

# Pop-Kultur/2024

Press Release from 26th June 2024

Yemi Alade and Black Sherif Join Pop-Kultur, Commissioned Works Are Complete & »Pop-Kultur Diskurs«

- Stars from the African continent: **Yemi Alade** and **Black Sherif**
- 21 downbeat, dance battle »MY CIRCLE«, Ulla & »parallelgesellschaft meets Philo Tsoungui« round out the Commissioned Works
- Artists from the Musicboard Co-Creation Residencies on stage at Pop-Kultur: Accra-Berlin, Detroit-Berlin, Kampala-Berlin, Tel Aviv-Berlin, new one-off residency: Tokyo-Berlin
- »Pop-Kultur Diskurs«: Talk programme makes Pop-Kultur a discursive experience & talk ticket available



from left to right:  
Lady Donli, Yemi Alade, Black Sherif

African star power at Pop-Kultur: Nigerian singer **Yemi Alade**, one of the continent's most successful musicians, is coming to Berlin. Festival goers can expect an energetic Afro-pop show with a full band and dancers. Bringing just as much energy as Yemi Alade is 22-year-old **Black Sherif** – Ghana's most sought-after rapper with his unmistakable sound that combines highlife, Afrofusion, and rap. Both performances are supported by Kulturprojekte Berlin. The two newly confirmed acts are in good company: alté musician **Lady Donli** and Kenyan multi-talent **Blinky Bill** will also be performing at Pop-Kultur, taking place from 28 to 30 August 2024.

Stylistic diversity is celebrated through Pop-Kultur's Commissioned Works: Every year, 15 artists are invited to develop creative stage productions for Pop-Kultur, ranging from concerts and performances to theatre. **Katja Lucker**, Managing Director of Initiative Musik and former director and founder of Pop-Kultur, is

delighted that Initiative Musik is supporting these works in particular: *»In recent years, Pop-Kultur has premiered Commissioned Works by artists such as Kat Frankie, Sophia Kennedy, and Hendrik Otremba – unique, resonant experiences that set the festival apart from others. I'm very excited to see what awaits us in 2024 and look forward to performances that dare to be different. It's particularly pleasing that this year involves four acts – Christin Nichols, Hope, Schneider TM, and Steve Mekoudja – who have all been funded by Initiative Musik.«*

This year's Commissioned Works have been finalised. Performance artists **Eray Gülay aka Ray** and **Christina Angelescu aka Crystal** are organising the all-style dance battle *»MY CIRCLE«*, in which the jury will then select the best performance. Emotional quality clearly takes precedence – the personal stories that the dancers tell are more important than having the perfect moves. Those interested in participating can register [here](#).

**Pamela Schlewinski**, who has overseen the Commissioned Works since 2019, knows the potential of the works on display: *»We have evolved along with the artists and their creativity in recent years. There has been significant development with the Commissioned Works. We're thrilled that this has opened up new opportunities and directions for the artists – including further career prospects.«*

**21 downbeat**, RambaZamba's house band, has been linked to Pop-Kultur for many years and is once again on the Commissioned Works programme in 2024. With *»WOZZECK – eine Pop-Oper nach Alban Berg«*, which includes puppetry, they will explore the melancholy and madness of Büchner's classic in a new way. Ulrich Hartmann aka **Ulla** will be overexerting himself on the drums for *»Toxic Muskfedideldi«* as well as in other ways to explore the subject of toxic masculinity. Wearing himself out is something that comes naturally – Hartmann is a diabetic and project manager of *luftsprung live*, the support programme for chronically ill musicians run by the *aktion luftsprung* foundation.

In addition to these musical excursions, the Commissioned Works are also open to linguistic experiments: For *»parallelgesellschaft meets Philo Tsoungui«*, **Philo Tsoungui** (known as the drummer for Mine, Chefket, and The Mars Volta) and the artists from **parallelgesellschaft**, the post-German literature collective from Neukölln, have teamed up for a poetic, rhythmic round of improvisation.

Musicians, activists and other players will discuss pop culture in all its facets in the *»Pop-Kultur Diskurs«* programme. For example, **Yvonne Sembene** talks about political, ironic, and nostalgic moments of meme culture with the minds behind the viral Instagram accounts **Sveamaus** and **Galerie Arschgeweih** as part of *»What Do You Meme By?«*. **Freya Herrmann**, **Vera Klocke**, and **Jasper Landmann** from *»Fashion The Gaze«* are on similar discursive paths in their podcast, deciphering the codes of pop culture, from series to music – and will be recording a special episode at Pop-Kultur. In addition, **Ulrich Gutmair** (taz) will read from *»Wir sind die Türken von morgen«* (*»We Are the Turks of Tomorrow«*), which focuses on the often

overlooked, non-white protagonists of the Neue Deutsche Welle genre – including several musical examples. The talk »Poptism - Remembrance in Music Culture« with author **Imran Ayata**, performance artist **Ariel Efraim Ashbel**, and writer **Sanaz Azimipour** will explore the role of pop music in collective memory and its significance in terms of identity. The current situation in Iran will come into focus when **Matthias Koch**, who runs the label 30M Records specialising in Iranian music, talks to Iranian-born composer **Bahar Roshanai** about the influence of songs that have played a role in opposition movements.

Two talks will shed light on the dark side of pop culture: **Daniel Drepper** (head of the research cooperation between NDR, WDR and SZ) and **Lena Kampf** will talk about their book »Row Zero: Gewalt und Machtmissbrauch in der Musikindustrie«, which focuses on the (emergence of) discriminatory and abusive structures in the field. **Veronika Kracher**, an expert on the inner workings of the alt-right, masculinist, and incel scenes, will join author **Viola Nordsieck** to discuss how female activists in the right-wing scene act and present themselves. The talk takes place in cooperation with the magazine Testcard, on the occasion of their current issue focussing on right-wing pop. If you only want to attend the talks at Pop-Kultur, you can purchase a »Pop-Kultur Diskurs« ticket for 10 euros.



The Tokyo-Berlin Residency from left to right, bottom to top in a clockwise direction: Black Boboi, Rosa Anschütz, Eddna

With its Co-Creation Residencies, Musicboard Berlin's creative exchange programmes are once again receiving a showcase: For the Accra-Berlin residency, the Ghanaian hip-hop, R&B, and Afro-soul singer **LOR** will be on stage at Pop-Kultur with her Berlin-based South African colleague **Dumama**; for the Tel Aviv-Berlin residency, it

will be the Israeli director, musician, poet, and actor **Neta Weiner** and the Israeli-Palestinian actress and rapper **Samira Saraya**, who will perform together as System Ali – they will collaborate with a Berlin artist. The Kampala-Berlin residency brings together producer **Rey Sapienz**, who runs a label in Kampala, and Berlin-based DJ/producer **Luna Vassarotti**, while the Detroit-Berlin residency features electro producer **Shawescape Renegade** and Berlin house DJ **Sara Miller**.

To mark the 30th anniversary of Tokyo and Berlin as sister cities, the Tokyo-Berlin residency will also take place in association with Pop-Kultur 2024: Irish-Japanese artist **ermhoi** will be staying in the German capital for a month. Along with her trio **Black Boboi**, she will team up with singer-songwriter **Rosa Anschütz** and performance and multimedia artist **Eddna** at the festival. The first results of their collaboration will be presented at the Goethe-Institut Tokyo on 19 July.

The third event of »Pop-Kultur lokal« 2024 will focus on femininity: the stage show »FEMMES TOTALES« will take place on 11 July 2024 at 19:30 at Neue Zukunft Berlin (Alt-Stralau 68, 10245 Berlin).

#### **Invitation to the Press Briefing / RSVP**

On 14th August 2024, 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 2024. As space is limited, we ask you to register in good time: first come, first served. The Kesselhaus is wheelchair-accessible.

#### **New additions to the line-up:**

21 downbeat (CW) / Black Boboi trifft Rosa Anschütz & Eddna (Tokyo-Berlin Residency) / Black Sherif / Dance Battle »MY CIRCLE« (CW) / »Echoes musikalischer Erinnerungen aus der DDR«: Vincent Bababoutilabo & Robert Mießner / »Inkarnation und Intuition: Inszenierung von rechter Esoterik«: Talk mit Fashion The Gaze / LOR & Dumama (Accra-Berlin Residency) / »What Do You Meme By?« mit Sveamaus & Galerie Arschgeweih / »Menstruation hört auf einem Festival nicht auf«: Rike van Kleef, Franka Frei und Katharina Müller / Neta Weiner & Samira Saraya (Tel Aviv-Berlin Residency) / »PopCast« mit Amy Zayed / »Poptism - Remembrance in Music Culture«: Ariel Efraim Ashbel, Imran Ayata und Sanaz Azimipour / Rey Sapienz & Luna Vassarotti (Kampala-Berlin Residency) / »Row Zero«: Lesung mit Daniel Drepper und Lena Kampf / »Festivals, Events und DisCo (Disabled Community): Wie sind die Infrastrukturen?«: Martin Vahemäe-Zierold, Xenia Dürr & Inna Shparber / Shawescape Renegade & Sara Miller (Detroit-Berlin Residency) / »Sounds of the Revolution«: Bahar Roshanai & Matthias Koch / Künstler\*innenkollektiv parallelgesellschaft: »parallelgesellschaft meets Philo Tsoungui« (CW) / »Testcard - Rechtspop: Über rechtsradikale Memes und rechte Frauen in der Popkultur« / Ulla (CW) / »Wir sind die Türken von morgen«: Lesung mit Ulrich Gutmair / Yemi Alade / Zuzanna Czebatul (DJ set)

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

A Certain Ratio / Anushka Chkheidze / Arab Strap / bangerfabrique / Bashar Murad /

Blinky Bill / Blumengarten / Cheap Wedding / Christin Nichols (CW) / douniah / Eden Derso / Esfand / EsRAP / EuroEyez / Evija Vēbere / Fee Aviv / FÜR ELISE / futurebae / Gaye Su Akyol / GHOSTWOMAN / Hope & Emma Critchley (CW) / hotgirl / Ilgen-Nur / Ivo Dimchev / Jaakko Eino Kalevi / James K / Jenys / Kabeaushé / Keeley Forsyth / Krista Papista (DJ set) / Lady Donli / Lambrini Girls / LUCIDVOX / Martina Stock / Mary Ocher / Melanie Jame Wolf & friends / Melenas / MOLHAM / MPC Lafote / Ms Nina / OG LU / Otis Mensah (CW) / Pari Eskandari (CW) / Pillow Fite / Olympia Bukkakis & Friends (CW) / Plattenbau / Priya Ragu / Rachael Lavelle / Rasco / Rich Aucoin / Schneider TM & Lillevan (CW) / Sinem / Sextile / Stereotype / Steve Mekoudja (CW) / Swell Maps C21 / Tarwater / The KVB / The Morning Stars / Twin Flame / VÍZ / VV & The Void / What Are People For? / Zebra Katz / ZIMBRU

More acts will be announced soon.

*Pop-Kultur is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion of the State of Berlin with funds from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the programme »Strengthening the Potential for Innovation in Culture II (INP II)«, Pop-Kultur Commissioned Works & Pop-Kultur Inter:national are funded by Initiative Musik gemeinnützige Projektgesellschaft mbH with project funds from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The »Goethe Talents« programme is funded by the Goethe-Institut. The exchange project »Tokyo-Berlin« as part of the 30th anniversary of the city partnership is sponsored by the Senate Chancellery – Governing Mayor of Berlin and the Goethe-Institut Tokyo.*



**Press Contacts** Marie Ketzscher Ines Weißbach **E-Mail** [press@pop-kultur.berlin](mailto:press@pop-kultur.berlin)  
**Website** <https://www.pop-kultur.berlin> **Press Area** [www.pop-kultur.berlin/press/](http://www.pop-kultur.berlin/press/)