

ALL ALONG THE WATCHTOWER

30th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution - Fall of the Berlin Wall

A MULTIMEDIA PERFORMANCE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE KULTURPROJEKTE BERLIN EVENT



**ZIONSKIRCHE BERLIN
NOVEMBER 8, 2019 – 8 pm**

**EL BORN CENTRE DE CULTURA I MEMÒRIA BARCELONA
NOVEMBER 29, 2019 – 7.30 pm**

[All along the watchtower](#) is a public commemoration and cultural event promoted by the European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) of the University of Barcelona in collaboration with a group of local artists from the former East Berlin.

Less concerned about a nostalgic event than connecting citizens' memory with a sharpened view of the present time, this multimedia performance combine public commemoration with a keen eye for the historical developments of democracy and dictatorship in Germany.

The event is one of the acts of the programme [30th Anniversary of the Peaceful Revolution - Fall of the Berlin Wall](#) organized by Kulturprojekte Berlin. It is supported by the Stiftung Berliner Mauer, and co-funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Commission.

All along the watchtower will be presented at the Zion Church in Berlin on **November 08, 2019, at 8 pm**, and at El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria in Barcelona on November 29, 2019, at 7.30 pm. The entrance is free, limited to the capacity of the buildings.



Preview performance at the Die Andere Welt Bühne, September 2018

In the mid-80s, Zion Church became the headquarters of the Environmental Libraries which developed into important centers for information and coordination of the opposition in the GDR. It is considered one of the central sites of the revolutionary autumn of 1989, a place to learn about democracy, and the printing house of the illegal magazine Grenzfall ("Borderline Case/Fall of the Border"). Picture: Peaceful concert stormed by Neo-Nazis in November 1989 in the Zionskirche



The performance consists of recited texts about the Cold War era written and performed by the actress Inés Burdow, combined with musical accompaniment by the guitarist Nora Buschmann and the singer Rex Joswig, bandleader of "Herbst in Peking" and "The Same". "Herbst in Peking", one of the so-called *Die Anderen Bands* (alternative bands of the former GDR), will spontaneously live its own compositions from the founding years of the early 1990s as well as current songs such as "There is no freedom", according to the text by Bert Papenfuss! Pictures and films by Robert Conrad documenting watchtowers, wall strips and situations of the peaceful revolution are the background images of the performance.

Watchtower - Bob Dylan's song *All along the watchtower* appeared at the height of the anti-Vietnam war and student movement in the mid-1960s. It was part of an album whose basic theme Dylan himself called Fear. Jimi Hendrix, fascinated by the song, recorded his own version. His psychedelic sound gave an enthralling vision of the break-up and the revolution with which the young generations were particularly fascinated.

State border - In those times, everyone in the GDR felt some kind of fear: anyone who rebelled against the State faced imprisonment and anyone who did not respect the State border was shot. For all, an unequivocal, clear message that no one could really grasp

The Berlin Wall started to be built in 1961 by the GDR and would be modified several times. It was a guarded concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin during the Cold War. Until it was thrown down in 1989, over 100,000 people attempted to escape it; it is estimated that around 5,000 people succeeded in escaping over the Wall in and around Berlin, and more than 200 died..

The belief that borders should be completely sealed is based on an erroneous understanding of the relationship between borders and migration. In that sense, the purpose of this project is also to reflect the current borders' crisis with memorial lenses.

Original idea

Jordi Guixé and Nora Buschmann

Artists

Nora Buschmann – classical guitar

Inés Burdow – Texts and interpretation

Rex Joswig – Singer, band leader: Herbst in Peking and !The Same

Robert Conrad – Photographer

Frank Diersch – Sound & visual effects

Coordination

Margrit Kühl

Patron

Wolf Biermann

Promoted by:

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About the EUROM

The European Observatory on Memories (EUROM) is a transnational network that aims to analyze and understand historical and memorial processes of the recent past. It is led by the University of Barcelona's Solidarity Foundation with the support of the Europe for Citizens program.