



PRESS RELEASE

Top Secret: An Interactive Film Experience

Co-Presented by John Feffer (Capital Fringe Festival Playwright)

February 9 - March 17, 2015

**Goethe-Institut Washington
812 7th St. NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Download images from Dropbox [here](#).

www.goethe.de/washington

(Washington, DC, February 2, 2015) - Is Big Brother watching you, or are you watching Big Brother? The Goethe-Institut and John Feffer (DC-based playwright whose works have premiered at the Capital Fringe Festival) present spy films from both sides of the former Iron Curtain via five interactive experiences that connect that vanished world to our current reality. Screenings take place at the Goethe-Institut February 9 - March 17. Each screening is followed by an interactive component that provides the audience with a chance to respond to an issue related to the film and which is still timely today.

The Cold War was a golden age of spy versus spy. Today, we live with hackers and homeland securities, satellite surveillance and cyberwar, whistleblowers and WikiLeaks. The technology has become more sophisticated and the geopolitics are different. What has changed in the world of spycraft, and in the relationship between privacy and security?



The Spy Who Came in from the Cold © Criterion

Participants may come in disguise - hats, glasses, etc. are welcomed. Mystery cocktails will be offered during each screening.

John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy in Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies. In 2012-13, he was an Open Society Fellow looking at the transformations that have taken place in Eastern Europe since 1989. He is the author of several books and numerous articles on culture and policy.

Monday, February 9, 6:30 pm

For Eyes Only (Streng geheim)

East Germany, 1963, 103 min., Director: János Veiczi

A double agent tries to steal secret military plans from the headquarters of the American Military Intelligence Division in West Germany while his boss desperately tries to find the mole in his agency. This film is considered the most famous and successful spy

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thriller ever made in the GDR. It was wildly successful in Eastern Bloc countries, where many critics praised it and contended the plot was true.

János Veiczi (b. 1924, Budapest, d. 1987, East Berlin) received the 1964 National Prize of East Germany for *For Eyes Only*. He wrote and directed other films, including *Die gefrorenen Blitze* (1967) and *Anflug Alpha I* (1971).

Tuesday, February 17, 6:30 pm

Haber's Photo Shop (Fotó Háber)

Hungary, 1963, 108 min., Hungarian with English subtitles, Director: Zoltán Várkonyi

A secret service man infiltrates a gang to uncover their operation. Behind the front of a photo shop, the group retrieves top-secret information on atomic weapons for a foreign client. As he gets closer to exposing the ring, the undercover agent finds much more than he had expected.

Zoltán Varkon (1912-1979, Budapest), a popular film director and actor between the 1930s and 1970s, created in *Fotó Háber* a spy film that in terms of its dramaturgy and form owes much to the crime film genre. With comparatively few starkly distinctive ideological references and a virtually universal understanding of genre, this beautifully-shot film playfully serves its public – on either side of the Iron Curtain.

Monday, March 2, 6:30 pm

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold

Great Britain, 1965, 112 min., Director: Martin Ritt

A British agent is sent to East Germany in order to sow disinformation about a powerful East German intelligence officer. He allows himself to be recruited by the communists, but soon his charade unravels and he admits to being a British agent—a revelation that achieves the ultimate objective of the mission. Based on a novel by John Le Carré, who worked for a time in the 1950s as a spy for the British Secret Service.

Martin Ritt (1914-1990) was an American director and actor who worked in both film and theater. His credits include *Long, Hot Summer* (1958), *Paris Blues* (1961) and *Hemingway's Adventures of a Young Man* (1962). His films reflect a profound and intimate humane vision of his characters, exploring moral choices and showing concern for racially and economically oppressed people.

Monday, March 9, 6:30 pm

The 1,000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse (Die 1000 Augen des Dr. Mabuse)

France/Italy/West Germany, 1960, 103 min., Director: Fritz Lang

When reporter Peter Barter is murdered, Commissioner Kras gets a phone call from clairvoyant Cornelius, who saw Barter's death in a vision. The police concentrate their activities on the many links between the Hotel Luxor and the unsolved crime. But could it be that Dr. Mabuse, a criminal genius believed to be dead, is back? This film combines elements of other spy film series, spy fiction and Big Brother surveillance with the nihilism of the Mabuse world.

Fritz Lang (b. 1890, Vienna) began writing screenplays and directing films in Germany after World War I. He left Germany in 1933 and relocated to the United States, where he produced his best-known film, *Fury* (1936). *The 1000 Eyes of Dr. Mabuse* was his last film.

Tuesday, March 17, 6:30 pm

The Prisoner – Episode 1: Arrival

Great Britain, 1967, 50 min., Director: Don Chaffey

The Prisoner is a 17-episode television series which combines spy fiction with elements of science fiction, allegory, and psychological drama. Its 1960s countercultural themes and surreal setting had wide-reaching effects on science fiction and pop culture. In Episode 1, after abruptly resigning from a top-secret position, a man is abducted from his London home and taken to a mysterious place called The Village where he, along with all other residents, is known only by a number, in his case, Number Six.

Don Chaffey (1917 – 1990) was a British film director. He turned out many of the best episodes of such classic series as *Danger Man* (1960), *The Prisoner* (1967) and *The Avengers* (1961). Although he worked in many film genres, his best work is generally acknowledged to be the crackerjack fantasy *Jason and the Argonauts* (1963).

General Admission to Films at the Goethe-Institut: \$ 7/\$ 4 Members of Friends of the Goethe-Institut, seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased right before the screenings, or during office hours Monday-Thursday 10am-5pm and Friday 10am-3pm, or online at www.boxofficetickets.com/goethe. All films are in English or have English subtitles. This film series is made possible with support from Friends of the Goethe-Institut.

Related Event: Games Afternoon

Sunday, February 8, 3 – 6 pm

What Do You Spy?

This afternoon of espionage presents a number of puzzle-oriented and hidden role games, enlivened by several games with a spy/political intrigue theme. Options will include Redacted, Cold War: CIA vs. KGB, Mascarade, and The Resistance. Can you solve the riddles and break the codes? Prizes will be awarded for some of the games. The perfect lead-in to *Top Secret: An Interactive Film Experience!* Disguises are encouraged.

In cooperation with Labyrinth Games and Puzzles.

Tickets \$5 RSVP to www.goetheinstitutwashington.eventbrite.com

About the Goethe-Institut Washington

On behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, cultural institutes around the world provide cultural programs, language courses, support to educators, and up-to-date information on Germany in the context of Europe. Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington, DC is a center for German culture and language in the midst of the revitalized Downtown. Visit www.goethe.de/washington for more information.

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