

# Pop-Kultur/2024

Press Release from 15th May 2024

## Pop-Kultur 2024: The Line-Up is Expanding – 21 More Acts Announced

- Genres galore: **The KVB**, **Gaye Su Akyol**, **Otis Mensah** and many more additions to the line-up
- From the programme team: **Yeşim Duman** and **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah** on their curatorial practice
- Single day tickets now available



from left to right:

Gaye Su Akyol, LUCIDVOX © Kostya Kondrukhov, Zebra Katz © Ian Wallman

The Pop-Kultur anniversary programme is expanding. An additional 21 acts have confirmed their participation – reflecting the wide variety of genres and communities that have always set the festival apart.

The eleven venues at the Kulturbrauerei will host acts such as psych-rock duo **The KVB** – veterans performing here with 14 years of stage experience – as well as K.ZIA and Sedric Perry's newly formed superduo **Twin Flame**, international acts such as the Tamil-Swiss singer **Priya Ragu**, whose sound has gained a massive following in the UK and India, and **Gaye Su Akyol**, a luminary of the Anadolu rock scene, synergising punk and glamour.

Along with Priya Ragu and Gaye Su Akyol, **Ms Nina**, the feminist voice of reggaeton, is one of the artists **Yeşim Duman** has brought to the festival. Duman, whose curation focuses on post-migrant themes, forms the curatorial trio of Pop-Kultur together with **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah** and festival dramaturge **Christian Morin**. She explains: »Artists like Priya Ragu, Gaye Su Akyol and Ms Nina merge rock, pop and female Latin music culture with different cultural influences. In my curatorial

*work, I explore themes such as identity and diversity. Berlin, as one of the most fascinating cities in the world of pop culture, offers a unique stage for the diversity of the music scene.»*

Continuing the Pop-Kultur tradition of producing karaoke events on the festival grounds, Yeşim Duman has invited drag artist **Olympia Bukkakis**, whose work spans queer nightlife, contemporary dance and performance. Bukkakis, who was seen in the production of the German Book Prize winner »Blutbuch« by Kim de L'Horizon in Hanover, will celebrate the performative, liberating essence of collective karaoke singing in the Çaystube with »Unlimited T«.



Otis Mensah © Stephanie O'Connor

As a Pop-Kultur curator, **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah** brings her focus on Afro-diasporic perspectives with two Commissioned Works to the festival. With »Freedom«, the director, writer, singer and computer engineer **Steve Mekoudja** is further developing his reinterpretation of Wagner's opera »The Flying Dutchman« for Pop-Kultur, originally realised in cooperation with Musicboard Berlin for the Komische Oper.

Otis Mensah's Commissioned Work for Pop-Kultur also stands for further development. Named poet laureate in Sheffield, England, **Otis Mensah** is taking their 2023 album »WINTERSKIN« as a starting point to create an immersive live performance with jazz accompaniment, choral singing and contemporary dance. Their Commissioned Work will transport the audience into a sonic and visual dreamworld centred on the body. For Owusu-Brenyah, this is a performance that literally gets under the skin: *»Otis has the rare ability to create very poetic sounds from personal and sometimes painful experiences, for example, when it comes to racialised bodies.«*

Other Commissioned Works created especially for Pop-Kultur include »The longer i stare at you the less you make sense« by **Christin Nichols**. The artist brings together an ensemble of fellow musicians such as Stefan Ernst, Simeon Cöster, Sinem Kilic, Marc Gundermann and Aaron Blank for a theatre-concert that poses questions such as: What does success mean in music? What constitutes a musician's career?

And with her Commissioned Work »Oh! Oh! Tonight!«, **Melanie Jame Wolf** examines supposedly fun, one-word pop expressions such as »oh« and »tonight« for their redundancy as well as their power of attraction – through choreography, visuals and music.

The first Pop-Kultur events are already taking place in early summer: For »**Pop-Kultur lokal**«, four outstanding ideas were selected from 33 unusual event concepts submitted by the city's independent event organiser scene. The Codex Club series kicks off on Sunday, 9 June 2024, at Panke Culture, Hof V, Gerichtstraße 23, 13347 Berlin, with an electronic, avant-garde and experimental line-up.

In addition to festival tickets, individual day tickets are now also available for 32 euros (plus advance booking fees) each.

#### **The 21 additions to the line-up:**

Bashar Murad / Christin Nichols (CW) / douniah / FÜR ELISE / Gaye Su Akyol / hotgirl / Krista Papista (DJ-Set) / LUCIDVOX / Mary Ocher / Melanie Jame Wolf & friends / MOLHAM / Ms Nina / Olympia Bukkakis & Friends / Otis Mensah (CW) / Priya Ragu / Sinem / Steve Mekoudja (CW) / The KVB / Twin Flame / VÍZ / Zebra Katz

#### **With concerts and Commissioned Works from:**

A Certain Ratio / Anushka Chkheidze / Arab Strap / bangerfabrique / Blinky Bill / Blumengarten / Cheap Wedding / Eden Derso / Esfand / EsRAP / EuroEyez / Evija Vēbere / Fee Aviv / futurebae / GHOSTWOMAN / Hope & Emma Critchley (CW) / Ilgen-Nur / Ivo Dimchev / Jaakko Eino Kalevi / James K / Jenys / Kabeaushé / Keeley Forsyth / Lady Donli / Lambrini Girls / Martina Stock / Melenas / MPC Lafote / OGLU / Pari Eskandari (CW) / Pillow Fite / Plattenbau / Rachael Lavelle / Rasco / Rich Aucoin / Schneider TM & Lillevan (CW) / Sextile / Stereotype / Swell Maps C21 / Tarwater / The Morning Stars / VV & The Void / What Are People For? / ZIMBRU

More acts will be announced soon.

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