



Johns Hopkins University and
Goethe-Institut Washington

present

Immanuel Kant

by

Thomas Bernhard

Translated by Douglas Robertson

Directed by Drew Lichtenberg

March 8, 2024
John Astin Theatre,
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore

March 10, 2024
Goethe-Institut Washington

Cast

in order of appearance

IMMANUEL KANT	Todd Scofield
KANT'S WIFE	Tonya Beckman Ross
ERNST LUDWIG	David Bishins
FRIEDRICH, <i>a parrot</i>	Michael Glenn
MILLIONAIRESS	Emily Townley
STEWARD, COOK, CAPTAIN	Teresa Spencer
ADMIRAL	Clint Blakely
CARDINAL	Brett Earnest
ART COLLECTOR	Laura Artesi

Creative Team

Director: Drew Lichtenberg
Casting Consultant: Danica Rodriguez
Technical Director (Johns Hopkins): Michael Vincent
Stage Technician (Johns Hopkins): Daphne Hartch
Technical Support (Goethe-Institut): Shelby Easton

Setting

Meet Immanuel Kant! He's traveling with his attentive wife on a steamship somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, near the same iceberg that sank the Titanic. He is on his way to America to receive an honorary doctorate from Columbia University and have eye surgery. And he's accompanied by his adored parrot, who repeats everything he says ('Imperative imperative imperative').

What is reality and what is philosophy? Who is acting insane, and who sees clearly? And does the Enlightenment head us towards the new world or the iceberg?

The Great Provocateur

*"Kant is a madman, like all great philosophers,
whether they themselves know it or not."*

Thomas Bernhard

Often compared to Franz Kafka, Eugen Ionesco and Samuel Beckett, the Austrian novelist and playwright Thomas Bernhard (1931–1989) treats Immanuel Kant (1724–1804), a towering giant of European Enlightenment, with his trademark blend of comic irreverence and acid-tongued observation.

This staged reading is produced by Johns Hopkins University and Goethe-Institut Washington.

The reading is part of the North American Kant Society's Tercentennial celebrations.

The performance will be followed by a panel discussion with

- Jacob Haubenreich, Assistant Professor of German, Johns Hopkins University
- Katharina Kraus, Miller Associate Professor of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins University
- Drew Lichtenberg, Associate Director and dramaturg in residence at the Shakespeare Theatre Company, Washington
- Douglas Robertson, translator, whose translations of numerous Bernhard's plays have been published by Seagull Books

There will be a short break between the performance and the panel discussion.

Credits

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English translation published by Seagull Books.

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