



KAFKA-Festival

June 3-5, 2014

Opening Ceremony: June 3 at 18:00 Hrs.

Goethe-Institut Thailand (Auditorium)

Programmes will start at 18:00 Hrs. at the Goethe-Institut on all days. Free Admission.

Exhibition, Film Screenings, Lecture, Skit and Scenic Reading– Let's discover and get closer to life and work of FRANZ KAFKA!

On the occasion of the 90th death anniversary of Franz Kafka, the Embassies of the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and the Goethe-Institut Bangkok are delighted to host Thailand's first ever KAFKA-Festival. The three-day-event will present a varied program about the world famous author to encourage visitors and Thai readers to explore his life and work.

"My favorite Kafka quote" – that's what to begin with! On the opening day, the Ambassadors of the four participating countries will share their most favorite quote with the audience. To make Kafka himself and his complex novels more comprehensive to the Thai audience, a 30-minutes-keynote speech **"The Kafka Perception in Thailand"** by Prof. Thanomnuan O'charoen from the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University will follow.

Prof. O'charoen is a renowned Kafka expert and has translated several of his works from the German original into Thai language. Skits and a scenic reading from students of Chulalongkorn University and from Swiss School Bangkok will offer a special approach to Kafka's work. There will also be well-chosen piano music in the air.

Highlight of the next day (June 4, at 18 Hrs.) will be the screening of **"The Castle"** (1997, Austria/ Germany). In this fantastic film adaptation Austrian director Michael Haneke has masterly interpreted the absurd storyline and nightmarish atmosphere of Kafka's novel of the same title. On the third day of the festival (June 5, at 18 Hrs.), two more rare movies are must sees of the event: **"Joseph Kilian"** (1963, Czechoslovakia, directed by Pavel Juráček and Jan Schmidt) perfectly captures the texture of Kafka's novels, representing the alienation of the individual in a confused society under autocratic rule. To revisit Kafka himself this short but striking film will be followed by **"Who was Kafka?"**, directed by Richard Dindo (2006, Switzerland), one of Europe's best known documentary filmmakers. In Dindo's film Kafka's world comes alive in staged scenes based on authentic material.

An informative **exhibition** will introduce all visitors to Kafka's life. The programmes will be accompanied on all days by a reception, offering a great chance to meet and talk with other Kafka admirers.

About Franz Kafka:

Franz Kafka (3 July 1883- 3 June 1924) is one of the most influential German language writers of the 20th century. He was born into a Jewish family in Prague. Most of his works are described as incomprehensible, mysterious, dark and surreal. Yet, they have inspired numerous writers, intellectuals, and artists all over the world. How and why? The answers can be found at the Kafka-Festival!

For more information, please contact:

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