

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPE ACTUALLY: SERIES OF EVENTS IN THE UK WITH FOCUS ON EUROPEAN COMMON IDENTITY

In light of the current political uncertainty relating to Brexit, cultural relations have become even more important. *Europe Actually* is a series of events (14th March until 17th April 2019) organised by the Goethe-Institut London that focuses on the European common identity. Highlights include a public radio broadcast, a towel art convention and a get-together entitled “Above the Starry Canopy”.

14 March 2019

“Culture has no borders, culture transcends politics, culture is global” emphasised Katharina von Ruckteschell, director of the Goethe-Institut London, in reaction to the meaningful votes in British parliament. The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. It sees itself as an institution with a European mandate and subscribes to the vision of an integrated Europe and actively champions a shared and diverse cultural space. It is wholeheartedly committed to the values of openness, freedom of movement, justice and the embrace of diversity in our society.

The family of EU nations, as with all families, balances different beliefs and needs, while still being bound by a shared common identity. The United Kingdom has always been a central figure in this European family, and the Goethe-Institut would deeply regret their departure from the EU. To face the defining issue of our time, the Goethe-Institut London is demonstrating its commitment to Europe through its programme such as *Europe Actually*, in order to emphasise the particular importance of cultural relations in times of political uncertainty.

Johannes Ebert, Secretary General of the Goethe-Institut, will be attending some events at the end of the month such as the final of the German debating competition on 27th March 2019. During the past five months, the Goethe-Institut London has invited secondary school students in the UK to take part in the competition and to discuss the future of Europe. The two final teams of the Dr Challoner’s Grammar School and Hampton School will be debating whether an additional subject dealing with Europe should be introduced to secondary schools.

The main events of *Europe Actually* will kick off with a public live radio broadcast by the young European culture radio station *WDR Cosmo* from Cologne. From 25th until 29th March, *WDR COSMO* will set up shop at the Goethe-Institut London. The audience is invited to attend their live sessions and discussions with artists from the UK and continental Europe and listen to the finest of our common pop culture.

On 26th March, “The European Project”, a series of fictional monologues commissioned by *The Guardian* and Headlong Theatre, will be part of the discussion with playwright Marius von Mayenburg, director Amy Hodge and a French writer (tbc). Following up the “Brexit Shorts Series” (2017) co-produced by *The Guardian* and Headlong Theatre, the project gives insight into how the economic and political affect the individual.

Three days later, the Goethe-Institut London invites everyone to the get-together “Above the Starry Canopy” which celebrates our European common identity. The evening of 29th March will be filled with music, dance and European spirit. The Goethe-Institut London is also delighted to announce the official opening of Stein’s Berlin on that evening, which is located on the ground floor of its building.

Other highlights include a public conversation and a theatre performance that give visitors a chance to explore Brexit from different perspectives. For the



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CONTACT

Franca Forth
Press and Public Relations
Goethe-Institut London

T: +44 20 7596 4042
E: franca.forth@goethe.de
goethe.de/uk

 [goethe.institut.london](https://www.facebook.com/goethe.institut.london)
 [@GI_London1](https://twitter.com/GI_London1)
 [goetheinstitut_london](https://www.instagram.com/goetheinstitut_london)

#EuropeActually
#SharedEurope



conversation “Recalculating the Route” on 30th March, experts from science, arts and civil society and the public will discuss thought-provoking ideas and connections between Brexit and fields such as psychology, feminism and ecology. Meanwhile, the uplifting theatre performance “Folding Europe: A Towel Art Convention” (30th – 31st March) shows how towel folding is not only nerve-calming, but also good for coping with feelings of loss such as an unhappy love affair – or Brexit. Artist duo Quast & Knoblich, performing as towel artists Hen & Mai, will provide the audience with techniques to fold their misery away.

EVENT SCHEDULE

For more detailed information, please visit our [website](#).

14 March	<u>GERMAN IDEALISM, RECOGNITION & IDENTITY POLITICS</u> Philosophy lecture and Q&A by James Clarke and Charlotte Baumann, University of York
25 to 29 March	<u>WDR COSMO ON BOARD</u> Public live radio broadcast, Goethe-Institut London
25 to 30 March	<u>AN ASPECT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION: WHY LEARN GERMAN?</u> Exhibition of why our students (think you should) learn German, Goethe-Institut London
Starting 25 March	<u>EURO(RE)VISION</u> Moving image and installation artwork by Libby Heaney, imagining Merkel and May taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest, Goethe-Institut London
26 March	<u>DRAMAS FROM A DIVIDED EUROPE</u> Triangular Talk with Amy Hodge, Marius von Mayenburg and a French writer (tbc), Goethe-Institut London
27 March	<u>GERMAN DEBATING COMPETITION – FINAL</u> British Council London
27 March	<u>DASH CAFÉ: ON THE BORDER</u> Discussion & music exploring Europe’s borders through the prism of art, film, literature and economics, Rich Mix London
29 March	<u>ABOVE THE STARRY CANOPY</u> Get-together, Goethe-Institut London
29 March	<u>THE STATE BETWEEN US</u> Concert by Matthew Herbert and the Great Britain and Gibraltar European Union Membership Referendum Big Band, Royal Court Theatre London
30 March	<u>RECALCULATING THE ROUTE</u> Public Conversation, Goethe-Institut London
30 to 31 March	<u>FOLDING EUROPE</u> Site-specific performance by Quast & Knoblich, Lancaster Gate Hotel London
4 to 17 April	<u>EUROPEAN POETRY FESTIVAL</u> Different venues in the UK

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