

ON ŽIŽEK'S WORK

"The most formidably brilliant exponent of psychoanalysis, indeed of cultural theory in general, to have emerged from Europe in some decades."

Terry Eagleton (Interrogating The Real, 2005)

"The thrill of reading Žižek arises in part from the collision between the insanity he finds everywhere in our psychic and social lives and the rigorous clarity with which he anatomizes its workings."

Robert S. Boynton, Lingua Franca (The Ticklish Subject, 1999)

"A must for anyone interested in a witty, erudite and almost Wildean examination of our present condition."

Hanif Kureishi (The Universal Exception, 2008)

"Žižek will entertain and offend, but never bore."

The Stranger (Iraq, the Borrowed Kettle, 2004)

"The giant of Ljubljana provides the best intellectual high since Anti-Oedipus."

The Village Voice

"Žižek leaves no social or cultural phenomenon untheorized, and is master of the counterintuitive observation."

New Yorker

"Žižek is a thinker who regards nothing outside his field: the result is deeply interesting and provocative."

Guardian

"Žižek is one of the few living writers to combine theoretical rigor with compulsive readability."

Publishers Weekly

ON FIRST AS TRAGEDY, THEN AS FARCE

"Žižek writes with passion and an aphoristic energy that is spellbinding."

Los Angeles Times

ON IN DEFENSE OF LOST CAUSES

"Addictively eclectic."

Steven Poole, Guardian

"A wealth of political and philosophical insight."

Terry Eagleton, Times Literary Supplement

"A monument to imaginative, risk-taking and rigorous scholarship."

Times Higher Education Supplement

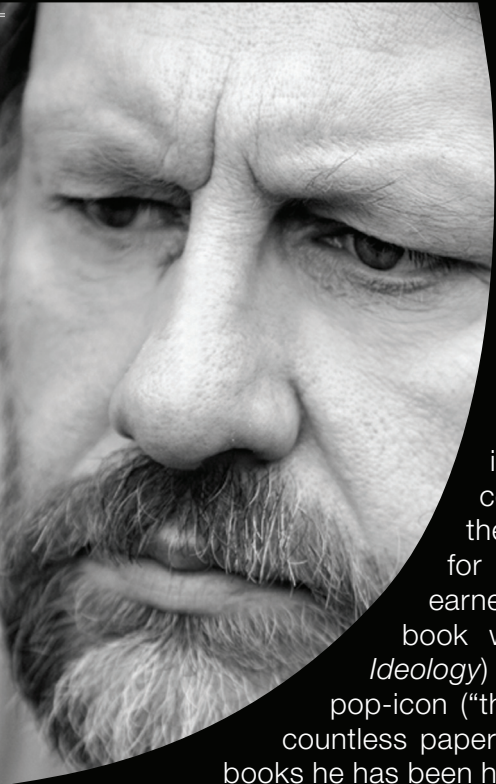
"Exhilarating, inspiring, thought-provoking."

David Schneider, Prospect

photo by Jože Suhradnik



SLAVOU ŽIŽEK



SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK

(b. 1949, Ljubljana, Slovenia), founder and president of the Society for Theoretical Psychoanalysis, Ljubljana, is not only one of the most important contemporary philosophers, but also one of the leading intellectual figures today. His unique style of combining philosophy of German Idealism with the Lacanian psychoanalysis as a methodology for understanding cultural symptomologies earned him (after the 1989 publication of his first book written in English, *The Sublime Object of Ideology*) a world-wide reputation and a status of a pop-icon (“the Elvis of cultural theory”). As the author of countless papers, interventions and more than one hundred books he has been half-seriously described as one of the best and most productive Slovenian export brands. Many critical studies, books, an entire journal (*International Journal of Žižek Studies*) and two movies (Susan Chales de Beaulieu *Alien, Marx & Co. – Slavoj Zizek, Ein Porträt*, Astra Taylor *Žižek!*) have been devoted to the “Žižek-phenomenon” to date. An astute and prolific writer, tireless reader, movie aficionado (*The Perverts Guide to Cinema*) and opera devotee (Mozart, Wagner) Žižek describes himself as a “communist in a qualified sense” and a “Christian materialist atheist”.

Slavoj Žižek: slavoj.zizek@guest.arnes.si

TO BEGIN FROM THE BEGINNING



The Žižek reader *Začeti od začetka* (To Begin from the Beginning) is the first selection of Žižek’s texts to appear in Slovenian. Its main aim is to re-affiliate an average reader with basic theoretical concepts Žižek is operating with and to offer an orientating glimpse into his gigantic theoretical oeuvre. Although Žižek’s first papers and books (mainly in the Slovenian language) were published almost four decades ago, its starting point is taken from the two first chapters of Žižek’s first two very successful books in English. The main reason for doing so is that here we are dealing with the “mature”, orthodox Lacanian Žižek, who is forced to rethink his own theoretical premises and present them yet again in a clear way to the new public. Four more texts are included, offering Žižek’s self-critique concerning his perhaps key concept of the Real as well as his fierce criticism of contemporary capitalism and his call for “repeating Lenin’s gesture today”. The reader introduces some basic Žižek’s views on social and political issues. The book presents his main theses on how ideology works today, but it has no intention to cover or even to outline the vast variety of topics Žižek has dealt with so far (from classical music, opera, cinema, women, cyberspace, popular science to philosophy, history, etc.) nor can it be a surrogate for “the Real Thing”. Its modest goal is to stimulate readers to begin reading Žižek over and over again.

SOME BOOKS BY SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK

