



LIVING IN TRUTH

AGENDA

MONDAY | 27 NOVEMBER 2017 | 18.00 – 21.00 hrs | SOFIA |
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, "ACADEMIA" GALLERY

17:30-18:00 REGISTRATION

18:00 - 18:15 OPENING

Part I: Presentation of the book by the publisher, the translator, and the designer of the cover

18.15 – 18.30

Victor Lilov ("Black Flamingo" publishing house) – a specialist in Arab studies, professionally engaged in the cultural industries in his capacity of a publisher and a music producer. The "Black Flamingo Publishing" establishment (Lilov is its co-founder, along with Yordan Yordanov) was founded with the intention of turning into the voice of certain communities and topics lying outside of the center of civil attention, outside of the mainstream and the spotlights. He became known for his liberal political views, and due to the fact that in 2015 he became the first politician openly talking about his homosexuality, who applied for an elective office in Bulgaria, namely – a candidate mayor of Sofia. In 2015, due to his courage to confront the stigma and the social prejudice as a civil activist and a politician, he was one of the two nominees for the "Man of the Year" prize.

18:30 – 18:45

Martin Mladenov (translator of the book) – He has been living in Prague since 1989. He graduated from VŠCHT Praha (Institute of Chemical Technologies), Engineering Faculty, Statistic Methods in Quality Control specialty. In the period 1996-2003 he was an editor-in-chief, a photographer, and an illustrator of "Hlava" magazine. He has been managing the "Paralax" association, Czech Republic (a culture and art circle) since 2003. He is currently working for "METROPROJEKT Praha" JSC (a director for Bulgaria). He is an active citizen who has been contributing to RVS-BENE (Association of the Former Members of the Council of the Higher Educational Institutions) and Sofia Discussion Forum since its establishment in 2014. He translated Václav Havel's plays "Leaving", 2009 (the play was staged at the "Sava Ognyanov" theater in Ruse, Bulgaria, directed by Pavel Penev); "Protest", 2010 (published in "Literature Vestnik" /a newspaper/); "Mistake", 2011. In 2013 he issued a book of his own – "PVC" ("Agata-A" publishing house). He organizes festivals, concerts, and balls in the Czech Republic.

18:45 – 19:00

Kalina Serteva (graphic designer) – She graduated from the National Academy of Arts, where she majored in “Poster”. She is a member of the Union of the Bulgarian Artists in the “Graphic Design” section. She has worked in the field of poster making, graphic design, and advertising. She took part in multiple Bulgarian and international exhibitions and contests in France, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Japan, Canada, etc. Some of her posters have been granted a number of Bulgarian and international awards.

Part II: Open discussion with the special guests and the audience in the hall

19:00 - 20:15

Moderator:

Peter Stoynov – an engineering geologist. He participates in the teams of multiple engineering infrastructural projects of public significance in Bulgaria. He is dedicated to various civic initiatives. He is a keen advocate of the radical legal decommunization as a just way of dealing with the problems of totalitarianism and its heritage. A consultant of the “Sofiiska Sveta Gora” documentary, and a co-organizer of music fests with international participation. He supported the establishment of the “Cultural Heritage, Architecture, and Memory” society and the “Justice for Everyone” initiative. Co-founder of Sofia Discussion Forum.

Special guests:

Tomáš Schilla – a musician from the Czech rock band “*The Plastic People of the Universe*”. The band was established in 1968, and, even though it was newly formed, it quickly became quite popular. The records of the band were banned, the musicians were persecuted by the authorities, and were sentenced to various periods of imprisonment due to their non-conformism and the dissident poetry by banned authors used in the lyrics accompanying the band’s music. It was exactly those circumstances in the beginning of 1976, which led to the consolidation of the opponents of the communist authority. During the regime, Tomáš Schilla took part in the resistance against communism. In the period 1981 - 17 November 1989 he was engaged in active, long-lasting, and consistent anti-communist activity involving dissemination of publications and work within the framework of the “Civil Freedom Movement”.

Subject: *"Václav Havel and the Culture of the Underground"*

Maria Spirova – an editor at a London-based juridical publishing house, a bilingual journalist with international awards for analytical journalism, who has published in “The Economist”, “Al Jazeera”, and “Euronews”, a translator, a copywriter, and a holder of a master’s degree in criminology at Oxford University. A correspondent in Great Britain working for a number of Bulgarian print and electronic media, a political commentator, a feminist, and an activist for observing the constitutional rights of the Bulgarians abroad. In 2014 she received the Reporting Europe Prize from the British Academy of Science for her 2013 reportages covering the protests in Bulgaria.

Subject: *"How Generations Should Maintain Their Antitotalitarian Immune System to Not Forget Havel’s Experience"*

Prof. Evelina Kelbecheva majored in history with an “Archeology” profile. Her second specialty is French philology at “St. Kliment Ohridski” Sofia University. She is a “Fulbright” scholarship holder in the USA, and a visiting lecturer at the University of California, Irvine, CA. Her research work is in the field of modern European history and cultural history. She used to teach at the National School for Ancient Languages and Cultures in Sofia, she was a lecturer at “St. Kliment Ohridski” Sofia University, and a research associate at the Bulgarian Academy of Science. She has been giving lectures at the American University in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria since 1998. She has initiated the petition for an adequate studying of communism in the Bulgarian schools.

Subject: *"Once Again about History, Truth, and Memory"*

20:15 - 20:30 – Conclusion of the event

20:30 - 21:00 – A glass of wine or beer. We will talk about Havel!



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