

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



# Marx Now

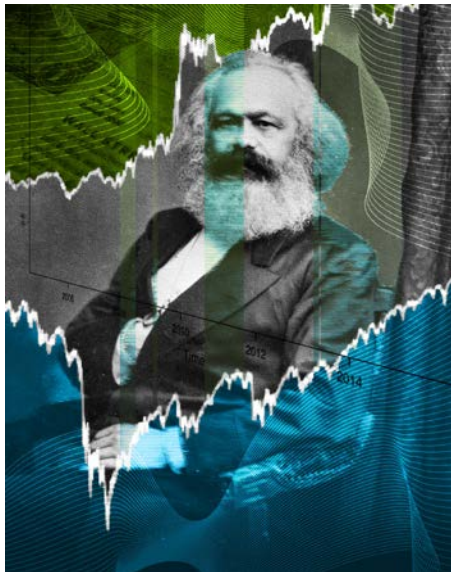
Events revisiting Marx for the contemporary era

**April 26 – May 25, 2018**

**Goethe-Institut Washington**

[www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

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(Washington, DC, April 6, 2018) – On the occasion of Marx's 200th birthday, the Goethe-Institut is celebrating with the program **Marx Now**. With events being held across North America, the Goethe-Institut seeks to revisit Marxism in the light of contemporary discussions.

Here in DC, the **Goethe-Institut Washington** will be hosting a variety of interactive experiences, exciting films, and innovative performances.

The main event of the Marx Now series is **Dictionary of Marx**, a theatrical happening on Marx's birthday, Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6-10PM, hosted by **Capital Fringe** and curated by

director **John Feffer** of the Institute for Policy Studies. In this multimedia performance, a dozen artists, academics, actors, and authors respond to a selected lexicon of words from Marxist texts.

From April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>, the film series **CINEMARX** will take place at the Goethe-Institut, every Thursday at 6:30 PM, showcasing recent movies that comment on Marx and his economic theories in addition to historic short films from East Germany. As part of the series, **AFI Silver Theatre** will also screen the film *The Young Karl Marx* from the director Raoul Peck on Tuesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:15 PM.

Throughout the month of May, the gallery space of the Goethe-Institut will become an interactive space for direct encounters with Marx's writings in the exhibition **Marx in the Study** (Open May 1<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>). Visitors are encouraged to read, remix, and react to Marxist theories. During the course of this exhibition, the Goethe-Institut will also host an **All-Day Alexander Kluge Marathon** on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM, showing the entirety of Kluge's 9.5-hour-long film *News from Ideological Antiquity*.

Note: All films and programming will be presented in English or with English subtitles.

Unless noted otherwise, all events take place at Goethe-Institut Washington, 1990 K St. NW, Suite 03, Washington, DC 20006.

**Goethe-Institut Washington**  
1990 K St. NW, Suite 03  
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## **ABOUT THE EVENTS:**

### **Dictionary of Marx: A Multimedia Birthday Experience**

**Saturday, May 5, 6:00 – 10:00 PM**

Capital Fringe (Logan Fringe Arts Space)  
1358 Florida Ave NE  
Washington, DC 20002

On May 5th, Marx's 200th birthday, the one-time-only multimedia experience, **Dictionary of Marx**, gives you the chance to reencounter the work of the German economic philosopher Karl Marx. A dozen of Washington, DC's most engaging presenter-performers will come together at the Capital Fringe Theatre responding to key words from the Marxist lexicon in a series of artistic interpretations. From theater performances to musical works and from film to poetry, *Dictionary of Marx* explores these economic theories from today's perspective. The viewer will also have the chance to engage directly, whether in a creative writing workshop, a game of Anti-Monopoly, or a philosophic discussion at the bar.

Presented as part of the Goethe-Institut's international series Marx Now, *Dictionary of Marx* is curated by John Feffer, novelist, playwright, and director of Foreign Policy In Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Featured performers, presenters, and musicians include: Reginald Cabico, Edgar Endress, Erica Ginsberg & Leon Gerskovic, Natalia Gleason-Nagy, Michael Kazin, Kiley Kraskouskas, Magpie, Sami Miranda, Dorothy Moss, Tanya Paperny, Angela Kay Pirko & Mary Myers, Vincent Thomas, Joe Uehlein, and Vanessa Wills.

Price \$10

### **CINEMARX: Films about Marx from the GDR to the Present Day**

With the film series *CINEMARX*, the Goethe-Institute Washington examines Karl Marx, exploring the environment under which his works were created, his followers and critics, and how his theories can be applied to the questions facing us today.

Presented in cooperation with the DC LaborFest, AFI Silver Theatre, and the Austrian Cultural Forum.

**Thursday, April 26, 6:30 PM**

#### **Marx Reloaded**

Germany, France, Belgium 2011, 52 Min.



*Marx Reloaded* is a cultural-economic documentary, which examines Karl Marx's ideas and their relevance in understanding the global economic and financial crisis of 2008-2009. Both leading Marx experts and critics of the current Marx-Renaissance are interviewed for this documentary, which questions whether communism can provide solutions to the growing economic and environmental challenges facing the planet.

As director, producer, and writer of *Marx Reloaded*, **Jason Barker**, a professor and philosophy theorist, teams up with many of the most renowned philosophers of the day to create this intense, economic documentary intercut with animated parody of *The Matrix* film series.

**After the film, a discussion will be held with Kurt Stand, a former trade unionist and longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America, who currently works as a bookseller for Busboys and Poets.**

**Tuesday, May 1, 7:30 PM**

**The Young Karl Marx** (Der junge Karl Marx)

France, Germany, Belgium, 2017, 112 Min.

AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center  
8633 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910



A historical drama telling a personal story about the beginnings of Marxist theory from the director of the Oscar-nominated documentary *I Am Not Your Negro*. Living in exile in Paris, the indebted 26-year-old Karl Marx befriends Friedrich Engels. Together they inspire one another to lay the theoretical foundation for a revolution.

Born in Haiti, **Raoul Peck** (b. 1953) studied in France, the USA and at the German Film and Television Academy in Berlin. This equally multilateral drama depicts the rise of Marxist theory and the formation of *The Communist Manifesto*, one of the most influential texts of our time.

**Tickets for *The Young Karl Marx* available for purchase from AFI.**

**Thursday, May 3, 6:30 pm**

**Comrade, where are you today?**

Germany, Finland 2008, 112 Min.



In the 1980s, Kirsi Marie Liimatainen from Finland goes to the GDR to study the teachings of Marx and Lenin. There she went to school with like-minded people from more than 80 countries – students united in their hopes for a better world. However, just after finishing her schooling, the Berlin Wall comes down in fall 1989. Over twenty years later, Kirsi goes searching for her comrades from school.

Having received training as an actor in Finland and as a director in Germany, **Kirsi Marie Liimatainen** (b. 1968, Tampere) delves into her personal history, turning her attention to her year at the *Jugendhochschule* “Wilhelm Pieck” in Bogensee.

**After the film, Professor Sven-Eric Liedman of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, will give a presentation on his new book *A World to Win: The Life and Thought of Karl Marx*. The event will be moderated by Chris Garlock, Director of the DC LaborFest.**

**Thursday, May 10, 6:30 pm**

**Free Lunch Society**

Austria 2017, 95 Min.



Universal Basic Income means money for everyone – a human right without trade-offs! A visionary reform project, a neo-liberal axe to the roots of the social state, or a socio-romantic leftist utopia? *Free Lunch Society*, as the first feature film in the world on the topic of Universal Basic Income, addresses one of the most significant questions of our time.

In creating this detailed film on the subject of Universal Basic Income, the Austrian economist **Christian Tod** (b. 1977, Linz) has become one of the strongest voices for this major economic reform.

**Eva Schoefer, Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum and Minister of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Austria, will give an introduction to the film.**

**Thursday, May 17, 6:30 pm**

**Short Films from East Germany**

**Marx Family** (Marx Familie)

GDR, 1988, Documentary, 18 Min., Director: Helke Misselwitz

A moving short portrait of Karl Marx's family and their living conditions during their time in London.

In the same year that she produced this short film for the DEFA studio's experimental documentary *Kinobox* series, **Helke Misselwitz** (b. 1947, Zwickau) received notoriety for her full length documentary on women in the GDR, *Winter Äde*.

**Dear Mohr – Personal Memories of Karl Marx from Paul Lafargue**

(Lieber Mohr – Persönliche Erinnerungen an Karl Marx von Paul Lafargue)

GDR, 1972, Animation, ca. 20 Min., Director: Bruno J. Böttge

The film shows a humorous take on moments from the life of Karl Marx over the course of a quarter century.

One of Germany's foremost silhouette animators after Lotte Reiniger, **Bruno J. Böttge** (b. 1925) brings his talents to these historic figures in this film using hand-cut and painted elements.

**Love Letters** (Liebesbriefe)

GDR, 1982, Documentary, 21 Min., Director: Uwe Belz

Citations from love letters and poems written between Karl Marx and his fiancée Jenny von Westphalen during their teenage years are combined with images, paintings, and beautiful, atmospheric landscapes of places connected to Marx.

**Uwe Belz** (b. 1937, Berlin) was one of the most productive East German filmmakers, creating more than 150 films in his lifetime. In this work, he draws his attention towards viewing Marx from an alternative perspective, showing the emotional and romantic sides of the historical figure.

### **A Young Man Named Engel – A Portrait in Letters**

(Ein junger Mann namens Engels – Ein Porträt in Briefen)

GDR, 1970, Animation, ca. 20 Min., Director: Katja Georgi

With the young Friedrich Engel's letters and drawings from the years between 1838 and 1842, a unique cinematic portrait is created. The viewer thus gets to know the young Engels personally, learning about the significant moments of his development from a bourgeois-liberal upbringing to the theoretical partner of Karl Marx.

Focus is turned towards Engels in this animated film from **Katja Georgi** (b. 1928, Lengefeld), which would later be awarded the Gold Dove at the International Leipzig Documentary and Short Film Week.

### **Marx in the Study: An Interactive Installation**

**May 1 - 25**

Responding to the *Dictionary of Marx*, the Goethe Gallery will become an interactive space for direct encounters with Marx through his texts. Join us anytime during our opening hours to read, create, remix, and rewrite the works of Marx.

### **All-Day Alexander Kluge Marathon**

**Saturday, May 19, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM**



As part of the exhibition *Marx in the Study*, the Goethe-Institut will be screening Alexander Kluge's film *News from Ideological Antiquity* in its entirety. Stop by anytime during the day to appreciate this cinematic endeavor. While viewing the film, we encourage viewers to interact with the current exhibition.

#### **Tickets:**

Free for events at the Goethe-Institut

\$10 for *Dictionary of Marx* at Capital Fringe

Price TBD for *The Young Karl Marx* at AFI Silver Theatre

**More:** [www.goethe.de/washington](http://www.goethe.de/washington)

#### **About the Goethe-Institut:**

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington is a center for German culture and language. From its location downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both organizations and individuals in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

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