

Names & Faces

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D4 Living|Arts

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2002

Wellesley filmmaker wins a Teddy award

Wellesley's **Daniel Stedman**, 23, flew back to Logan late Tuesday from the **Berlin Film Festival**, where he won a Teddy, the prestigious festival's award for gay- and lesbian-themed films. The youngest filmmaker invited to this year's festival, Stedman garnered the honor for "Celebration," a bittersweet four-minute movie about a coming-out ceremony for a 6-year-old boy.

The fledgling filmmaker, who graduated from Bates College in Maine with a degree in physics last spring, was thrilled about his win and by the hoopla that came with it. Known in Berlin as the "gay Oscar," the Teddys are bestowed by German celebrities at "a real-deal awards ceremony" attended by 3,000 people, according to Stedman. Needless to say, it's followed by a great big party.



Daniel Stedman, 23, was the youngest filmmaker invited to the Berlin Film Festival.

"Celebration" was screened at the 1,000-seat Zoo Palast theater, where many in the audience burst into laughter and applause when the 6-year-old

celebrant, standing at a podium, utters one of the movie's two lines: "I am a homosexual." The viewers' enthusiasm was particularly gratifying to Stedman. "There was a little controversy surrounding my film, because I'm actually straight. It's just a film that poses a lot of questions," says Stedman, who's off tonight on a red-eye flight to California, where "Celebration" will be screened at Cinequest in San Jose.

He's been invited to "a whole slew of other festivals" but is likely to skip many of them. He and a friend, producer **Thomas Haydn**, have just formed December Productions, and are gearing up to make a feature film about township jazz, a Harlem Renaissance-like genre centered in Sophiatown in the 1960s, in apartheid-era Africa.

MAUREEN DEZELL