CALL ME QUEEN

EIN FILM VON **EMILY ATEF**



Logline & Synopsis

LOGLINE

Queen, a sharp, fearless woman from Nairobi's largest slum never expected to find kinship in Anna, an Irish journalist. But their bond grows, and so does their determination to act. As AIDS devastates communities and pharmaceutical greed denies access to treatment, the two women take on a fight far bigger than themselves.
CALL ME QUEEN is inspired by true events.

SYNOPSIS

CALL ME QUEEN is the story of an unlikely friendship between two women in their 30's: Rwandan Quinta, known as Queen, a single mother from the slums of Nairobi, and Anna, an Irish journalist sent to Kenya in 1999. Two tough women from different worlds collide, and Queen challenges Anna to confront her own self-image, and the privilege she carries with it.

When Queen falls ill with AIDS, the bond between the two women comes full circle. Determined, Queen starts a grassroots movement for affordable medication and ultimately democracy, understanding her own power and how to use it to change the way people live.

Empowerment and liberation drive the story, leading Queen and Anna on a shared journey, one that turns into a bold fight for change.
CALL ME QUEEN is inspired by true events.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Nairobi, 1999: Queen Achungo, a self-assured, strong-willed, single mother from Nairobi, is in desperate need of work. One day, she resolutely turns up unannounced at the door of Irish journalist Anna, who has been sent to East Africa to report on the political upheavals in the region.

Anna, who leads a reclusive life, isn't actually looking for a domestic helper. But Queen is well prepared and claims, very convincingly, that she has already worked for Anna's predecessor. She therefore claims to know that the household expenses – in other words, Queen's potential salary – are already included in the rent.

Even the headstrong journalist is no match for such tenacity, and Queen gets the job. The initial power struggle between the two independent women gives way to an unusual friendship. Before long, Queen accompanies Anna on her investigations and opens her eyes to a reality that receives scant attention in international reporting -- she gains insights into the immediate consequences of the devastating AIDS epidemic that is ravaging Kenya and that is leaving countless children orphaned every day. Queen herself is also HIV-positive and, without medication, is doomed to die.

When Anna secures access to treatment, Queen survives, whilst her friends and neighbours continue to die from the effects of the infection. Her survival becomes an obligation for her -- she starts to fight against the injustice that makes life-saving medicines unaffordable for millions of people.

It soon becomes clear that there is far more to this injustice than mere political inaction. Whilst pharmaceutical companies insist on their patent rights, thereby hindering fair access to medicines, Queen realises that her struggle extends far beyond her personal fate.

Together with the people around her and some unexpected allies, Queen stands up to the power of the international pharmaceutical industry, global trade interests and political inaction. Her personal struggle for survival gives rise to a courageous grassroots movement that breaks through the stigma of the disease and changes the lives of an entire generation.