

## **The Program**

### **IMAGES OF THE EAST – RELATIONS DOCKING TOUR 01**

For the "relations" tour "Images of the East" we have curated theme nights which, by combining insider and outsider perspectives, shall convey impressions of everyday life in countries of eastern Europe. Many of the artists and theoreticians we invited to participate live and work in the countries they will speak about, and many of our guests have emigrated abroad, while others commute between two or more countries. But every one of them has their own unique connection to the societies of eastern Europe under discussion. The participation of writers, journalists, and academics from Germany shall enable comparisons and contrasts to be drawn with life here. For all their diversity, each of the theme nights revolves around a single question: what actually shapes our perception of the countries of eastern Europe? Who or what determines the criteria, the focus, and ultimately estimation? And which visions of Europe are actually in circulation at present?

### **The Theme Nights, Matinees, Film Series**

#### **Planet Moldova?**

Hanover, October 6 & Hamburg, 20 October

#### **Remembering, Forgetting, Adjusting: Strategies of Recollection**

Hanover, October 7

#### **Fetish Europe or or What Holds Us Together at Heart**

Hamburg, October 21

#### **Building Project Europe –Tigers Have to Stay Outside**

Frankfurt, November 2–3

#### **Representations of the "Foreign" in the German Public Domain**

Hanover, October 8

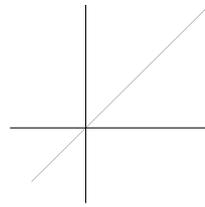
#### **Strategies of Survival**

Hamburg, October 22 & Frankfurt, November 4

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## Planet Moldova?

Hanover, October 6 & Hamburg, October 20

Our neighboring planets are unknown and inhabitable – or perhaps not? Even if the Republic of Moldova lies on the edge of Europe, here questions about social conditions are raised with a vividness and radicalness, which also make international problems transparent. With "Planet Moldova," the artist Pavel Brăila and friends invite us to learn about a society that has undergone rapid and extensive change since 1989 and, consequently, tell us a great deal about Europe's current state. We will launch the "Planet Moldova" theme (and our tour) in Hanover with **Pavel Brăila's video work "Baron's Hill."** In 2003, the artist filmed bizarre pompous mansions in the south of Moldova. Purely representative buildings, they remain uninhabited: the Romany families who own them live mostly in nearby small houses, although they have saved the money for these lavish mansions for decades.

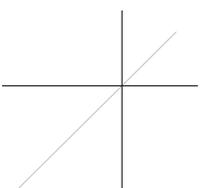
In his work "**Eurolines-Catering or Homesick Cuisine,**" Brăila takes a look at another aspect of the Republic of Moldova: the title of the work is inspired by the bus company "Eurolines Moldova," which connects Chişinău with cities in and outside Europe and is the guarantee for a functioning worker migration across the whole continent. The theme night will end with a mixture of computer-generated music and VJ-ing by the **artist collective "Planet Moldova."**

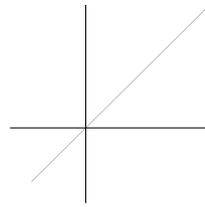
A "Planet Moldova" night will also be staged in Hamburg. Here we will begin with a reading of texts from the "relations" book "Leap into the City." Two of these texts are by the young Moldovan authors **Nicoleta Esinencu and Alexandru Vakulovski.** Their snarling texts attack the habits and prejudices of their compatriots and tell of social disturbance and destruction. These readings of literary texts will then be complemented by a more sober reading. **Irm Hermann** tackles the facts of the country's past and present. Finally, **Pavel Brăila's performance "Reflections in White"** will join into the reading, providing what appears to be a response. A dancer nosily tears lengths of paper into tatters: tabula rasa instead of data. After a break, music will take the stage. The **performance "Musicbox"** provides the back-drop and concept: in front of a cardboard model of a pop band and synced to pop samples, Pavel Brăila boxes his way through a universe of copies, until **the band "Zdob și Zdub"** sweeps him from the stage. The Moldovan superstars are adept at enthralling both the fans of wild, genre-mixed music as well as the lovers of Prix d' Eurovision (most recently with their hit "Grand-ma Beats the Drum"). A side that undoes any superficial categorization is revealed in Moldova once again.

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## Remembering, Forgetting, Adjusting: Strategies of Recollection

Hanover, October 7

How does one deal with a near and painful past? This question is massively important in those countries which, in the wake of the Yugoslav wars, have formed themselves anew and, indeed, are still in the process of doing so. It is, however, also generally significant for societies which, through the collapse of state-socialism, have become caught up in fast-paced transformation processes. We ask: how and what can be remembered, what is not remembered, and which questions are not even broached?

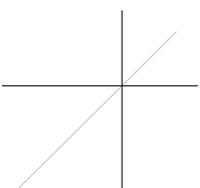
**The Sofia theater director Javor Gardev** will open the Hanover night with a presentation of his work "Visual Police," with which he recently stirred up the public in Bulgaria. As the **"major of good taste,"** Gardev was a guest of talk shows and serious news programs and performed his role so convincingly that his authenticity was never questioned. His uniform (put together by Gardev himself), rank insignia (self-awarded), and his authoritarian gestures achieved the desired impact. A military guardian of good taste who, commissioned by the city authorities, takes care of aesthetic order. Though the major may have irritated the Bulgarian public, all the same it seemed a perfectly realistic proposition to the public.

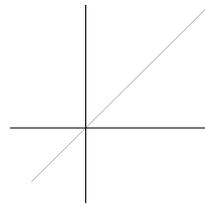
A different form of "mis-" dominating everyday life is the focus of the new **film "Grbavica"** (Esma's Secret) **by the Bosnian director Jasmila Žbanić** for which she won the Golden Bear at this year's Berlin Film Festival. The film recalls the mass rape of Bosnian women during the war in the former Yugoslavia and reveals, with distressing clarity, how these traumatic experiences have no place in the new routine of life in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The author and journalist **Carolin Emcke will speak with Jasmila Žbanić.** As a foreign correspondent for "Der Spiegel," Emcke has reported from numerous crisis and war regions. Time and again, most recently in her publication "Von den Kriegen: Briefe an Freunde," she asks what constitutes a convincing act of bearing witness. Parallel to this dialogue, the film "Grbavica" will be shown in the Kommunales Kino (KoKi). We will also present the omnibus film "Lost and Found," to which Jasmila Žbanić contributed an episode.

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## **Fetish Europe or What Holds Us Together at Heart**

Hamburg, October 21

Despite the euphoric or deprecating discussions about Europe, despite the organizations and institutions responsible for shaping official politics, Europe appears to remain a notion difficult to grasp, or a surrogate. But what holds Europe together, beyond the bureaucracy? The theme night in the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg will begin with **Luchezar Boyadjiev** and his narrated **visual presentation "Billboard Heaven – Sofia and the Images of the West."** The artist will present images from his archive on Sofia, which not only document the changes made to the city's visual surfaces, but also exaggerate them through manipulative interventions. Boyadjiev's artistic works reveal a city in which – under the partly self-imposed diktat to rapidly assimilate into the capitalist West – anything is possible.

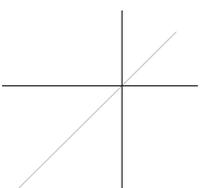
A **discussion round** under the motto: **"and then at once you're the West!"** will pick up what Luchezar Boyadjiev presents with artistic means: the entwinement between radical social change and the inflationary staging of surrogates. The author and journalist **Mathias Greffrath**, who will moderate proceedings, will be joined by **Javor Gardev**, who will present excerpts from his work "Visual Police," along with the Bulgarian cultural theorist **Ivaylo Ditchev**, and the Ukrainian art historian **Konstantin Akinsha**. Both Ditchev, who commutes between Sofia and Paris, and Akinsha, who today lives in Budapest, have accompanied the transformation processes in eastern European countries over a number of years in their essayistic texts.

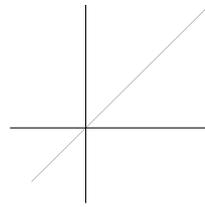
The final word on the theme of Europe belongs to the young editors of "Titanic" and their **reading performance "titanic goes east europe – east europe goes titanic."** Even "Titanic" magazine, an institution amongst satirists in Germany, has an opinion on Europe – well, at least that's what they claim.

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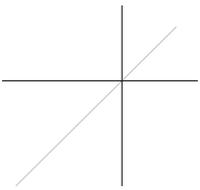


## **Building Project Europe –Tigers Have to Stay Outside**

Frankfurt, November 2–3

The first “Europe night” in the schauspielFrankfurt stands behind the motto “No one will be able to stop them!” Pavel Brăila and Mathias Greffrath have been put in charge of proceedings, of putting a stop to the tigers and lions. Springing out of Pavel **Brăila’s videowork “PLUSH WONDER,”** the animals take aim at the European Central Bank, situated opposite the theater. The artist has collected soft toys from a tiny place on the rail line between Chişinău and Moscow: once the home to the large Soviet plush toy factories, today the mass production of the cuddly animals is a cottage industry. The toys are sold to passengers passing through on the train, and this regularly transforms the trains into crammed plush toy transports. **Mathias Greffrath** will respond to this change in working conditions with a **reading on the theme of labor migration.** But in this case, too, the artist and Moldovan Pavel Brăila will have the final word: for the finale and longest part of our theme night, **“M & M”** (Moldova and Mexico), he will bring along 10 musicians from Chişinău, specialists in wedding music. Their folkloristic music will face up to the artists and musicians of **“Nuevos Ricos”** from Mexico City. Two countries on the edge of Europe – or simply mere “third world” countries? Well, not exactly, rather an ironic proposal for inclusion and exclusion procedures, formulated – sorry, played – from the margins.

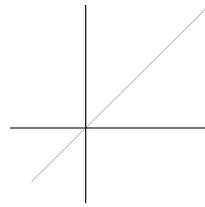
The second theme night in Frankfurt will focus on plans and facts. Under the title “Building Project Europe –Tigers Have to Stay Outside,” a **discussion** will be held, featuring **Gerald Knaus**, a proven expert for the south-eastern region of Europe and the political scientist **Elmar Altvater**, who, as president of the German branch of Attac, has sharply criticized the planned European constitution.



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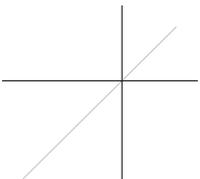


## Representations of the “Foreign” in the German Public Domain

Hanover, October 8

The countries of eastern Europe rarely play a role in the public domain in Germany, and our knowledge about them is accordingly limited. Which misjudgments shape the image we have of countries in eastern Europe? What are the general premises determining how the “foreign” is represented and imagined in the public domain?

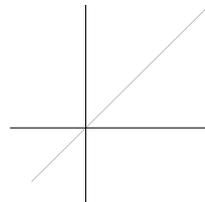
The matinee in the schauspielhannover will begin with a **reading by Tilman Rammstedt**. In 2005, the author was in Kosovo and has described, his unique laconic style, how it feels to move around as a “professional tourist” in a country about which one knows hardly anything – except that a war was fought there. What emerges here are observations about Kosovo and, furthermore, an observation of these observations – a narrative about the practices of empathy, detachment, and retranslation. After the reading, **Stephan Lohr from NDR** will discuss these and other issues with Tilman Rammstedt. This will be followed by a **discussion between the Croatian cultural theorist Boris Buden and the philosopher and sociologist Oskar Negt**. Expressed in an immensely powerful language that conveys his acumen, wit, and commitment, for years Boris Buden has described and analyzed the collapse of the former Yugoslavia and the subsequent development of the individual countries. One captivating feature of his texts is how they are not simply content with cultural explanations but seek out the political conditions triggering conflicts and developments. This long-time, watchful observer of the situation in the former Yugoslavia, who today lives in Berlin, will be joined by Oskar Negt, one of most respected thinkers of the relationship between society and the public sphere in Germany.



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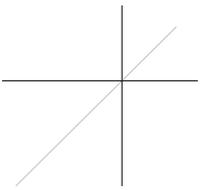
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## Strategies of Survival

Hamburg, October 22 & Frankfurt, November 4

In the Abaton cinema in Hamburg and the German Film Museum in Frankfurt we shall present outstanding and award-winning films from the Sarajevo Film Festival in the presence of the directors as well as the **producer Amra Bakšić-Čamo**. Feature films by the **Hungarian director Kornél Mundruczó and the Romanian Cristi Puiu** will be screened in Hamburg. Mundruczó's "Johanna"(2005, 83 min) is a curious mixed genre work, fusing a Joan of Arc drama with horror, in which all dialogues are sung. After an accident Johanna, a drug-addict, has her life saved in a hospital. Using her own body, she herself turns into a miracle worker. Puiu's "Moartea domnului Lazarescu" (Death of Mr Lazarescu 2005, 150 min) uses a documentary style to tell the story of the 63-year old Mr. Lazarescu's search for a hospital, during which his condition continually worsens. In this odyssey through the Romanian health system, Puiu delivers intimate insights into disintegrating family structures and other social networks, describing the resultant isolation of the individual. The focus in Frankfurt is on contemporary film in Kosovo, where last year the first feature films since the war were produced.



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