

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Queer as German Folk

Celebrating 50 years of transatlantic rainbow friendship: an exploration of LGBTQ+ history in Germany and Washington, DC

May 23 – August 23, 2019

Goethe-Institut Washington

www.goethe.de/washington

Download Dropbox images [here](#).



Goethe-Institut Washington
1990 K St. NW, Suite 03
Washington, DC 20006

Media Contact:
Raleigh Joyner
202-847-4707
Raleigh.Joyner@goethe.de
Elizabeth Schreiber-Byers
202-847-4706
Elizabeth.Schreiber-Byers@goethe.de

(Washington, D.C., May 15, 2019) – On May 23, 2019, join the **Goethe-Institut Washington** and **The DC Center for the LGBT Community** in celebrating the opening evening of *Queer as German Folk*: an innovative punk, activism, and DIY-inspired project that synthesizes local and German narratives on the constant crusade for queer equality and achieving queer civil rights throughout the last half-century.

Here in Washington, the main feature of the *Queer as German Folk* project is a joint exhibition hosted by the Goethe-Institut Washington and The DC Center for the LGBT Community (May 23 – August 23). These two partners, along with the **Schwules Museum Berlin**, have collaborated to develop a unique exploratory gallery experience in the form of a remixed, interactive, hands-on deconstructed archive where visitors can browse at their own pace and according to their own interests.

The installation consists of two major elements: the first being a set of materials developed together with Berlin-based curators **Birgit Bosold** and **Carina Klugbauer** of the Schwules Museum Berlin, and the second being a set of materials selected by up-and-coming local curator **Mary Claire Phillips**, who has meticulously sifted through Washington-based archives and other partner resources to find artifacts that best highlight some of the most special facets of the LGBTQ+ community in Washington. The duality of the installation will display the queer history in both Germany and the Washington, DC area alike, presenting the parallels and divergences in the fights for equality that continue in each place. Contributors to the local component of the exhibit include The DC Center for the LGBT Community, The Rainbow History Project, Whitman-Walker Health, local photographer Elvert Barnes, and the DC Public Library.

www.goethe.de/washington

**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

The DC Center for the LGBT Community at 2000 14th St. NW #105 will host a portion of the exhibit, which will be available for viewing beginning on May 23 M-F from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, with a special guided opening tours through the Center available at 5:00 pm and again at 5:30 pm.

Following the opening at the DC Center, a self-guided tour featuring Washington landmarks of special significance to queer history in the city will lead guests to the Goethe-Institut Washington (1990 K St. NW, Ste. 03, 20th St. entrance) at 6:30 pm. There, the opening reception will have light refreshments and a talk with the local curator, Mary Claire Phillips.

From May 11 to August 23, the multi-partner film series **Kino-Q** will take place at multiple venues across the DC area, including the Goethe-Institut, showcasing films of cultural and historic importance to the LGBTQ+ community and narrative. Films from Germany, Canada, Mexico, and the United States will be screened and paired with expert-led discussions about their significance and relevance today. All films and programming will be presented in English or with English subtitles.

On June 22 at 8:00 pm, the Goethe-Institut will host **Cabaret on K**, a Weimar Germany-inspired cabaret show and party that underscores the intersections between Berlin as a center of queer culture in the 1920s and DC's modern queer nightlife. The evening will feature performances of authentic cabaret music, drag performances, and burlesque performances.

Fifty years ago, in 1969, the Stonewall Uprising in New York City launched the modern queer rights movement in the United States and around the world. In response to violence and discrimination against queer people – among them many people of color, drag queens, trans people, women, and sex workers – this act of resistance highlighted a turning point in the struggle for social justice and equality for queer people across the globe.

Queer as German Folk takes the fiftieth anniversary of Stonewall as an opportunity to outline the current state of discourse on queer emancipation against the backdrop of the past half-century. With a focus on adjusting historical perspectives and questioning the dominance and hegemony of the traditional cis-male narrative, the project – consisting of a dual-location exhibition, a film series, and an event series, all developed alongside local partners in the Washington, DC area – will put a special spotlight on the transatlantic dialogue between Germany and North America throughout history. The Goethe-Instituts Montreal, Toronto, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Mexico City, as well as the Goethe-Center Guadalajara, are all participating with exhibition openings and programming in the summer of 2019. Each city will specifically examine the historical and cultural exchanges between Germany and the local community of that city.

For more information and inquiries, contact Raleigh Joyner at Raleigh.Joyner@goethe.de.

#

ABOUT THE EVENTS:

Queer as German Folk: Celebrating 50 Years of Transatlantic Rainbow Friendship

Thursday, May 23 – Friday, August 23

May 23, 2019, 6:30 pm – August 23, 2019, 3:30 pm
Goethe-Institut Washington
1990 K St NW, Ste. 03
Washington, DC 20006

May 23, 2019, 12:00 pm – August 23, 2019, 5:30 pm
The DC Center for the LGBT Community
2000 14th St NW #105
Washington, DC 20009

- Opening at **The DC Center for the LGBT Community**: May 23, 12:00 – 6:00 pm; special tours at 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm

- **LGBTQ+ History and Culture of DC self-guided tour** from The DC Center to The Goethe-Institut at 5:30 pm

- Opening at **The Goethe-Institut Washington**: May 23, 6:30 pm

On May 23, the Goethe-Institut Washington and The DC Center for the LGBT Community will present an exploratory exhibition in the form of a hands-on deconstructed archive that visitors can browse at their own pace. The installation consists of two major elements: the first being a set of materials developed together with curators **Birgit Bosold** and **Carina Klugbauer** of the Schwules Museum Berlin, and the second being a set of materials selected by local curator **Mary Claire Phillips**, who has gathered artifacts from DC-based archives and other partner resources. Contributors to the local component of the exhibit include The DC Center for the LGBT Community, The Rainbow History Project, Whitman-Walker Health, local photographer Elvert Barnes, and the DC Public Library. The duality of the installation will display the queer history in both Germany and the Washington, DC area alike, presenting the parallels and divergences in the fights for equality that continue in each place.

The DC Center for the LGBT Community at 2000 14th St. NW #105 will host a portion of the exhibit, which will be available for viewing beginning on May 23 from 12:00 pm to 6:00 pm, with a special guided opening tour available at 5:00 pm and again at 5:30 pm.

Following the opening at the DC Center, a self-guided tour curated with assistance from the members of the Rainbow History Project will begin at 5:30 pm and end at the Goethe-Institut Washington (1990 K St. NW, Ste. 03, 20th St. entrance) at 6:30 pm. The opening reception will have light refreshments and a talk with the local curator, Mary Claire Phillips.

Presented as part of the Goethe-Institut's North America-wide project *Queer as German Folk* in partnership with The DC Center for the LGBT Community, The Rainbow History Project, and Whitman-Walker Health.

Price: Free Admission; RSVP required through [Eventbrite](#).

Kino-Q: Films of Cultural and Historical Importance to Queer Communities in North America and Germany

Although *Queer As German Folk* officially celebrates 50 years of transatlantic rainbow friendship – citing the June 1969 Stonewall Inn Uprising as a major turning point in the ongoing movement for worldwide queer rights – the history of queer representation in cinema goes back even further. From 1919 to the present, queer cinema in Germany and North America has evolved drastically, responding to shifts in focuses of queer rights, calls for intersectionality, cultural trends, and global health crises. A film series that pairs screenings of culturally- and historically-significant works of queer cinema from Germany, the United States, Canada, and Mexico with expert-led discussions and panels, *Kino-Q* aims to guide guests through queer representation on the big screen since the inception of the silent film era.

Presented in cooperation with the JxJ Arts Festival, The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Suns Cinema, the Embassy of Canada, the Mexican Cultural Institute, Busboys and Poets, Whitman-Walker Health, Reel Affirmations Film Festival, and The DC Center for the LGBT Community.

For showtimes, dates, and ticket information, visit:

https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/wsh/ver.cfm?event_id=21550224&fuseaction=events.detail or www.goethe.de/kino-q.

Cabaret on K: A Celebration of 1920s Berlin and Modern DC Nightlife

Saturday, June 22, 2019, 8:00 – 10:00 pm

Seizing the Weimar Republic's lax laws on free speech as an opportunity to freely express satire, sexual entendres, and political stances through performance, Berlin cabaret flourished throughout the period. On June 22, at the Goethe-Institut Washington, we invite you to experience a taste of that bygone scene intertwined with the dynamic and in-your-face scene of Washington and Baltimore drag culture. With live performances of authentic cabaret music, dazzling burlesque and drag acts, and specially-concocted cocktails, Cabaret on K is a cabaret show and party that will simultaneously entertain and provide insight into how queer nightlife performance has changed in the last century – or hasn't.

100 years ago, the first “democracy” in Germany was born in the period between the two World Wars. A tumultuous, colorful, and at times dangerous era in German history, Berlin during the Weimar Republic was at once a haven for artists, the LGBTQ+ community, expatriates, and misfits of all stripes – and, at the same time, a lawless, destitute city, where radical politics would ultimately force their way to the forefront and jeopardize the cultural, scientific, and legal advancements made towards a society in which queer people could live without persecution.

Ticket price to be determined. For more information, visit:

www.goethe.de/washington.

About the Goethe-Institut:

Founded in 1990, Goethe-Institut Washington is a center for German culture and language. From its location downtown, the Goethe-Institut Washington reaches out to both organizations and individuals in the community, bridging the past, present, and future with a variety of high-quality events.

Partners:

[Busboys and Poets](#)

[The DC Center for the LGBT Community](#)

[The Embassy of Canada](#)

[The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden](#)

[JxJ Arts Festival](#)

[The Mexican Cultural Institute](#)

[The Rainbow History Project](#)

[Reel Affirmations Film Festival](#)

[Suns Cinema](#)

[Whitman-Walker Health](#)

###