

PRESS RELEASE



Goethe-Institut Indonesien Commemorates the 100th Anniversary of Franz Kafka's Death with a Diverse Programme of Events

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Franz Kafka, one of the most significant German-language authors. Goethe-Institut is commemorating the anniversary by organising a diverse range of events in 36 countries. In Indonesia, the events start in January and continue until May, featuring a poster exhibition, a virtual reality installation, and a theatre performance.

With the story *Die Verwandlung (The Metamorphosis)* and novel fragments such as *Der Prozess (The Trial)* and *Das Schloss (The Castle)*, Kafka, who passed away on 3 June 1924 at the age of just 40 years old, has long since inscribed himself into the canon of world literature.

"Franz Kafka's social critiques, his literary works and the images of fundamental human experiences remain as pertinent as ever, they resonate across cultures and generations even a century after his death. The adjective 'kafkaesque' has made it into many languages, pointing at frightening and confusing experiences with overbearing bureaucracies. On the occasion of the anniversary, Goethe-Institut Indonesien will take the opportunity to reflect on his work through a variety of formats," says Dr Stefan Dreyer, Regional Director of Goethe-Institut for Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

In Jakarta, the following events are scheduled:

Komplett Kafka Exhibition

The Komplett Kafka exhibition showcases 18 passages in German from Austrian comic artist and illustrator Nicolas Mahler's book entitled *Komplett Kafka (Completely Kafka)*, which includes a variety of illustrations. Despite Kafka's reputation as a melancholic writer, his works never lacked elements of humour and comedy. This inspired Mahler to portray Kafka's life journey in his sublime graphic biography of Kafka. This exhibition takes place at the Goethe-Institut Jakarta Library from 1 January to 31 March 2024 during the library's opening hours: Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

VRWandlung: Kafka in Virtual Reality

VRWandlung combines classic literature with modern technology, transforming one of the 20th century's most influential novels into a 5-minute virtual reality (VR) experience. The VR adaptation of Kafka's *The Metamorphosis* gives people the chance to discover the life of Gregor Samsa, the protagonist of the story. VRWandlung starts directly at the point of the narrative when Samsa wakes up and sees himself turned into a giant insect. This installation can be experienced at the Library of the Goethe-Institut Jakarta from 24 February to 23 March 2024 during the library's opening hours: Monday-Friday from 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Laporan kepada Akademi

Based on Kafka's story *Ein Bericht für eine Akademie (A Report to an Academy)*, director and playwright Ibed S. Yuga and the Kalanari Theatre Movement will perform a play entitled *Laporan kepada Akademi*". This project of Goethe-Institut Indonesien and Kalanari Theatre Movement premiered in Yogyakarta last December and will soon be performed in Jakarta on 1 and 2 May at Komunitas Salihara. Exploring themes of captivity and adaptation,

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Laporan kepada Akademi is a piece that emanates from Kafka's fascination with the boundaries of human and its animalistic side while exploring the absurdity and questions of the existence and the civils.

In addition, the Goethe-Institut's online cultural magazine *Zeitgeister* is publishing articles that invite readers to step into Kafka's world. Ten articles from *Zeitgeister* are available in Indonesian, including one by Kafka biographer Reiner Stach, shedding light on Kafka's life and work from different perspectives. Among other things, the articles look at Kafka's life as a great swimmer and cinema enthusiast, as well as the recent resurgence of interest in him on social media. The articles can be accessed through www.goethe.de/indonesia/kafka.

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About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany's cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programmes support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

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