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#MemoryDays2026

11th

19 – 21
February

2026



19-21 FEBRUARY, TIRANA

Languages: Albanian, English, German
#memorydays2026

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On February 20, 1991, the fall of Enver Hoxha's statue marked a pivotal moment in Albania's history – a symbolic act that signaled a break from the past and the beginning of a new chapter in civic and political life.

35 years later, MEMORY DAYS 2026 revisits that moment to reflect on its meaning and legacy. What does it mean to bring down a symbol, and what comes next? In an era when many societies are reexamining their authoritarian pasts and the contested symbols that remain in public spaces, MEMORY DAYS

provides a platform for open dialogue, critical reflection, and cultural engagement.

Now in its second decade, MEMORY DAYS brings together museums, civil society organizations, scholars, artists, students, media professionals, policy-makers, and former political prisoners from Albania, the region, and beyond. Together, we explore how remembrance, education, and democratic values shape our shared future.



HOW TO PULL DOWN A STATUE

PERFORMANCE / STAGED READING / DOCUMENTARY THEATRE

Written by:

Jonila Godole

Directed by:

Flobensa Bezati

Performed by:

Redjan Mulla

Endriu Hysi

Klajdi Malellari

Shandi Ismailaj

Kristo Qerama

Artemis Beluli

Erina Lazi

Euro Rrasa

Thursday
19
February

PUBLIC LITERARY PERFORMANCE: “HOW TO PULL DOWN A STATUE”

Venue: Metropol Theatre, Shakespeare Stage

Language: Albanian, English

18:30 **Registration**

19:00 **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

19:10 **Literary Performance**

How to Pull Down a Statue – a dramatized adaptation of the novel “Manual Rrëzimi” by Jonila Godole, performed by young drama students from the Faculty of Arts.

The performance explores the symbolic, emotional, and civic dimensions of tearing down a monument in a society coming to terms with its past.

Directed by: **Flobensa Bezati**

19:50 **Conversation with the Author | Q & A**

20:15 **Reception & Book Signing**

Friday
20
February

PANEL DISCUSSION: “FALLING SYMBOLS EXPERIENCES OF TRANSFORMATION”

Venue: Tirana International Hotel, Balsha Room

Language: Albanian, English, German



09:30 **Registration**

10:00 **Welcome Address**

Jonila Godole, Director, IDMC

Thomas Kunze, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Tirana

Agron Gjekmarkaj, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament

Wojciech Unolt, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Poland in Albania

10:15 **Panel Discussion**

Participants:

Christoph Links, Publisher and Publicist, Berlin, Germany

Afrim Krasniqi, Historian, Institute of History (Academy of Sciences)

Thomas Kunze, Historian, Ceaușescu biographer (Romania perspective)

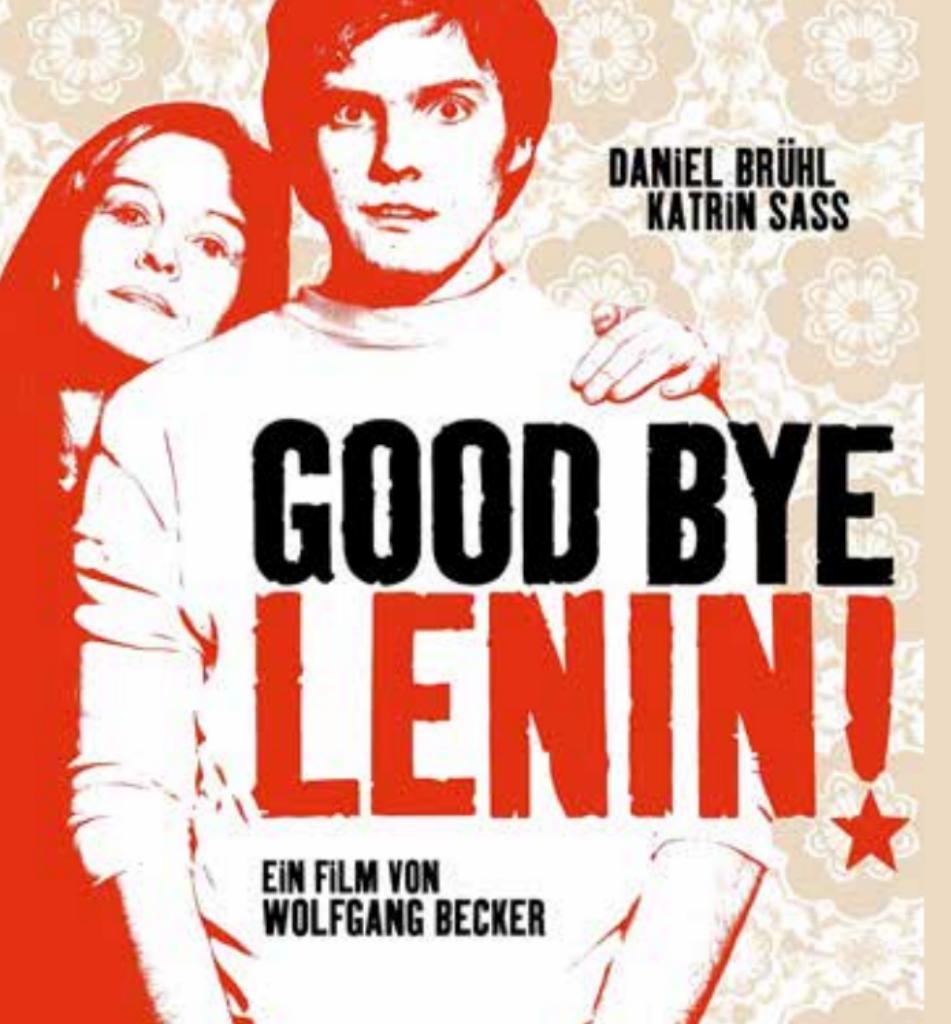
Jan Skórzyński, Historian and Publicist, Poland

Áron Máthé, Deputy Chair, Committee of National Remembrance Hungary

Moderator: **Norbert Beckmann-Dierkes**, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung in Bulgaria

11:15 **Audience Q & A**

11:30 **Reception & Networking**



Friday
20
February

FILM SCREENING: “GOODBYE LENIN”

Venue: Agimi Center

Language: German (with English subtitles)

17:30 **Registration**

18:00 **Welcome Address**

Karl Bergner, German Ambassador to
Albania

18:05 **Film screening: Goodbye, Lenin!**
(Dir. Wolfgang Becker)

A satirical yet emotional exploration of post-socialist memory, this film revisits the everyday afterlife of dictatorship—how symbols, routines, and ideologies persist even after a regime's fall.

ROOTS AND REELS

INTERNATIONAL HISTORY COMPETITION
FOR YOUNG DIGITAL STORYTELLERS



Saturday
21
February

ROOTS & REELS INTERNATIONAL HISTORY COMPETITION (EUSTORY)

Venue: Online (via Zoom)

Language: English

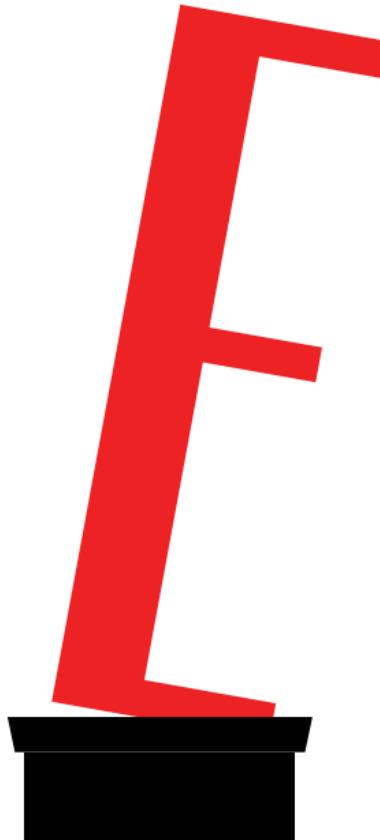
10:00 Roots & Reels: Telling the Past through Digital Storytelling

A collaborative online session bringing together young creatives from across borders to explore how history can be reinterpreted through digital media.

Participants will exchange ideas, develop concepts, and receive feedback on projects inspired by a guiding question: *“What stories from the past speak to you today?”*

The session encourages thoughtful engagement with memory, fosters cross-cultural dialogue, and supports new ways of connecting past and present.

Moderator: **Valbona Bezati**, Avans University, Roots & Reels Coordinator



MEMORY DAYS '26

DITËT E KUJTËSËS

ORGANIZERS:



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS:



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of the Federal Republic of Germany
Tirana



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