



International Seminar

BRECHT UNLOCKED

NOVEMBER, 5

University of Lisbon

9h - 18h

B.112.B

NOVEMBER, 6

Goethe-Institut Lisbon

9h - 12h

Room 1

Coordination and information: Alexandra Marinho de Oliveira
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**Brecht Unlocked
International Seminar
University of Lisbon
5th and 6th November 2026**

Brecht Unlocked invites reflection on the contemporary relevance of Bertolt Brecht's work and on the possibilities for interpreting, disseminating and reinventing his legacy today. Bringing together researchers, artists, lecturers and students, the seminar aims to create a space for dialogue between different theoretical and practical perspectives on Brecht's work.

The seminar is based on the idea that Brecht's work remains particularly fruitful for exploring the relationships between aesthetics, politics and society. Concepts such as the V-Effekt, gestus and historicisation continue to offer critical tools for examining contemporary issues, including geopolitical conflicts, changes in cultural labour, and disputes surrounding memory, representation and the production of images.

In this sense, the seminar proposes opening new perspectives on an extensive and multifaceted body of work, relating it to different contexts and practices, and investigating what it can still yield when brought into contact with the issues of the present. Rather than merely proposing an 'update' of Brecht, the seminar seeks to understand how his theoretical, dramaturgical and artistic tools can continue to generate critical friction and stimulate new ways of thinking about and practising theatre.

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The entry of Brecht's works into the public domain, expected in January 2027, provides an important context for this current debate. This development offers an opportunity to rethink how Brecht's work is circulated, appropriated, edited, translated, researched, and staged, as well as the relationships between authorship, the archive, and artistic creation.

Hosted by the University of Lisbon and coordinated by Alexandra Marinho de Oliveira, the seminar will bring together national and international perspectives in an interdisciplinary programme that bridges academic research, artistic practice and contemporary cultural debates. The event is ultimately structured around a central question: What new practices, interpretations and reflections might emerge from Brecht's work today?

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