Celebrating Kotzebue on the occasion of his 260th Anniversary

On the 3rd May 1761 August von Kotzebue was born in the so called “Gelbes Schloss” (Yellow Castle) in Weimar. He was the third child of Anna Christine Katharina Krüger (nee Krüger), who, after the early death of her husband Levin Carl Christian Krüger, became the long-lived matriarch of the ‘Kotzebue clan’ maintaining her base in Weimar.

At the turn of the 19th Century, he rose to become a world-renowned writer and a controversial public figure. At the peak of his fame, in 1821, Kotzebue was expelled from the Russian Empire in 1781.

His work and a life of contradictions, Kotzebue is a multifaceted figure of World Literature, the abolitionist & serf owner, diplomat & civil servant, travel writer & historian, editor & journalist, novelist & songwriter, womanizer & family man, and the intellectual refreshment, virtually reinvigorating this fashionable form of sociability and the flourishing global Kotzebue community.

On the occasion of August von Kotzebue’s 260th Anniversary on the 3rd of May 2021, a festive event will take place online on the 3rd of May 2021 starting at 17h CET (Berlin, Paris; 18h St. Petersburg; 18h Tallinn; 16h London; 11 am New York).

On the 3rd May 2021, online

During this year’s partial closure and social distancing, the yearly event of the Weimar Kotzebue-Picnic takes on a new form and brings it to everyone’s home and to everyone who has a connection to the internet.

A large number of participants has registered in order to celebrate his birthday and to catch up with the flourishing global Kotzebue community.

This year’s event will be broadcast online and in any other languages. Just get in touch with the Picnic’s host. Considering the nature of Kotzebue’s work & the academic research done on him, German and English will be probably the most agreeable languages to be used during the Picnic. Nevertheless the event is open to contributions presented in any other languages or media.

Written contributions of up to 600 words will be published online on the event’s website. It would be delightful to have pre-recorded contributions of up to 15 minutes. The video ‘picnic pieces’ will be presented online on YouTube, the audio podcasts on the SoundCloud.

It is your choice. Bears in mind the spirit of sociability, why not present a short talk shedding new light on some aspects of Kotzebue’s life or writings. Or contribute to the picnic conversation by revealing why you are obsessed with Kotzebue, or what you are planning to write or perform next.

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There will be two modes in which you can share your picnic dishes with everyone:

- Live: register for the free ticket and join the conversation on Zoom.
- Pre-record: submit your contribution via email to:

    picnic@kotzebue-international.org

Please click here: to see a preliminary guest list
to book a free ticket for the event
to download the call for contributions

Website: kotzebue-international.org

Email: info@kotzebue-international.org

Overview & Dance
20 April 2021:
Pique’s 24th Edition
Dance in Silence & Eavesdropping
Register for tickets ➞
3 May 2021, 17 CET
Opening Event ➞
Register for tickets ➞
5 May 2021, 17 CET
"Kotzebue’s Thränen"
"Kotzebue’s Thränen"
Register for tickets ➞
2 May 2021, 2nd CET
Registration Deadline ➞
Don’t hesitate to contact us for any inquiries.