

## Rennes 2 University Pays Tribute to Milan Kundera



In 1975, Milan and Vera Kundera left Czechoslovakia for France and settled in Rennes. While teaching cinema at Rennes 2 University, Milan Kundera used his exile to deepen his reflections on aesthetics, Europe, and the relationships between literature, existence, politics, and history.

A year after the author's passing, in partnership with the University of Rennes, Masaryk University, and many local collaborators, Rennes 2 honors this major figure of contemporary literature, European thought, exile, and the theme of love. A variety of events will take place at the Villejean campus, encompassing literary research, cinema, and visual arts through talks, conferences, a study day, an exhibition, a musical performance, and a film screening. The official naming of an amphitheater after Milan Kundera will commemorate this shared European history at Rennes 2.

**All events are free and open to all, except for the Ciné-Tambour screening (membership fee of €5 at the venue).**

### Wednesday, November 20

#### 5:00 PM - 5:45 PM

**Visit to the exhibition** of Kundera's graphic works (25 drawings) "*Nous avons tous besoin que quelqu'un nous regarde*" (*We All Need Someone to Watch Us*) and audiovisual archives at *La Chambre claire*.

Exhibition open until December 13.

Participants:

- Laurence Fontaine, Vice President of Culture, University of Rennes
- Baptiste Brun, Vice President of Culture, Rennes 2 University
- Tomáš Kubíček, Director, Moravian Regional Library
- Sarah Dessaint, Cultural Service Head, Rennes 2 University

#### 6:15 PM - 8:00 PM

**Ciné-Tambour:** Screening of Kundera's interview in *Pleine Page* (1976, 1'30") followed by *The Joke* (*La Plaisanterie*, 1968, 60'20") at *Le Tambour*.

Introduction and moderation: Ciné-Tambour students

Membership fee: €5

### Thursday, November 21

**All-day access:** Selection of Milan Kundera interviews at the Music Library (Building O).

#### 10:15 AM - 12:15 PM

**Session 1: "An Overview of Kundera"** (Amphi B8)

Speakers:

- Ondřej Sládek (Masaryk University)
- Marcela Poučová (Masaryk University)

Introduction and moderation:

- Edwige Fusaro, VP International Affairs, Rennes 2 University
- Sébastien Le Picard, VP for European and International Strategy, University of Rennes

#### 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM

**Bohemian Rhapsody.** BU Centrale, Agora (1st Floor)

Performers:

- Mattéo Duval (reading)
- Solène Spiers (musical composition, cello)

Coordination:

- Alexandre Rubin, Composer and Teacher, Rennes Conservatory and Rennes 2 Music Department

Introduction:

- Myriam Guillevic, Assistant Director, UFR Languages, Rennes 2 University
- Catherine Pascal, Cultural Activities Manager, Rennes 2 Library

**2:00 PM - 3:45 PM**

**Session 2: "Kundera as a Comparative Literature Scholar"** (Amphi B8)

Speakers:

- Dimitri Garnarczyk (University of Perpignan)
- Barbara Servant (Rennes 2 University)
- Hélène Baty-Delalande (Rennes 2 University)

Moderation: Esther Pinon, Deputy Director, CELLAM, Rennes 2 University

Scientific Introduction: Audrey Giboux, Member of Phi Group, CELLAM, Rennes 2

**3:45 PM - 4:30 PM**

**Roundtable: "Kundera as Professor of Comparative Literature at Rennes 2"** (Amphi B8)

Participants:

- Anna Labeledzka, Former Comparative Literature Teacher at Rennes 2
- Dominique Sineux, Doctoral Student, CELLAM, and Former Student of Kundera
- Georges Guitton, Journalist at *Ouest-France* and Author of *Rennes, from Céline to Kundera*

Moderation: Guillaume Beys-Salvan and Louane Vattier, Master's Students in General and Comparative Literature

**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**

**In Search of Milan Kundera:** Talk with Ariane Chemin, Author and Journalist, *Le Monde*. BU Centrale, Agora (1st Floor)

Moderation: Charline Pluvinet and Barbara Servant (CELLAM, Rennes 2 University)

**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Amphitheater Naming Ceremony and Screening of Viviane Forrester's Film *Milan Kundera* (1976)** (Amphi B3, short INA film, 26').

Participants:

- David Alis, President, University of Rennes
- Vincent Gouëset, President, Rennes 2 University
- Anabel Marie, Municipal Councilor for Europe, Rennes
- Christelle Molina, Director, INA

19 November 2024