

# Pop-Kultur/2023

Press Release from 19th April 2023

Pop-Kultur 2023 is coming together – and coming together is what it's all about / First acts revealed

- Pop-Kultur 2023 from 30th August through 1st September at the Kulturbrauerei Berlin
- The first 50 names of the Pop-Kultur 2023 line-up
- Applications for »Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« & »Pop-Kultur lokal« kicks off



From top left to bottom left (clockwise):

Drag Syndrome, A Song for You, Empress Of, Lola Marsh (© Samantha Annis)

Can a song be a hug? That's one question the Pop-Kultur festival will be asking from **30th August to 1st September 2023**.

With the soulful anthems by Berlin's surprise hit **A Song for You**, the answer is already clearly yes. Their performance involves around 40 Berlin singers and dancers coming together. Through their powerful voices, voguing and ballet, the audience receives an interactive musical embrace. The choral performance project oscillates between neo-soul, hip-hop and R&B and unites various themes that will also surface in their Commissioned Work conceived just for Pop-Kultur: celebrating the individual in the collective and developing it into a new form – togetherness as a space of possibility that also means refuge in the face of real, external crises.

»This year, Pop-Kultur has been coming up with new, creative approaches that are both collective and playful, taking shape as concerts, Commissioned Works and talks as well as workshops and other forms,« says **Katja Lucker**, festival director and managing director of Musicboard Berlin.

The international, pop-cultural gathering will once again take place over three days in the numerous venues of the Kulturbrauerei. Honduran American synth-pop musician **Empress Of**, Israeli indie stars **Lola Marsh**, Nigerian »Baby Riddim« afrobeats breakthrough **Fave**, the world's only professional drag ensemble consisting of performers with Down's syndrome **Drag Syndrome**, and Canadian electro-pop duo **Junior Boys** are just some of the artists that have confirmed their appearances at Pop-Kultur. They will be joined by Berlin acts including **Prince Emrah**, a performance artist who captivates the audience with drag and belly dancing, songwriter (Ariana) **Zustra**, who is also a journalist, and **Mulay**, who brings an experimental twist to R&B. Hip-hop is represented by the likes of Hamburg's conscious rapper **Ansu**, the Turkish-Kurdish-Armenian rising star **BRKN** from Berlin-Kreuzberg, Cologne's **Albi X**, who transforms his Congolese roots into danceable Afro-trap, and the up-and-coming female rap duo **pape** from Offenbach. The trio of **Pamela Owusu-Brenyah**, **Christian Morin** and **Yeşim Duman**, along with **Pamela Schlewinski**, who is organizing the Commissioned Works, are curating a perfectly balanced 2023 programme.



From left to right: Albi X, pape und BRKN © Ferhat Topal

Besides **A Song for You**, the line-up features another choral project. **Nichtseattle**, aka **Katharina Kollmann**, is bringing a musical, social engagement to Prenzlauer Berg with her Commissioned Work. »Haus aus Papier« will be performed with a local Pankow choir, its members aged between 20 and 70, whose voices the »Kommunistenlibido« singer Kollmann will put into a refreshing, new context.

In his Commissioned Work, **Garagen Uwe**, aka **Jannis Kleiß**, makes a compelling case for community by hanging out in a smoky, familial setting. For this, he invites **Stella Sommer**, **Drangsal**, **Charlotte Brandi** and **Max Rieger** to take turns on the cosy garage sofa – including seat cushions for the audience.

And in her Commissioned Work »Lost Voices«, **Anika** will transform the Kesselhaus into a space for voices that would otherwise not be heard.

The eternally cool **Fuffifufzich** (this time with a Commissioned Work) and Kreuzberg rapper **Wa22ermann** will once again electrify Pop-Kultur audiences, following up

their wild performances last year at the Çaystube. The safer space curated by **Yeşim Duman** is a performative installation that invites audiences free of charge in its specific and, as always, unpretentious, solidarity-instilling way; it features exciting new acts like queer Australian electro-pop singer **Banoffee** and genre-defiant singer-songwriter **EVİN**.

»Pop-Kultur Nachwuchs« is also open to 250 young, international talents and offers a sense of togetherness through workshops. By networking with movers and shakers from business, politics and the music industry, they can get help plotting their next career moves. For the first time, artist manager **Sonja Lunau** is in charge of co-ordinating the Nachwuchs programme. Applications open on 27th April 2023 via [nachwuchs.pop-kultur.berlin](https://nachwuchs.pop-kultur.berlin).

»Pop-Kultur lokal«, a platform for local, independent organisers and their events, will once again provide the musical prelude to the festival. The jury – **Michael Aniser**, **Anton Teichmann** (Mansion & Millions), **Danielle Rahal aka DJ Lolsnake** (Weeeirdos) and **Nadine Moser** (Pop-Kultur) – have already selected the respective event formats. The first »Pop-Kultur lokal« event will take place on 18th May 2023: »Sonic Boatany by Unrush« is an open-air ambient event at Backsteinboot Insel Eiswerder, tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city on Ascension Day.

Audio impressions of Pop-Kultur 2023 are available via the [official festival playlist on Spotify](#). Tickets for Pop-Kultur Berlin 2023 are available at [pop-kultur.berlin](https://pop-kultur.berlin). Festival passes cost 70 euros (plus advanced booking fee).

**Concerts and Commissioned Works (CW) by:** 21 downbeat / Aili / Aksak Maboul / Albi X / Anika: »Lost Voices« (CW) / Ansu / ARXX / ARY / A Song For You (CW) / Banoffee / BRKN / C'est Karma / Casey MQ / Codeine / Crack Cloud / cumgirl8 / Das Kinn / Dina Summer / Drag Syndrome / ERRORR / Empress Of / EVİN / Fave / Fishbach / Free Love / Fuffifufzich (CW) / Garagen Uwe (CW) / Get Jealous / Indigo Sparke / J. Vague / Junior Boys / Karl Vento / Lola Marsh / Meagre Martin / mui zyu / Mulay / Nashi44 / Nichtseattle: »Haus aus Papier« (CW) / pape / Prince Emrah / Robert Kretschmar / Rosa Anschutz / Sofie Royer / Sophia Blenda / Stella Sommer / The Düsseldorf Dusterboys / Tigre Bleu / Wa22ermann / Walter Astral / Zainab Lax / Zustra

Talks & films as well as further live acts will be announced soon.

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