

DISCUSSION CLUB

02.20 THURSDAY

16.00 – The classics' new clothes?

Classical literature has always been the flesh and blood of Lithuanian theatre, from Shakespeare to Chekhov, and through Scandinavia back to London. Today, quite unexpectedly, Lithuanian classics are being discovered too, such as Donelaitis, Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas, and Kazys Binkis (of course, Chekhov and Ibsen aren't being thrown to the wayside). How are we staging the classics today? If classic authors are always relevant, it is necessary to make them even more relevant? Do we need to change their clothes, strip off some parts of its body or be treated differently? And how much is stage art able to find a new perspective on the classics?

Participants: Elona Bajorinienė, Dainius Gavenonis, Jonas Vaitkus. Chaired by Vaidas Jauniškis. Duration 2h (In Lithuanian)

02.21. FRIDAY

14.00 – How is classical literature read in school?

Recently Facebook celebrated its 10th anniversary, and all those years we have witnessed a growing trend among younger and older generations of blindly involving themselves in social networks. The time spent in internet, watching films, in front of TV screen is getting inexorably longer. Is there any time left for reading? Is there time for reading the classics or serious, complex texts, for reading as such? If not, then why? Has the book lost its battle with social networks, has writing been defeated by audiovisual media, and paper with the surface of screens? What future is there for reading and writing?

Participants: schoolchildren and students, Darius Kuolys, Mindaugas Kvietkauskas. Chaired by Nerijus Čepulis. Duration 2h (In Lithuanian)

18.00 – Emigration and new possibilities: a positive view

What does migration mean in the dynamic world of innovation, knowledge and technologies? How does it affect the development of culture, art, the writer, and the artist? How does that dynamic world help in changing personal identities and what kind of culture and communication do those new identities need? Is the Lithuanian embassy in London a new Lithuanian municipality? How are the functions of embassies and consulates changing in an expanding emigration? Who is that new, dynamic citizen and what problems, conflicts does he or she face in dealing with the laws of Lithuania? What kind of civic development or cultural self-expression is opened up by a dynamic presence in the world? Are we learning the new forms of protests and freedom, are we diving deep into the refreshing energies of other nations? Are we inspired by ways of communication and a different spirit?

Participants: Dalia Staponkutė, Rita Valiukonytė, Paulina Pukytė, Lauras Bielinis. Chaired by Gintautas Mažeikis. Duration 2 h (in Lithuanian)

02.22. SATURDAY

16.00 – The end of the unification of Europe?

How could we assess the first ten years since the „big bang“ enlargement of the EU in 2004? Where has the initial euphoria linked to the „unification of Europe“ disappeared? What debates about migrant workers in Great Britain, Netherlands and Germany tell us about the effects of European integration? Is population in many EU countries becoming increasingly euro sceptical? Are people in the streets of Kiev more supportive of the EU than people in many capitals of the EU member states? Did euro zone crisis expose the fact that people still think in national terms, especially when it comes to the redistribution of financial resources in the euro zone? Could calls for further deepening of integration among the euro zone members lead to popular revolt against further integration? Are we likely to see this in the election to the European parliament this May? Has the process of European integration reached its limits? Is fragmentation and disintegration going to become a dominant feature of Europe in the future?

Participants: Karl Schlögel, Alain Blum, Rein Raud. Chaired by Ramūnas Vilpišauskas (in English)
Duration 2h