Basic press text Reeperbahn Festival
18 – 21 Sept. 2019

Sounds of A New Generation

The world, and the world of music with it, is in a phase of transition. In Europe as well as in other parts of the world, the call for change is getting louder, people get a voice who had previously only been marginalised. A decisive stance seems more important than ever, for artists and their works as well as for event organisers and the industry’s visionaries. This is accompanied by the question of what art is allowed to do, must be allowed to do - and what perhaps not. Overcoming the gender gap or a change in media use, increasing economic pressure or algorithmisation of our listening habits - these are the topics that will characterise our perception of music in the future.

Against this background, Reeperbahn Festival 2019 with its hundreds of curated concerts, dozens of panels and discussion rounds, speeches and presentations, multi-media and multi-cultural contents is again positioning itself not only as a progressive music event and European hot spot of the international music industry but also as a place of origin for social change.

On its 14th edition, Reeperbahn Festival will this year welcome about 425 new, international bands, ensembles and solo artists. World premieres, but also competitions and awards such as the ANCHOR – Reeperbahn Festival International Music Award or the international prize for excellent music journalism IMJA will make up the programme.

Questions of today will find their artistic answers of tomorrow.

For example, with the EU-subsidised initiative Keychange, established principally by Reeperbahn Festival in the past two years. In 2019, the festival and the initiative have committed themselves once again to strengthening the role of women in music and to trigger changes that would ideally reach far beyond the sector.

It is its mix of political future congress, major medial event and gathering of the music world across generations that makes Reeperbahn Festival unique.

53,000 visits on four days in 2018, thereof 5,500 professional guests from 56 nations.

Around 425 bands and artists

In about 600 curated concerts and showcase concerts
art, film, readings, premieres, discourses

300 conference programme items with sessions, meetings and awards
**DOORS OPEN – The Intro of Reeperbahn Festival**

With the official opening ceremony DOORS OPEN at Stage Operettenhaus on Wednesday, 18 September 2019, at 06:00 pm, Reeperbahn Festival 2019 will sound the bell for visitors and media representatives. Some highlights right at the beginning? Why not!

The fantastic duo Charlotte Roche and Ray Cokes will host the show which, with its illustrious guests is designed as a thematic and artistic preview of the festival. As guests there will be the jury of the ANCHOR Award, this year consisting of the producer legends Bob Rock and Tony Visconti, the pop reformers Peaches and Kate Nash, the Australian TV and radio presenter Zan Rowe as well as Beatsteaks singer Arnim Teutoburg-Weiß. The new Keychange ambassadress Joy Denalane will present the future goals of the initiative for gender equality in music, which was started in 2017 by the British PRS Foundation, the EU and Reeperbahn Festival and was extended in 2019 for four years.

Angus Stome aka Dope Lemon (AU), currently traded as one of the most outstanding folk poets of this year’s partner country Australia, and the wonderful Leslie Feist (CA) with her warm, eclectic songwriter rock will take care of the musical supporting programme. Both live acts will also give full concerts during the festival at Stage Operettenhaus after the illustrious DOORS OPEN show.

**ANCHOR 2019 – The international talent contest of Reeperbahn Festival**

In 2019, for the fourth time an internationally staffed jury consisting of the producer legends Tony Visconti (David Bowie etc.) and Bob Rock (Metallica, Mötley Crüe etc.), the artists Peaches and Kate Nash, the Australian TV and radio presenter Zan Rowe as well as Beatsteaks singer Arnim Teutoburg-Weiß will select the winner of the ANCHOR – Reeperbahn Festival International Music Award from the six nominees alyona alyona (UA), Celeste (GB), DRAHLA (GB), Feng Suave (NL), Moyka (NO) and The Hormones (CN). The Award show at St. Pauli Theater on 21 September 2019, 06:00 pm, will be hosted by Steven Gätjen and Hadnet Tesfai, and apart from the singer songwriter Dermot Kennedy (GB), a further highlight will be the ANCHOR judges themselves performing on stage.

The ANCHOR contest is aimed at promoting aspiring bands and artists that are currently little known to the public but could be among the great acts of tomorrow. In the past, the ANCHOR already proved to be a reliable barometer of future trends. Previous-year winners were Albin Lee-Meldau, Jade Bird, Tamino and Faces On TV.
FOCUS COUNTRY 2019: Australia
This year, Reeperbahn Festival has a partnership extending to the other end of the world. In 2019, the festival's focus country is Australia and its music scene whose long tradition of excellent indie rock is still alive in many bands. Between DIY spirit and a struggling club landscape, these artists from Down Under go their own ways, daring to free themselves from the constraints of the industry.

During the numerous Reeperbahn Festival events commentateurs, sector experts and representatives of various enterprises will discuss Australia's heterogeneous music scene and the status quo of the art-related economic situation. The country focus coincides with the tenth anniversary of Sounds Australia and will present the next wave of thrilling Australian artists at THE AUSSIE BBQ Showcase at Molotow on Friday, 20 September.

World premières at Reeperbahn Festival
Every year anew, Reeperbahn Festival shows a heart for newcomers and aspiring talents. But also established artists who have already succeeded in foraying into future soundscapes will get a chance to present their current works - and frequently in spectacular settings. In 2019, various Hamburg venues will be the place of world premieres pushing the traditional boundaries of musical concepts and translating innovation into fascination.

Ólafur Arnald's production "Ekki Húgsa 360°", contracted for Reeperbahn Festival, is such a work of enormous brilliance. Together with the video producer Torsten Posselt, the Icelandic multi-instrumentalist will present his last year's album "re:member" in a completely new guise at the Planetarium Hamburg on every festival day - not live but as a multi-media immersive experience.

The concert of Efterklang at the Elbphilharmonie, where the Danish musicians of longing will present their complete new album "Altid Sammen" live, should also be unique as all musicians participating in the production of the album will be on stage and will be supported by a choir consisting of Elbphilharmonie staff and the Belgian ensemble B.O.X..

Another world premiere is the concert of Anna Ternheim and the Hamburg Kaiser Quartett, also taking place at the Elbphilharmonie. The Swedish singer songwriter will present her new album “A Space for Lost Time” for the first time on stage and in addition pieces especially composed for this night together with the Kaiser Quartett.

With the installation "A Symphony of Noise - Inspired by Matthew Herbert", the author and Michaela Pnacekova will draw the audience into virtual realities, addressing several senses at the same time. Listening to everyday sounds and the music hidden inside become an interactive spectacle arranged by the audience itself - VR at the next level.
installation can be experienced on the Arts Playground at the Festival Village on Heiligengeistfeld on every festival day.

**The Future Is Now – The discourse programme**
In its discourse programme, Reeperbahn Festival will face urgent issues of today and tomorrow. Thematically and content-relatedly delimited from the festival categories music, word, art and film, talks, presentations and workshops with future-oriented concepts for the society of the 21st century will take place at different venues.

On the Future Playground, for example, ideas on sustainability and new orientation of our economy will be discovered, while the Music Maker Playground will provide new food for thought for the music industry.

The Keychange initiative for gender equality is at least as important, encouraging a change in thinking; with this initiative Reeperbahn Festival has brought about positive changes for women for years, and will continue to do so.

And then there is the programme item Training Day, enabling festival visitors to gain profound insights into the development of the current music business, mainly geared to those who want to make a start or want to improve their qualifications. A programme devoted to deepening knowledge and opening new comprehensible perspectives.

**Wunderkinder - German Music Talent**
By now, bands and artists from Germany have been rising to international level. For the seventh time, the most promising acts of the German scene will get the opportunity to show their skills at Reeperbahn Festival. The export programme "Wunderkinder - German Music Talent" has made it its goal the bringing together local "Wunderkinder" with music business representatives from labels, distributors and agencies from all over the world at Reeperbahn Festival to help them become internationally successful. This includes international shows at Reeperbahn Festival spin-offs in New York, Los Angeles, Beijing, etc.

**Awards in 2019:**
ANCHOR - Reeperbahn Festival International Music Award
Helga! Festival Award
IMJA - International Music Journalism Award
ISA - International Sound Award
New Music Award - Talent development prize of the young ARD channels