Sharon Momenian-Schneider
David Murray
Tom Mustill
Andrew Nicholson
Russell Norris
Charlotte D'Ooge
Greg Palmer
Mallory Perryman
Graeme Reid
Paul Ritter
Kate Rossettie

Jerry Rumaine
Sharon Salzberg
Don Satterthwaite
Adam Schneider
Katie Shuh
Andrea Sievers
Sarah Tabet
Leslie & Christian Tabet
Joseph Tirella
Joseph Townsend
Bradford Wade
Rebecca Walker
Kate Walton
Hui-chang Wang

In Association with
Chicken & Egg Pictures:
Julie Parker Benello
Wendy Ettinger
Judith Helfand
Natalie Difford

MADE WITH THE SUPPORT OF
The Bertha Foundation
The Bertha BRITDOC Connect Fund
The Catapult Film Fund
The Chaz & Roger Ebert Directing Fellowship
CinereachThe E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
Film Independent Filmmaker Labs
The Frameline Completion Fund
Front Line Defenders
The Garrett Scott Documentary Development Grant
The Good Pitch
Independent Filmmaker Project
The Lucius & Eva Eastman Fund
The Peter S. Reed Foundation
Puma Creative Mobility Award
The Roddick Foundation
Touchstone Trust
United Support of Artists for Africa

A Documentary Film By
Katherine Fairfax Wright & Malika Zouhali-Worrall

CALL ME KUCHU
www.callmekuchu.com