Thursday, March 8, 12:30 p.m.
Aztec Student Union Theatre

Jaroslav Kalfař on his novel *Spaceman of Bohemia*

Jaroslav Kalfař will speak about his first novel, *Spaceman of Bohemia*, and discuss writing about the complicated history of post-communism in the Czech Republic. *Spaceman of Bohemia* is a beautiful and wildly imaginative novel that has won much praise internationally since its publication in 2017. A Czech scientist embarks on a dangerous solo mission to become his country’s first astronaut. He bonds with a philosophically inclined space alien over bacon and ponders the complexities of his family’s and his country’s past.

Jaroslav Kalfař was born one year before the Velvet Revolution in Prague, Czech Republic. He immigrated to the United States at the age of fifteen and learned the English language through novels and cartoons. He has earned an MFA from New York University and is a recipient of the 2018 National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowship. He lives in Brooklyn.

Praise for *Spaceman of Bohemia*

“Outer space, inner turmoil, fierce ambition and the hunger for love - all seem to boldly go where no novelist has gone before in Jaroslav Kalfar’s audaciously moving debut, *Spaceman of Bohemia*... Eloquent, heart-stunning and rich in awe-inspiring prose, *Spaceman of Bohemia* flirts with how we leave our mark on history. But its real mission is to unravel what makes us human - and that, according to this wise, rapturous and original novel, is a connection to others.”
--Caroline Leavitt, San Francisco Chronicle

“Kalfar has an exhilarating flair for imagery. He writes boisterously and mordantly... His voice is distinct enough to leave tread marks... A frenetically imaginative first effort, booming with vitality and originality.”
--Jennifer Senior, New York Times

“*Spaceman of Bohemia* gets heavy—but the story, like its protagonist, flies along weightlessly. A book like this lives and dies on the strength of its first-person voice, and in that regard, Kalfar triumphs. Jakub may be self-absorbed, but he’s also charming, funny, and endearingly sympathetic.”
--Jason Heller, NPR

This event is free and open to the public.