

## The men who fix the world are at Boğaziçi Chronicles...

*The Yes Men are the new guests of Boğaziçi University's international residency program that aims to carry into the future a new knowledge of culture and art.*

Astonishing the public with their creative acts such as setting up fake websites and attending meetings disguised as politicians or major company representatives, The Yes Men is a duo created by Jacques Servin and Igor Vamos also known by their project aliases **Andy Bichlbaum** and **Mike Bonanno**. The duo will be hosted by Boğaziçi University between February 16 and 28, 2015.

The duo introduce themselves as the representatives of companies or corporations and create a tremendous impact by making mostly absurd statements that are the exact opposite of the attitudes or policies of their 'victims'. The Yes Men will be interviewed following a film screening at Boğaziçi University on February 19. On February 26, They will take part in a joint event with **Hakan Bilginer**, founder of **Zaytung** that has created a brand new journalistic language in Turkey using irony and humor.

The Yes Men describe their point of departure as follows: **"Our motivation has always been to engage in politics and to have fun. We don't think that these are mutually exclusive and that has been our goal from the very beginning. If our acts were not political, they wouldn't be as funny and would be even useless."** They call their job "Identity Correction." Corporations and political identities The Yes Men criticized and spoofed include World Trade Organization, George Bush, Heritage Foundation and Dow Chemical. The duo tell us about one of their influential actions as follows: **"Disguised as a US Chamber of Commerce official, we made a statement declaring that we had changed our stance against the legislation on climate change and that we would endorse the law in the Congress. Of course they (the chamber) launched a lawsuit against us immediately but two weeks later, they really had to change their position due to public pressure and pressure from their own members. The US Chamber of Commerce announced that they endorsed the law."**

The duo also made two films entitled "The Yes Men" and "The Yes Men Fix the World" featuring shocking acts they carried out at business events, on the Internet, television and the streets. Their third film "The Yes Men are Revolting" was premiered at the Toronto Film Festival. They have attended major art events including the Venice Biennial and ARS Electronica and received many awards including Leonore Annenberg Prize for Art and Social Change given by Creative Time.

The Yes Men founded "The Yes Lab" that promotes the development of activist projects worldwide and this year launched the online platform Action Switchboard to directly create and organize action for social causes.

## **The Yes Men / Boğaziçi Chronicles events**

### **19 February 2015**

16:00 Movie Projection "The Yes Man Fix the World"

17:30 Interview with Andy Bichlbaum of The Yes Men

Place: Rectorate Conference Hall, Boğaziçi University South Campus

### **26 February 2015**

16:00 **Resisting "Power" by Faking It**

Rendezvous with Mike Bonanno of The Yes Men and Hakan Bilginer, founder of Zaytung

Place: Albert Long Hall-BTS, Boğaziçi University South Campus

Simultaneous interpretation will be available during the events.

**For more information on The Yes Men, please visit:**

[www.theyesmen.org](http://www.theyesmen.org)

[www.actionswitchboard.net](http://www.actionswitchboard.net)