

Press release

Monday, 29 April 2013

Strangers at home – at home among strangers

We often only know what home is when we have left it. Many poets and writers leave their homes behind them and become nomads, either compelled by external necessity or driven by the yearning for distant places. On 8th June the poesiefestival berlin will begin its 'Home-Exit/Home' series in the Academy of Arts, with renowned poets reading from their texts over five evenings and talking to poet Nikola Madzirov about leaving, exile and return and the relationship between home and language. Simultaneous interpreting will be available for the series into English and German.

The series of events will be opened by Breyten Breytenbach (South Africa) and Adam Zagajewski (Poland). Breytenbach was prohibited from re-entering his country. He had married his wife of Vietnamese origin in Paris, in violation of the Apartheid regime's racial laws. Zagajewski emigrated from Communist Poland, where he was subjected to political repression and was not allowed to publish. He, too, found a home in exile in Paris.

In the pairing of Durs Grünbein and Michael Krüger, two poets meet who experienced the division of Germany from opposite sides of the Berlin Wall. Krüger came to the bombed-out West Berlin as a six-year-old, while Grünbein moved from his native Dresden to East Berlin in 1986.

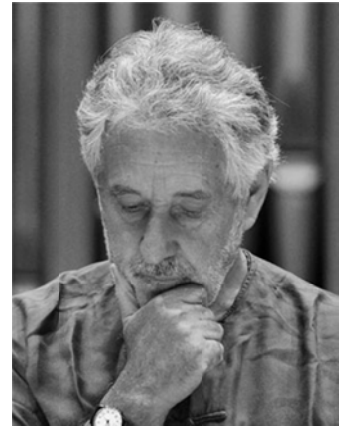
Poet Ilya Kaminsky was born in the Ukraine and emigrated to the USA where his family was granted asylum even after the opening of the Iron Curtain. He is paired with Tomaž Šalamun who is a good thirty years older and spent several years in the USA during the Soviet era. He now lives back in Slovenia.

Poet Iman Mersal left her home country of Egypt in 1998 to live first in the USA and then later in Canada. She will be talking to poet Lulieta Lleshanaku, who was not only forbidden to leave her country during the Hoxha dictatorship, but was also kept under house arrest with her family.

The series closes with two poets who both emigrated to the USA. Ishion Hutchinson's Jamaican home constantly shines through his poetry, while Valzhyna Mort's poems follow the stations in her life from Belarus to the USA. The two poets met in their new home and are now married to each other.

The 14th poesiefestival berlin is taking place from 7-15 June 2013 in the Academy of Arts, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin. For more information please go to www.poesiefestival.org

The poesiefestival berlin is a project by the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin in cooperation with the Academy of Arts with the generous support of the Hauptstadtkulturfonds.



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Sat. 8th June, 8 pm

HOME-EXIT/HOME (1)

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Featuring Breyten Breytenbach (poet, South Africa and France) and Adam Zagajewski (poet, Poland), moderated by Nikola Madzirov (poet, Macedonia)

Mon. 10th June, 6.30 pm

HOME-EXIT/HOME (2)

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Featuring Durs Grünbein (poet, Germany) and Michael Krüger (poet, Germany), moderated by Nikola Madzirov (poet, Macedonia)

Tues. 11th June, 6.30 pm

HOME-EXIT/HOME (3)

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Featuring Ilya Kaminsky (poet, Ukraine and USA) and Tomaž Šalamun (poet, Slovenia), moderated by Nikola Madzirov (poet, Macedonia)

Weds. 12th June, 6.30 pm

HOME-EXIT/HOME (4)

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Featuring Lulieta Lleshanaku (poet, Albania) and Iman Mersal (poet, Egypt and Canada), moderated by Nikola Madzirov (poet, Macedonia)

Thurs. 13th June, 6.30 pm

HOME-EXIT/HOME (5)

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Featuring Ishion Hutchinson (poet, Jamaica and USA), Valzhyna Mort (poet, Belarus and USA) moderated by Nikola Madzirov (poet, Macedonia)

The Literaturwerkstatt Berlin is campaigning for the establishment of a German Centre for Poetry. This Poetry Centre will be a place that provides services and information, as well as being a place of work, a meeting place and a venue for readings and other events, for poets, for the interested public of all ages, producers, publishers, students and teachers, and for media and multipliers from Germany and around the world. For more information please go to www.poesiezentrum.de

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