

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For immediate release -- 25 July 2017**

**Multi-award winning INXEBA (The Wound) to open 7th annual Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival**

Since premiering at the iconic Sundance Film Festival earlier this year, 'Inxeba' (known internationally as 'The Wound') has accumulated a string of award pearls that would have made Granny Lee proud. It is a truly groundbreaking new South African queer feature film, which explores tradition and masculinity, and the clash between age-old rituals and modernity. Described by Variety magazine as "a milestone in South African cinema", the film stars musician and novelist Nakhane Touré as Xolani, a lonely factory worker who joins the men of his community in the mountains of the Eastern Cape to initiate a group of teenage boys into manhood. When Kwanda (Niza Jay Ncoyini), a defiant initiate from the city, discovers his mentor's secret, Xolani's entire existence begins to unravel.

'Inxeba' had its African premiere in competition at the Durban International Film Festival in July, screening at The Playhouse in Durban, where after it scooped awards for both Best Director for John Trengrove and Best Actor for Nakhane Touré.

"From the very beginning, the process of making Inxeba was characterized by intense collaboration and risk taking. This film demanded everything from those who came on board", says director John Trengrove. "I am so grateful to the incredible cast and crew who put their faith and trust in this journey. This film is a testament to their efforts. I want to dedicate this award to the silent and faceless queers throughout the African continent who face insurmountable obstacles every day in a struggle for identity and dignity".

Securing the film for Opening Night at the 7th annual Durban Gay & Lesbian Film Festival (DGLFF) for the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community audience, festival director Jason Fiddler couldn't be prouder or happier: "I've known about 'Inxeba' as a project since the 2014 Durban Film Mart, when producer Elias Ribeiro of Urucu Media was pitching it as a project for financing. I told him there and then I wanted it for DGLFF one day. Our audiences deserved to see a great locally made film that spoke to their own experiences, that shared their own stories. Elias' earlier gay short films had been included in previous DGLFFs, so I knew that he would be keen to maintain that relationship. I just never anticipated what an insanely huge deal this would be!"

At the 41st Frameline, San Francisco's international film festival, held from 15 to 25 June and where 147 films were screened, 'Inxeba' won the First Feature Award. Shortly before that, it was awarded the prize for Best Feature Film at the 32nd Lovers Film Festival, an LGBTQI festival held in Turin, Italy from 15 to 20 June. It won the Best Film Award in the International New Talent Competition, at the Taipei Film Festival in July. At Cinema Jove, the Valencia International Film Festival, held in Spain from 23 June to 1 July, 'Inxeba' was awarded the Luna de Valencia for Best Feature Film, as well as the Best Actor Award for Nakhane Touré.

At one of the world's longest-running film festivals, the Sydney Film Festival, held from 7 to 18 June, 'Inxeba' won the Audience Award for Best Feature, with ScreenDaily describing it as "a measured consideration of class, race, self-loathing and self-assertion".

#DGLFF2017 opens Friday 25 August at the Waterfront Hotel & Spa, Point, Durban at 8pm preceded by a cocktail function sponsored by Amazing Thailand. Cast member Niza Jay Ncoyini will be attending and the following day (Saturday 26 August) director John Trengrove will visit for a Q&A. The Festival closes 3 September. For more information, please visit the Festival website: [www.dglff.org.za](http://www.dglff.org.za)

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