

UVa events to focus on anniversary of Berlin Wall's fall

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The University of Virginia will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall at a public ceremony Nov. 9, capping a weeklong symposium at the university.

UVa had a portion of the wall shipped to Grounds in March. Since April, it has stood in a display case in front of Alderman Library, on McCormick Road. The side of the wall that faced West Germany features graffiti art by Dennis Kaun.

The artifact is on loan from the Robert & MeiLi Hefner Foundation.

The university's symposium — titled "The Fall of a Symbol, the Will of a People" — will begin on Monday, when mural artist Sam Welty will re-create Kaun's art on the bricks of the Downtown Mall.

At 5 p.m. Tuesday, the university's MFA Acting Company will perform the premiere of "W\|E: a Theatrical Piece of the Wall," featuring short original scenes on life before and after the fall of the Berlin Wall, at the Helms Theatre.

Writer Salomea Genin, who lived in East Germany for more than 25 years, will lead a discussion in the auditorium of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The symposium coincides with the Virginia Film Festival, which will hold screenings on Grounds and downtown from Thursday through Nov. 9. The Cold War comedy "Dr. Strangelove: or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" will be showing at UVa's Newcomb Hall Theater at 1 p.m. Nov. 9 — the day of the Berlin Wall anniversary — followed by a discussion with Douglas Keeney and UVa politics professor Allen Lynch.

The anniversary ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Berlin Wall display and continue with a reception in nearby Newcomb Hall.

Most of the events are free and open to the public, although Virginia Film Festival screenings require paid admission. Anyone attending the ceremony is asked to RSVP by contacting Jo Anne Ebersold at 982-2108 or jwe5d@virginia.edu.

A complete schedule is available at www.virginia.edu/arts.