

Vor der Morgenröte

Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe

Director: Maria Schrader. Cast: Josef Hader, Barbara Sukowa, Aenne Schwarz
Germany, Austria, France (2016) 102 min. Biography, Drama.
German, Portuguese, French with English subtitles

Austrian writer Stefan Zweig was one of the most read German-language writers of his time and internationally popular in the 1920's and 30's. "Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe" is an elegiac look at Zweig's years of exile between Buenos Aires, New York and Petrópolis in Brazil. It is a scrupulously serious film directed by Maria Schrader, which hardly deals at all with Zweig's writing. But the movie does grapple with his thoughts, particularly his position on a writer's proper place in tumultuous times. As a Jewish intellectual, Zweig struggles to find the right stance towards events in Nazi Germany while searching for a home in the new world with his second wife. They travel around visiting authors' conventions and friends, all the while trying to stay out of politics and struggling to resist an increasing sense of despair and isolation. Zweig is played beautifully by the Austrian actor Josef Hader. Barbara Sukowa is unsurprisingly great as Friderike, Zweig's ex-wife and conscience, trying to raise an increasingly self-pitying Zweig to recognize and act on his own compassion. One need not admire Zweig's writing to acknowledge the worth of this thoughtful treatment of one of the countless real-life tragedies of 20th century history.



Labia on Orange

68 Orange Street, Gardens

Friday, 1st March at 6:15pm

Tickets: R45

Bookings: 021-424 59 27

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