

Call me Kuchu

Uganda 2012

Directed by

Malika Zouhali-Worrall &
Katherine Fairfax Wright

Writing credits

Malika Zouhali-Worrall &
Katherine Fairfax Wright

Cinematography

Katherine Fairfax Wright

Produced by

Malika Zouhali-Worrall

Film Editing by

Katherine Fairfax Wright

Music

Jonathan Mandabach

Cast

David Kato

Himself

Christopher Senyonjo

Himself

87 mins

Our next screening...

We Are The Best!

Tue 9 Dec 2014 8:00pm

Dir: Lukas Moodysson

Coming of age tale of friendship and trust set in 1980s Stockholm. A delightful return to *Show Me Love* form for Moodysson.

The first of two documentaries in our 2014-15 season (look out for Egypt's *The Square* on 20 January), we're delighted that tonight's film is being introduced by our special guest John Bosco Nyombi, a gay Ugandan who after being forcibly deported by the UK, found himself persecuted by the Ugandan authorities.

The struggle for LGBT rights in Uganda might sound like a dry or distant subject. It's the achievement of the directors' shocking, moving, enthralling and enraging doc to make it lively and urgent. Taking its title from local slang for gay, the film revolves around David Kato, Uganda's first out gay campaigner, as he battles proposals to make homosexuality a capital crime in the two years before his crucial work was cut short. On the side of the angels are other members of the country's fledgling LGBT movement, some of their families and the fearless former Bishop Senyonjo; against them are members of its church, parliament and media, who get the chance to unpack their views. As well as the charming, warm and whip-smart Kato, the film's obvious assets are footage shot at secret parties, in court and at gravesides – a funeral scene speaks more profoundly of the injustices at work here than any number of talking heads could.

Ben Walters, Time Out

Life affirming and blood boiling in equal measures, *Call Me Kuchu* is always eye opening to humanity's ability for kindness and pure evil. *Call Me Kuchu's* most chilling and engaging moments mostly concern the poisonous and tyrannical influence of religion on politics. Many Ugandan conservatives point to the loss of morality in the west, and suggest that Uganda must restore the religious values instilled during the colonisation of Africa. And yet fascinating behind-the-scenes footage reveals that the west still has an iron grip on religious fear mongering and brain washing in Uganda, with Westboro Baptist Church-like preachers peddling their wickedness to illiterate, naïve and scared locals. Audiences may feel that the cultural and social zeitgeist is changing, and that religion's perpetuation of such evils are on the decline or have little influence. *Call Me Kuchu* is a strong shot in the arm which demonstrates that the civil liberties of minorities such as homosexuals are still under threat and in some of the most heinous ways imaginable. A courageous and heart wrenching story, *Call Me Kuchu* may not be the most innovative documentary out this year. But it's one of the most essential – a film in the pursuit of civil liberty and the fight against fascism.

Jack Jones, Little White Lies



Voting for *Blue Ruin*: A-14 B-26 C-11 D-2 E-0 Attendance: 61 Rating: 74.5%

My name is John Bosco Nyombi but I prefer to be known as Bosco. I arrived in UK on 17 September 2001 after my name was aired on the national radio. I had to pay bribe to get a Visa and a passport. On the arrival, I didn't know the system but I was advised to seek asylum. On 28 September 2001, I was detained because I didn't have any ties to this country. I was in a detention centre for 4 months. In February 2002, I went to court and I was allowed to stay but the Home Office appealed against the court's decision. In May 2002, I went to tribunal but the Home Office didn't turn up. The three Judges made their decision without Home Office's presence. In July 2002, I was granted one year leave to remain in UK.



July 2003, my leave to remain expired and I was told to apply for extension which was refused. I had to repeat this six times going to High Court twice until I ran out of money. I did spend over £20,000 on solicitors so I had to work day and night to be able to pay for solicitors and also to be able to live. In 2004, I was told to report to the police every Friday which I did for 4 years.

On 9 September 2008, I was detained and I was refused access to my solicitor. On 14 September 2008, I was due to be deported back to Uganda but my friends at work, friends from my Church and different charities campaigned to stop my deportation, which was successful.

On 18 September 2008, the Home Office through G4S, came to the detention centre and told me they were taking me to Heathrow to be interviewed. I asked them to talk to my solicitor but they refused. They dragged me to a van then drove to Heathrow. When we got to Heathrow, they told me they are taking me back to Uganda. I asked them about the interview, they said there was no interview, I had a lot of support so that's why they had to do it that way. Then I was handcuffed, punched in groin and dragged onto plane to Uganda. On 19 September 2008, I arrived in Uganda and my photo was on the front page of the national Daily News in Uganda. I was arrested at the airport. I was beaten, kicked and spat on. I had to give out money to the police to release me. I was released on that occasion then I had to talk to my solicitor who didn't know where I was as no professional parties had kept her informed.

I was again arrested when I went to hospital in Uganda and this time was taken to prison. I was beaten by both officers and inmates as they didn't want to sleep close to me (as a gay man) and there were no space. I slept on concrete floor for a week. In February 2009, The High Court ordered Home Office to bring me back to the UK as I had been unlawfully removed. On 6 March 2009, I arrived in UK but again I was arrested as soon as I got off the plane. After 3 days, then I was released. In May 2009, I had my asylum case hearing and in July I got the decision that the court allowed me to stay. I received my refugee status (5 Years). In September 2014, I got my indefinite leave to remain.

I would like to thank **Friends Without Borders** (formerly known as Haslar Visitors Group) which visits detainees in Haslar detention centre. In particular, I would like to thank Mary Wake who was my visitor when I was in the detention centre and supported all the times I had to go to court, especially when my hearing was in Wales. I thank my dear friend Corina Piekaar who took me in when I was homeless with no money. I thank the **Lesbian Immigration Support Group** based in Manchester which supports lesbian asylum seekers who don't have any support.

www.friendswithoutborders.org.uk

<http://lesbianimmigrationsupportgroup.blogspot.co.uk>

What people can do? To educate others about asylum seekers and why sometimes we have to leave our countries. Write to your MP to change the way LGBT asylum seekers are treated, Support petitions when gay people are deported back to countries where their lives are in danger. Any support for those in detention centre can change how detainees feel in detention centre e.g. visitors, telephone call and to let them know that there is someone who cares.

John Bosco Nyombi