

Pop-Kultur/2023

Press release from 28th June 2023

Pop-Kultur with a football focus, »Pop-Kultur Diskurs« and Musicboard Residencies

- New lineup additions: Sho Madjozi, Charlotte Brandi, T'neeya and more
- Thematic focus on football and pop culture: »Can I Kick It? Yes, You Can!«
- »Pop-Kultur Diskurs« programme with talks, panels, films and readings
- Recipients of Musicboard Berlin's four co-creation residencies to present new collaborations at the festival



Charlotte Brandi © Annika Weertz

The programme is almost complete: new additions to Pop-Kultur 2023 include the atmospheric intensity of **Charlotte Brandi**, the incomparable hooks of South

African Music Award winner **Sho Madjozi**, sure to be bringing her viral hit »John Cena«, afro-R&B artist **T'neeya** and pole performer **FRZNTE**, who will be lending her DJ skills at this year's festival.

In addition, **Nikita Netrebko**, founder of the Kyiv-based event series and record label Worn Pop, and festival organiser **Serhiy Yatsenko** will present the Commissioned Work »Kyiv Black Box« as an interactive homage to the resilience of the Ukrainian club scene: a shipping container is outfitted to show a video installation from the Kyiv-based club Closer. In this simulated club situation, Pop-Kultur visitors get an impression of how the Ukrainian club scene sings, dances and celebrates in times like these – even though they constantly face electricity cuts.

»Can I Kick It? Yes, You Can!«

This year, Pop-Kultur is expanding the playing field – the 2023 edition is offering a special focus on the topic of football. »Can I Kick It? Yes, You Can!« navigates the intersections of sports, activism and pop culture. The project, conceived by **Yeşim Duman** and curated together with **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah**, and all of its individual events are discursive, interactive and take place free of charge at the Çaystube and the Kulturbrauerei cinema – artificial turf, foosball table, goal wall and football anthems included.

*It's a subject close to **Yeşim Duman's** heart: »Football is a pop culture phenomenon and a reflection of our society. At the Pop-Kultur festival, we are focusing on the socio-political component of this multi-layered topic. We will take a critical look at football from a queer-feminist and post-migrant perspective in different ways – because sports, like music, are part of cultural identity.«*

Fittingly performative and poppy are **Joana Tischkau and Elisabeth Hampe's** decolonial (anti-)fitness workouts »Colonastics« and »Fit for Fans«, poking fun at the fitness industry's appropriation of Black culture while also encouraging visitors to question their own colonially influenced perspectives in a physical way.

Pamela Owusu-Brenyah has also invited the Berlin club **CSV Afrisko**, the first African football club in Germany, which originated from 1. FC Afrisko, to curate a special interactive exhibition project including a photo exhibition, talks and DJ sets with African music.

Owusu-Brenyah sees the club as pioneering in many ways: *»CSV Afrisko is the first place where kids and adults of African descent have been able to play together and build connections beyond football. And most people don't know that stemming from the club, there is a large active community that created the first Afro parties.«* The fusion of music and football is also the theme of this year's edition of the »Karaoke Xpress« by **gal sherizly, Nhr Huynh & MC Coach Trinity**: The song list features football anthems, sure to provide a stadium vibe as well as a community feeling.



Tuğba Tekkal © Carolin Windel

For the Yazidi human rights activist **Tuğba Tekkal**, migration and football are closely linked. At Pop-Kultur, the former professional footballer and founder of the multi-award-winning human rights organisation HÁWAR.help e. V. and the associated empowerment project »Scoring Girls« will read from her autobiography »Tor zur Freiheit« (»Gateway to Freedom«). »Can I Kick the Pay Gap?« is the question that sports journalist and podcaster **Felicia Mutterer** will ask her panellists, which include **Saskia Wichert**, Managing Director of Management & Communications at Türkiyemspor, the largest athletic club founded by migrants in Europe.

Football will also be presented cinematically at the festival, for example with »Football Under Cover« by **Ayat Najafi** and **David Assmann**, which highlights the very first public match of the Iranian women's national team. The 2008 film couldn't be more topical in light of the »Woman Life Freedom« movement, and it will be discussed by co-producer **Marlene Assmann-Khoueiry**, queer activist/artist **Elnaz Farahbakhsh** and DFC Kreuzberg coach **Nada Arbaj**, who emigrated from Lebanon. Aida Baghernejad will host.

»Can I Kick It? Yes, You Can!« is part of the **Kultursommerfestival Berlin 2023**. The project is part of the arts and culture programme for UEFA EURO 2024.



From left to right: Ria Boss, Fave and Pamela Owusu-Brenyah

»Pop-Kultur Diskurs«

With more than 15 talks, readings and film screenings, the »Pop-Kultur Diskurs« programme will focus on exemplary initiatives for a diverse music industry (»Leuchtturmprojekte für ein gerechteres Miteinander in der Musikbranche«), the resistance of subcultures in the face of imperialist efforts (»Eastern Responses in Pop & Art to Imperialism«) and challenges for female pop artists in Africa's music business (»African Women in the Music Industry«). Pop-Kultur media partner Deutschlandfunk Kultur has invited guests to talk about critical masculinity in pop and to record the cultural podcast »Lakonisch Elegant« on the topic of scandals and morality in pop culture, including **Aida Baghernejad** (cultural journalist), **Dieter Gorny** (music manager and founder of Viva) and **Samira El Ouassil** (columnist, podcaster, author) live at the festival.

»Pop-Kultur Diskurs« will also include a reading by **Fikri Anıl Altıntaş** (»Im Morgen wächst ein Birnbaum«; hosted by **Miriam Davoudvandi**) and a screening and Q&A of the feature film »Clashing Differences« by **Merle Grimme** – prominently featuring Thelma Buabeng and Minh-Khai Phan-Thi – which deals with the debates on diversity, ranging from tokenism to empowerment.

Besides producing Pop-Kultur, Musicboard Berlin serves as a funding body for Berlin's pop-music landscape. With an emphasis on transcultural exchange, they offer co-creation residencies with the aim of forging new connections between the music cultures of different countries. **Augustus Williams & Souci** (Detroit-Berlin Residency), **Aka Kelzz & Ria Boss** (Accra-Berlin Residency), **Chrisman & Sara Persico** (Kampala-Berlin Residency) and **Jonas Schilling & Odelly** (Tel Aviv-Berlin Residency) will perform their collaborations at the festival.

»Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« & »Pop-Kultur lokal«

Applications for »Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« have closed. A total of 250 talents have been selected to take part in the workshop programme from 30th August to 1st September 2023, some of whom will also perform publicly at the Nachwuchs opening event. The selection of the eighth edition of the Goethe Talents has also been made, for which eight young musicians from different regions of the world will once again receive a scholarship for an intensive working and networking

experience in Berlin, including a final concert in Berlin on 2nd September 2023 at Acud Macht Neu.

In August, »Pop-Kultur lokal« will once again help build momentum for the festival in different settings: The »Saturn Research Project«, a joint pilot workshop by **MAF** and **blk banaana** on 1st August 2023, takes place in the project space Zwitschermaschine at Kulturpark 3000 e. V. and pushes for the development of radically creative ideas; it is preceded by a joint intensive engagement with artworks and media. The »Night on Stage« workshop by **Rosa Anschütz** and **Lilo Ming Kiefer**, aimed at a younger audience, takes place on 19th and 20th August 2023 at the Jugendkulturzentrum Königstadt, completing the »Pop-Kultur lokal« programme.

Day tickets for the »Pop-Kultur Diskurs« programme are now available in the ticket shop. The price is 8 euros plus fees.

Invitation to the Press Briefing / RSVP

On 16th August, two weeks before the festival starts, Pop-Kultur will welcome members of the press to the Kesselhaus on the grounds of the Kulturbrauerei to give them insights into Pop-Kultur 2023. As space is limited, we ask you to register in good time: first come, first served. The Kesselhaus is wheelchair-accessible.

Concerts and DJ sets by:

21 downbeat / Aili / Aka Kelzz & Ria Boss (Accra-Berlin Residency) / Albi X / Ansu / ARY / Augustus Williams & Souci (Detroit-Berlin Residency) / Banoffee / BRKN / C'est Karma / Casey MQ / Charlotte Brandi / Chrisman & Sara Persico (Kampala-Berlin Residency) / Codeine / Crack Cloud / cumgirl8 / Das Kinn / Dina Summer / Drag Syndrome / Empress Of / ERRORR / EVÏN / Fave / FEM*ERGY COLLECTIVE/ Fheels / Fishbach / Free Love / FRZNTÉ / Get Jealous / Indigo Sparke / J. Vague / Jonas Schilling & Odelly (Tel Aviv-Berlin Residency) / Junior Boys / Karl Vento / Kwam.E / Lola Marsh / MADANII / Meagre Martin / mui zyu / Mulay / NAS TEA / Nashi44 / pape / Prince Emrah / Rasha Nahas / Robert Kretzschmar / Rosa Anschütz / Sam Quealy / Selin Davasse / Sho Madjozi / Sofie Royer / Sophia Blenda / Sorry / Stella Sommer / T'neeya / Tami T / The Düsseldorf Dusterboys / Tigre Bleu / TUCHA / umru / Wa22ermann / Walter Astral / Wellen.Brecher / Zainab Lax / Zustra

Commissioned Works by:

Anika / A Song For You / FAAM Studio / Fuffifufzich / Garagen Uwe / Gloria de Oliveira / Deaf Performance: Inna Shparber & Mark Petersen / Krista Papista / L Twills / Mariana Sadovska/Vesna / Nichtseattle / Nikita Netrebko & Serhiy Yatsenko »Kyiv Black Box« / Portrait XO / Voodoo Beach & Die Wilde Jagd

Talks and readings:

»African Women in the Music Industry«: Fave, Ria Boss, host: Pamela Owusu-Brenyah / »A Record Label (What Is It Good For?) II«: Anton Teichmann, Marc Hollander, Olga Karatzioti-B., host: Christina Mohr / »Clashing Differences«: screening & Q&A with Merle Grimme / »Culture in a Warzone«: Dmytro Kyrpa, Maria Tuchka, Serhiy Yatsenko, host: Simon Bonney / »Die Frau mit dem Arm«: Andreas Dorau & Gereon Klug (reading show) / »Eastern Responses in Pop & Art to Imperialism«: Creams, Faina Yunusova, host: Julia Boxler / »Leuchtturmprojekte für ein gerechteres Miteinander in der Musikbranche«: Felix Brückner, Fine Stammnitz, Franziska Lauter, host: Anika Jankowski / »Im Morgen wächst ein Birnbaum«: Fikri Anıl Altıntaş, host:

Miriam Davoudvandi (reading) / »Lakonisch Elegant: Skandal und Moral in der Popkultur«: Aida Baghernejad, Dieter Gorny, Samira El Ouassil, host: Christine Watty (talk & podcast) / »Money, Money, Money – gerechte Bezahlung?«: C'est Karma, Christin Nichols, Robert Kretzschmar, host: Ariana Zustra / »Note to Self« – Artist Talk with Banoffee & Rasha Nahas moderated by Lior Neumeister / »Fabulous Drag Night Talk« – Chit Chat with Drag Syndrome and Saioa Alvarez Ruiz / Deutschlandfunk Kultur talk »Kritische Männlichkeiten: Wie viel Platz bietet der Pop für reflektierte Männer?«: Charlotte Brandi, Dominik Djialeu, Fikri Anıl Altıntaş, Frank Spilker, host: Christoph Reimann & Juliane Reil

Thematic focus »Can I Kick It? Yes, You Can!«:

»Can I Kick the Pay Gap?«: Duygu Ağal, Ronny Blaschke, Saskia Wichert, host: Felicia Mutterer (talk) / »Colonastics«: Elisabeth Hampe, Joana Tischkau (work out performances) / CSV Afrisko (interactive exhibition) / »Football Under Cover« (film) / »Football Under Cover – Fußball, Aktivismus und die aktuellen Geschehnisse«: Elnaz Farahbakhsh, Marlene Assmann-Khoueiry, Nada Arbaji, host: Aida Baghernejad (talk) / »Karaoke Xpress« von gal sherizly, Nhu Huỳnh & MC Coach Trinity (football hymns) / »Locker Room Talk«: Andi Pek, Johanna Behre (podcast & interviews) / »Mädchen am Ball« & »Nach dem Spiel« (films) / »Nach dem Spiel«: Aysun Bademsoy, Duygu Ağal, host: Cana Bilir-Meier (talk) / »Schwarze Adler« (Film) / »Tor zur Freiheit«: Tuğba Tekkal, host: Maria Popov (reading)

Further programme additions will follow.

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