

THE
MURMUR

JULY 2014 VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

COPENHAGEN
EDITION

Tender,
brutal and
nurturing.
Scandi-
man just
wants to
get along

Mad Es. A
mountain
climbing
artist with
colourful
maximism

CPH Jazz
Festival
returns
with some-
thing for
everyone



Back to the drawing board

Uffe Elbæk has a vision for a new political age where culture takes centre stage

CULTURE COLUMN

HOW GOOD ARE GOOD INTENTIONS?

I RECENTLY FOUND a picture from a past art festival of some years ago, which had a slogan that reads “Replace Your Fear of the Unknown with Curiosity” (or something very similar). I think it was called U-Turn and it must have happened around 2007 or 2008. Its budget was as big as they come for projects that are 100 percent financed by the Danish Arts Council. I remember the point was to host an “international quadrien-nale” – the word “quadrennial” is re-ally ridiculous, in all languages – and to put Copenhagen on the world’s art map . We Copenhageners apparent-ly deemed ourselves art-chic in tho-se days. The project went bankrupt due to poor management but I ha-ve nothing against the helpless ma-nagers of this project. I’m just using it as an example to mock the state of mankind.

Now, a few years later on, I was re-minded of the “turn your fears into curiosity” mantra. It just seems so childish and ridiculous to spend mil-lions on such delusional nonsense. I mean, who do they think they are? The worst isn’t the stupidity, or the wasted millions in taxpayer mon-ey. It is the pretentiousness and the self-righteousness. The elitist atti-tude that a bunch of Danish art cu-rators have a chance to educate the masses and make the world a bet-ter place.

THE PRESTIGE OF CULTURE

Since 1998 – first as editor of a weekly city guide and since then as a director for a major arts and cul-ture celebration – I must have been involved in at least a dozen projects whose agenda is “how can we create the ultimate cultural event”. I work-ed together with politicians and po-werful people with a burning desi-re to make the world a better place by initiating a major arts and cultu-re project. Less than a month ago, I sat with our dear mayor, Frank Jen-sen, a truly polite and attentive man. He asked some of the arts and cultu-re elite to come up with the ultima-te cultural event on a zero budget. I have never, in my entire life, felt mo-

re compelled to run away screaming from a meeting. The garbage that was spoken – and by my kin! Torture.

I don’t have an opinion about Frank Jensen or on his take on arts and culture, I don’t know the man or his intentions (though I did admire his patience and politeness at this meeting, though). But as I was sit-ting there, and as I have experienced a dozen times in the past decade – and as this sign about “fear and cu-riosity” made clear to me a couple of days ago – I have come to realise that good intentions seem to derive main-ly from stupidity and oversized egos. Nobody, who has ever spoken of this type of “massive immersive event of arts and culture”, has wished such an event would exist without imag-ining himself as the event’s artistic director, manager or director.

DOOMED TO FAILURE

But real art is simple, direct, honest and fun. Art is not there to try to change the world or educate people. It may be doing just that, but defini-tely not by caring about anything else than its topic. When arts and cul-ture have intentions, they become dishonest tools for social prestige. A good song is meant to make you dan-ce, or cry or laugh – nothing more. If the dancing or the laughing makes you a better man, so be it.

At those meetings I often meet young and hopeful people who “want to work with events” or “cul-ture”, and many who “want to be an entrepreneur”. But being an entre-preneur is not a goal. Nor is culture. Many politicians keep wasting pub-lic money by initiating projects that are doomed to fail, again and again, because they are eager to achieve the prestige of something they do not really understand. Culture mon-ey and art funding should go to pro-jects that exist, that are real, sim-ple and honest. It’s really not that hard, as long as you stop thinking of arts and culture as this magic social voodoo thing. Insecurity, ultimately, rules the world. **M**

Thomas Fleurquin

We have become so used to keeping ourselves in defined boxes when we need to tear them down and connect with each other

UFFE ELBÆK

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BEHIND THE STORY

UFFE ELBÆK INTERVIEW

I HAVE SOME FRIENDS who studied at Uffe Elbæk’s school, the KaosPilots. They are a particular breed. Enthusiastic, structured, creative and entrpreneurial, they have learned the Elbæk ethos – an unorthodox and eccentric approach to living. Elbæk is of-ten disregarded as naive and goofy. But while his new party’s ma-nifesto does raise eyebrows, there is definitely a method to his unconventional madness.

We met in parliament and chatted for an hour. He was keen to get the message out to the English language community, as he sees his party having an international appeal. At its core is a dismissal of the neoliberal philosphy that growth is always good. There are more valuable things in life, he argues, we just need to bring them to the fore. One set of tools is art and culture, which ought to be more integrated into political solutions. I’m not exact-ly sure how, but hey, I’m not Uffe Elbæk. **PETER STANNERS**

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Print
Trykkeriet Nodvestsjælland, www.tnvs.dk

Distribution
THE MURMUR is available at a range of businesses, institutions, cafes and public libraries in Copenhagen and across Denmark.
THE MURMUR is also available as a free digital download. Visit www.murmur.dk

Subscriptions
For private and company subscriptions of the printed edition please contact: subs@murmur.dk

THE MURMUR is published 12 times a year.
This issue was published on July 1, 2014.
Cover photo: Peter Stanners
Circulation: 20,000
CVR: 26644585

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The man who is only a poet is not even that.

- Piet Hein



EXPANDED Copenhagen's largest natural area got a little bigger this June after an additional 37 hectares were added to Dyrehaven park. By including the area of forest under the park's protection, Naturstyrelsen says it can better protect the habitat for giant stag beetles and the minute pseudo-scorpion Anthrenochernes stellae Lohmander.

NOMINATED Nature lovers are already aware of the chalky cliffs of Stenvs Klint and their prehistoric treasures. Now the rest of the world does too, after it was named a Unesco World Heritage site. visitstevns.dk

CUT Gents, looking for a place to get a cut and a shave, or maybe just to be able to drink a whiskey and read Playboy during the workday? The men's only atmosphere of the classic barbershop lives on at Barberen i Vognmagergade. barb.dk

SURFED The arrival of summer has us dreaming about idyllic landscapes far away from the daily grind. What better place to do that than on one of Denmark's 27 inhabited 'small' islands. Their website has photo galleries from all of them and provides plenty of opportunity for some virtual escapism. bit.ly/tiAMa3J



TASTED They have been available in stores since March, but July is high season for new potatoes. Dug fresh from, the young tubers provide a delicate addition to any summer meal. To make the experience complete, pick up a bag from a roadside stand.

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CULTUREMAKER

BUTCHER, BAKER, MONEYMAKER

Keeping track of CLAUS MEYER's food enterprises is no small task. But regardless of how you view his approach to food, it is hard to avoid the influence he has had on the way we think about what we eat



Claus Meyer baked bread on stage during his 2012 talk at TEDxCOPENHAGEN (Photo: Abdellah Ihadian)

DEPENDING ON YOUR approach to food, the Nordic kitchen is either an overdone trend or a terroir whose time has come. Regardless of what you call it, few would disagree that one name stands out among the ranks of chefs cum food entrepreneurs that have emerged over the past decade.

There is no doubting that Claus Meyer is passionate about his food. Often seen eating an apple grown on his own orchard, Meyer, in addition to being a co-owner of Noma, has gone on to establish a minor empire of restaurants, bakeries and various other food-related firms, all based on the principle that food should more than just taste good, it also needs to con-

tribute to our overall well being. While he has made a commitment to teaching the nation how to enjoy what it eats - he baked bread on stage during his talk at TEDxCOPENHAGEN in 2012 - Meyer understands how to run a business. During the opening last year of a new food outlet in Lyngby, he commented that the he was under no il-

lusion that the residents of the affluent suburb needed to be taught how to eat a healthier diet.

"We put it here because we knew there were customers," he said.

But even as the Nordic concept becomes less a philosophy than a cliché, Meyer and his brand have remained a step ahead of the cop-

ycats. That is partly due to his engagement in social programmes - including running a cookery school for inmates - but just as much to, on the one hand, a tightly managed business and, on the other, an insatiable urge to bring out not just the best in food but also in the firms that produce and sell it.

The next step in Meyer's plan will be to open a food hall in New York's Grand Central Station. There, he has said, he will also hopes to establish a handful of eateries that are both approachable and affordable to customers, yet bring to them the quality and naturalness that Nordic culture has become associated with.

Meyer described the undertaking as seeking to convey the thinking behind Nordic kitchen, not selling Nordic food. Putting his concept where his mouth is, he expects to sell items prepared with local ingredients.

"It's this idea of expressing a specific time and place through the food, and bridging deliciousness with healthiness and sustainability," he told the Daily Meal, a food news website. "I want to engage, educate, and inspire people." And, he would be the first to admit, sell them food. Good food. M

Kevin McGwin

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Uffe Elbæk's naive political project starts to takes root

It was derided as naive, but a strong grassroots movement is propelling Uffe Elbæk's new political project, The Alternative, forward. He believes we need a new measure of societal growth that is not based on material consumption and that art and culture should play a more central role in finding intelligent and sustainable solutions for our future

E

veryone said it couldn't be done. They said if you weren't already dead politically, you're super dead now," says Uffe Elbæk with a laugh.

We are sitting in an alcove in the upper level of parliament's gallery to talk about his new political party Alternativet, The Alternative. Launched in November with an ambition to secure greater economic, social and environmental sustainability, it was immediately derided as naïve. Lacking a political programme, professing values that include humility, humour and empathy, and with a plan to develop its politics with the general public through meetings and workshops, it's perhaps not hard to see why.

But the unorthodox approach has yielded results. In June the party finalised its manifesto, increased the size of its board and is halfway to securing the 21,000 signatures needed to stand in next year's expected general election. Elbæk apparently isn't alone in thinking that Denmark needs a new political culture and measure of societal growth.

"People are fed up with the neoliberal competition paradigm. Finance Minister Bjarne Corydon recently said that the welfare state would soon become a competition state. But shouldn't it be about helping each other create a better society and finding ways of sharing knowledge in ways we have never done before? Parliament is still so old fashioned, it's like the youth rebellion of the 1960s never reached here despite making an enormous impact on the rest of society. So I hope Alternativet will be a Trojan Horse that can bring a cultural vibe in here," he says, gesticulating at the gallery's high ceilings and the people moving hurriedly about.

Elbæk is a relative newcomer to national politics and was unaffiliated with any politi-

Parliament is still so old fashioned, it's like the youth rebellion of the 1960s never reached here despite making an enormous impact on the rest of society. So I hope Alternativet will be a Trojan Horse that can bring a cultural vibe in here.

cal parties after breaking away from the far-left Venstre Socialisterne in the early 1980s.

"They were too dogmatic and lacked a focus on developing positive future scenarios. I believe in the common good and I wanted to come up with concrete examples of solving complex problems," Elbæk says.

ENTREPRENEUR TURNED POLITICIAN

To tackle high youth unemployment in Aarhus, he established the community centre Frontløberne (The Frontrunners) in 1986 that gives advice to youth on how to develop their projects, ideas and business plans. And in 1991 he established the creative business school the KaosPilots that specialises in leadership, project management and entrepreneurialism. Students graduate with a qualification equivalent to a bachelor's degree and are currently involved in projects around the world.

Elbæk's political career started in 2001 when he was elected to the Aarhus City Council as a member of the centrist Radikale party, serving on the schools and culture committee. In 2007 he moved to Copenhagen to head the World Outgames before moving to Toronto in 2009 to take a break and write his most recent book, *Leadership on the Edge*.

In 2011 he was elected as an MP for Radikale and was appointed culture minister. The following year he was accused of nepotism for hosting dinners at an organisation where he had once served as a board member and where his husband had also been employed. The story quickly developed into a media frenzy and, to protect his husband, he chose to resign.

The state auditor soon after cleared him of any wrongdoing but the experience with the press only served to justify his suspicion that something was amiss with Danish politi-



Uffe Elbæk outside the parliament, Folketinget (Photo: Peter Stanners)



Alternativet held 12 separate debates during the annual Folkemødet political festival this June on the island of Bornholm (Photo: Alternativet)

cal culture, which had become too focused on personal attacks.

The following summer he began sketching out the idea for a new political platform. Realising that he wanted to take it further, he left Radikale in September, though there were a number of other reasons that sped his departure.

Earlier in the year his party voted in favour of a revised freedom of information act, which reduced the level of oversight the public had of MPs. The same year Edward Snowden – who Elbæk unsuccessfully petitioned parliament to offer asylum to – also started to release his documents that demonstrated the vast and unchecked surveillance by the NSA.

ALTERNATIVE POLITICS

“When you put these issues together, we end up with a system where governments are protected from oversight, while they have enormous power to watch over their citizens. Despite good arguments about terrorism, we are going in the wrong direction,” Elbæk says, explaining why transparency became one of his party’s six core values.

We think that if we want to increase quality of life, we need to decouple it from material wealth.

From the outset, Elbæk wanted sustainability to occupy a central position in Alternativet’s political platform. He wants us to achieve a higher standard of living using fewer resources, and to stop measuring the success of a society based solely on its economic and material growth.

“We think it is true to a certain degree, as quality of life is definitely linked to having material resources. But while material growth and quality of life increased at the same rate until the 1970s, quality of life hasn’t increased since, while material wealth has continued to grow. We have more flat screens, computers and cars than before, but we are not relatively happier. We believe that if we want to increase quality of life, we need to decouple it from material wealth. Quality of life is more affected by whether our existence is meaningful and whether our community recognises the value we create. It’s about having a sustainable private and social life. We need this new understanding of growth, because if the whole world were to have the same level of material wealth as we do, we would need four earths to sustain it.”

ALTERNATIVET

Established:
November 26, 2013

Focus:
Sustainability, entrepreneurialism, a new political culture, education, art and culture

Goal:
To increase the standard of living while reducing our consumption of resources

Values:
Courage, generosity, transparency, humility, humour, empathy

International amassadors:
Canada, Australia, Croatia, USA, UK, South Africa, Hong Kong and Sweden



Uffe Elbæk greets his former colleague, Radikale MP Nadeem Farooq. His former party's support of the new freedom of information act was among the reasons he left the party in September (Photo: Peter Stanners)

But doing more with less isn’t straightforward, and will require Danes to adopt a more proactive, inventive and entrepreneurial mind-set. Environmental and social solutions can be found without throwing money at the problem. Art and culture plays a central role here, Elbæk argues, both in developing our understanding of what is actually valuable and developing answers to the questions they pose. For example, instead of medicating people suffering from anxiety and stress, they could be encouraged to join a choir. People afflicted with Alzheimer’s, who are starting to lose their memories, could connect with people through dance.

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Alternativet’s cultural platform calls for cultural and creative institutions to become more integrated into educational institutions and schools. Elbæk says it was a success at one adult education centre in the city of Odense that invited the art group Sister’s Academy to contribute with their methodology and creativity.

Denmark would be a so much more interesting place if people dared to see the opportunities in having fun and had the courage to look each other in the eyes.

“These artistic people took it over and turned it into a magical place using really simple elements. The subjects were the same, but the context changed. The students felt like all of their talents and intellect were activated during the two weeks the project lasted,” Elbæk says, adding that he feels we need to be more willing to challenge conventions.

“We have become so used to keeping ourselves in defined boxes when we need to tear them down and connect with each other. The recent reform of public schools had some really great elements, because it suggested that schools should work together with theatres, sport centres and libraries more. We would achieve so much more value if we pooled our resources together. We have a lot. We need to connect the dots and get knowledge and experience to flow on a totally other level. Denmark would be a so much more interesting place if people dared to see the opportunities in having fun and had the courage to look each other in the eyes.”

While Alternativet’s success as a political party remains to be seen, it is best seen as a

movement, rather than a traditional political party. Elbæk says its message can be unfolded in a variety of ways, through a think tank or media platform, and that the party is its bridge into society’s primary power domain, parliament.

Their mission is not restricted to Denmark, and on its website, Alternativet declares itself to be “an international political party for those who want to work for a sustainable, democratic, socially just and entrepreneurial world.” The problems affecting Denmark are not unique, and global problems need global solutions.

“We are in the midst of a huge crisis. On the surface society seems to be doing all right, but with climate change and increasing pressure on our resources, we are undoubtedly experiencing a global systemic crisis. The old system has managed to protect itself so far, but the new system is starting to emerge and is struggling like hell to gain acceptance.” **M**

Peter Stanners



On the celebration of midsummer, historically a pagan celebration, a samba procession paraded through a predominantly Muslim neighbourhood. It could only be Sankt Hans Aften in Nørrebro.

CAPTURED

Photo: Peter Stanners



The gender debate will lose its way if it focuses solely on feminism, women and the battle of the sexes. The Scandinavian man is largely in agreement with the shrill voices, he just needs to find his place, somewhere between the tender and the brutal

STANDING ATOP man’s evolutionary ladder is Scandiman. Homo Scandinavicus is both a monumental person carved from granite, and a delicate flower who softly and compassionately plays the role of the providing father. Standing beside him at the top is the woman. She ought to be aware that this is how he feels. He doesn’t want to start a gender war with her. He wants them to live a good life together.

Scandiman’s soul is shaped by the welfare state but it hasn’t made him lazy and stupid, but rather soft and curious. He is a man of the future. A new and better character formed by pedagogic education and a lack of deprivation. His personality is not formed by competition, but through community.

The welfare state stipulates the terms of his existence. Scandiman cannot escape it. It is a paradigm that, more than anything else in his life, has defined and shaped him. Everything the welfare state lets loose, is a product of it. All Danish art is welfare state art. All Danish music is welfare state music. All men born since the 1960s are, for good or ill, sons of the welfare state. Scandiman is a son of the welfare state. He is formed by the welfare state’s ideology. Not by socialism or by liberalism, but through the negotiated consensus that has been our life’s defining condition since our birth.

Scandiman is a moment in time in a geographical location in a particular political reality. Scandiman is a crystallisation of the values that technological and economic development has normalised. In his essay, the *Soul of the Man*

Under Socialism, Oscar Wilde described the future person as an individual shaped by the state’s security.

“It will be a marvellous thing – the true personality of man – when we see it. It will grow naturally and simply, flower-like, or as a tree grows. It will not be at discord. It will never argue or dispute. It will not prove things. It will know everything. And yet it will not busy itself about knowledge. It will have wisdom. Its value will not be measured by material things. It will have nothing. And yet it will have everything, and whatever one takes from it, it will still have, so rich will it be. It will not be always meddling with others, or asking them to be like itself. It will love them because they will be different. And yet while it will not meddle with others it will help all, as a beautiful thing helps us, by being what it is. The personality of man will be very wonderful. It will be as wonderful as the personality of a child.”

SCANDIMAN is an insufferable gastrosexual clown, but also a magnificent man of the future. A utopian realisation on the highest step of civilisation’s ladder. Only his penis and stomach connect him to biology. He has internalised democracy. Equality is no longer a challenge, but a part of his nature. He is highly annoying and self-righteous. But he is good enough. Scandiman could not dream of hitting his girlfriend. Scandiman thinks it’s the most normal thing in the world that a woman occupies society’s most powerful position.

Scandiman’s ambition is to be real man. A man who has strong arms and an unmacho gentleness. Some one who is unafraid to share his feelings without prejudice.



Kristoffer Granov is an editor of Atlas Magazine, where this essay was originally published. www.atlasmag.dk

Scandiman meets a woman. They go to a café and drink wine. “She is exceptionally beautiful,” Scandiman thinks. “Much better than what I normally meet in town. Her intellect is deep, deeper than mine. She is feminine, so you are never in doubt about when she is tough or vulnerable. I look up to her,” Scandiman thinks. “I admire her so much it makes me weak.”

Scandiman beats himself about the head when he realises how many times he let her make decisions during the date. He wants to be a proper and brave man who can achieve the ultimate victory. But Scandiman doesn’t have a killer instinct. Scandiman feels useless and that he will never be good enough for her.

Scandiman’s ambition is to be real man. A man who has strong protective arms and an unmacho gentleness. Someone who is unafraid to share his feelings without prejudice. To be self-conscious without being self-centered and with a will to be better. The Scandinavian man is good, but increasing distance to the biological realm has left a trace. Scandiman must find the balance.

A proper man needs a proper woman to be a proper man toward. That is perhaps the simple secret, that we cannot be good without having someone to be good with.

“Men are pigs.” Scandiman has heard this plenty of times before. And ultimately he knows it is right. He cannot help but register and judge the breasts of every woman he meets. When Scandiman has to choose a queue in the super-

market, he instinctively chooses the one with the most attractive woman behind the till. But Scandiman knows that it is wrong to judge a woman based on her appearance. He fights his biological urges because he has internalised democracy.

Scandiman is novel because he is conscious of his inbuilt sense of injustice and therefore wants to be a better person. Scandiman knows that his jealousy is an expression of his angst for being insufficient. Scandiman is unafraid of being self-critical. He doesn’t want to be burdened by the weight of his masculine mask. He wants to be free to be vulnerable. Scandiman cannot be liberated unless women are too, so he supports her aspirations. He cannot be a proper man alone. Scandiman needs a proper Scandiwoman to be proper with. It is a joint project, not a goddamned gender war.

BEING a good person is a noble ambition. The American philosopher Martha Nussbaum said “to be a good human is to have a kind of openness to the world, an ability to trust uncertain things beyond your own control. The ethical life is based on a trust in the uncertainty, and on a willingness to be exposed. Being a good person requires being open to the world.”

All this is easier when you’re a trusting welfare state person. The ethical life, Nussbaum continues, is based more on being like a plant than a jewel. Such is Scandiman. A granite monument and a delicate flower. Such is Scandiman’s ideal woman too. **M**

Illustration: Sara Houmann Mortensen

THE MURMUR

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Mad ES's visuals shown behind the rapper, and the writer of this article, Shivani Ahlowala. He calls his style 'colourful maximism' (Photo: Flemming Bo Jensen)

Mad ES Mountain Man VJ

Artist, activist, organiser, art director and VJ, Mads Knudsen has an explosive and colourful inner vision

Mads said that the wall of ice just came ripping down, the whole sheet in one go. It was day 22 of climbing the 6,194-meter Mount McKinley in Alaska. Measured from its base, it's the tallest climb in the world. He and his two companions were pushing for the summit when they fell. He was the first climber up, so he fell the furthest. He plummeted 200 metres and was imprisoned in a tomb of snow and ice. Snow filled his mouth and nostrils and he couldn't breathe. Squirming, he managed to create an airway that kept him going until his companion tunneled through the snow and rescued him fifteen minutes later. Experts later said that the three had a five to ten percent of surviving that avalanche

in Alaska. Treading the line between life and death, that's my VJ. I first got to know Mads when we were touring through India earlier this year. We played six cities and had ample time to get acquainted between all the cars, buses, trains and planes that took us from north to south. But it wasn't then that Mads opened up and I learned what this man was hiding. One afternoon we were setting up for a soundcheck at a club gig in Bangalore and, in response to a story I was telling, said, "that reminds me of the time that I was held up at gunpoint in São Paulo". This was one of a number of statements he made during that trip that downright rocked my perception of him. I realised I couldn't put this discreate, hoodie-wearing Danish man in a box. Numbed by the predictable nature of almost everything around me lately, I was delighted when Mads began to reveal himself. Mads

Brydegaard Knudsen, dubbed Mad ES, is a VJ (Visual Jockey), graffiti artist, activist, organiser, art director, mountaineer and my bandmate. He was born and raised on the island of Lolland to which he attributes his affection for nature, the fire inside, and excellent German. Before we came together with our galactic bass operation, Alo Wala, last autumn, we were connected through our affiliation with the YO FOK! collective in Nørrebro. **AN UNEARTHLY EXPERIENCE** Mad Es is dogmatic about creating all the visual content that he uses in his performances. His visuals are rooted in an aesthetic he refers to as "colorful maximalism", which he uses as a tool to strike the balance between the song's intention, the vibration of the music, and the energy of the crowd. He performs like a DJ, triggering all the visuals live on stage and feeding off the collective pulse in the room. For a



Shivani Ahlowala is a rapper with the group Alo Wala. Originally from Chicago, she is now based in Copenhagen

man who up until recently only wore black, he is not afraid of colour. Mads' first VJ show was at an event he curated for Christiania's 40th birthday party in 2011. DJ and producer Anders Dixen, who performs as Unkwon, was familiar with Mads' graphic finesse due to their pasts as graffiti artists and asked him to create live visuals for his DJ set. Mads accepted the invitation, took a one-and-a-half hour course on VJ'ing at the autonomous culture house Bolsjefabrikken, and showed up on stage. It was a visual orgy that rocked the crowd, and Mad Es soon became YO FOK!'s resident VJ. He created the visual spectacle at They Call it Moombahton shows, and went on to craft intimate visuals for Eloq, Julius Sylvest, Copyflex, Copia Doble Systema, Alo Wala and Dixone. He has toured with these artists from Morocco to Iceland, and everywhere in between. As a club VJ Mad Es, says the most



A frame from Mad ES's music video for Okay Funky's 'Valhalla' (Photo: Hannibal Struckmann)



Mad ES (Photo: Polina Vinogradova)

memorable shows were for international acts including Munchi, Nadas-trom, Slick Shoota, Jillionaire and DJ Snake. He was recently lured into directing a music video for Okay Funky's new track 'Valhalla', a song that hums of immigrant life in Denmark. Mad Es describes the piece as a crazy three dimensional and psychedelic rave with Viking and African aesthetics. Constantly digging around for unearthly environmental experiences, Mad Es is

now planning a trip to Tajikistan next year to conduct research for his documentary project on The Pamiri people. His self-appointed duty is to support the Pamiris in making their identity, struggles and beauty known to the world. Mads, much like his expression, is a mindful explosion of light. He missions to bring people together through his art while always finding a way to feed the fire inside. **M**

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WHAT'S ON • JULY



KULLEN
Known as Kullen in Denmark, Sweden's Kullabjerget provides a great escape for cooped up city residents. Pack your hiking boots and a lunch and head to Sweden's headland for a day.
k.inventif.dk

ALL
MONTH

A FAMILY DRAMA
Kronborg Castle, the home of Hamlet, continues its tradition of alternative Shakespeare performances with a puppet version of King Lear for the whole family.
Shakespeare's Puppets
hamletscenen.dk
Ends Jul 31

ALL
MONTH

NOT WHAT YOU THINK
Copenhagen's International Organ Festival might not scream of summer, but the free mid-day concerts in an inspirational setting are perfect for recharging.
International Organ Festival
holmenskirke.dk
Ends Jul 31

ALL
MONTH

WORKING HOLIDAY
There's always work to be done at the Funen Village, and each day this summer, guests can learn how various tasks were done in the 19th century.
Summer in the Village
museum.odense.dk
Ends Jul 31

3

A DIFFERENT BEAT
Into music and in Copenhagen but want an alternative to jazz? Then head north, to the classical tones of the suburban Frederiksværk Music Festival.
Frederiksværk Music Festival
frv-musik.dk
Ends Jul 31

6

IF THESE WALLS COULD WALK
Every wondered what the tory behind some of the city's buildings was? Now's your chance. This Sunday walk takes you along the waterfront Kalvebod Brygge area.
Sunday Architecture Walk
dac.dk

7

PIPI SINGS
One of the world's best-loved children's stories comes to life in this musical performance of Pipi Longstockings.
Pipi Longstocking musical
bremteater.dk
Jul 7-15

14

SWINGIN' KIDS
Denmark's second city puts on a first-rate jazz festival and kids concerts are an important part of their programme.
Børnejazz
jazzfest.dk
Jul 14-18, 11am

17

THE LITTLE MUSICAL
July is truly a month for music in Denmark, and no aspect of the culture is left out. This year, The Little Mermaid gets in on the act.
The Little Mermaid - musical
kgiteater.dk
Ends Aug 17

25

LAID-BACK
Had enough of the hard-charging summer festivals? Give Stella Polaris and its mix of downtempo music in pleasant outdoor settings a try.
Stella Polaris
stella-polaris.dk
Jul 25-Aug 3
Various locations nationwide

26

TRADE AND WARS
The Vikings were feared as fighters, but they were also skilled merchants. Lock horns with them during Scandinavia's oldest Viking market.
The Viking Moot
moesmus.dk
Jul 26-27

27

OPERA EVERYWHERE
Opera echoes through the streets during the week-long celebration that brings the music style to the people. Enjoy dozens of events held in non-traditional places.
Copenhagen Opera Festival
operafestival.dk
Jul 27-Aug 3

WHAT'S ON • AUGUST

1

PRETTY HIP
The arty line-up and small scope of the Trailerpark Festival might be a turn off for those looking for a summer kick, but for those with their ear to the ground, it is the place to be.
Trailerpark Festival
trailerparkfestival.com
Jul 31-Aug



BOATFART
What's better than at day at the lake? A day on the lake, of course. Take a tour of the lakes of suburban Copenhagen on motorboats dating from the 19th century.
Baadfarten
baadfarten.dk
Weekends all summer

1

NEW MUSIC, OLD PARK
Explore the edge of music right in the heart of Copenhagen during the Vanguard Festival. Headlining this year's show: The Roots.
Vanguard Festival
vanguard-festival.com
Aug 1-4

1

ON THE HARBOURFRONT
Copenhagen's waterfront is transformed into an enormous stage for cultural events of all shapes and sizes during the 14th annual Kulturhavn festival.
Kulturhavn
kulturhavn.dk
Aug 1-4

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So good it hurts. Neneh Cherry performing at the Copenhagen Jazz Festival in 2012 (Photo: Kristoffer Juel Poulsen)

OPEN YOUR EARS TO 'THE SOUND OF SURPRISE'

With over 1,200 concerts at over 100 venues, the Copenhagen Jazz Festival offers something for everyone – even for jazz novices.

JAZZ IS 'THE SOUND OF SURPRISE', wrote the New Yorker's late, great jazz reviewer, Whitney Balliett. And during the Copenhagen Jazz Festival this month, that sound of surprise can be heard spilling out of clubs and cafes, on street corners and in public squares, giving the city a beat, swing and bam it normally lacks.

This year's edition runs from July 4 to 13 and includes headliners such as Tinariwen, Gregory Porter, Chick Corea and Stanley Clarke.

So how did a Scandinavian city distant from

music centres like New York City and New Orleans develop a reputation as one of Europe's premier jazz hubs? The answer can be traced back to the 1960s when jazz icons, including saxophonists Ben Webster and Dexter Gordon, came through town on their tours. Here they found an enthusiastic audience, adoring female admirers and a break from the ever-present racial tensions in the US.

They liked what they saw and heard, setting up shop in clubs like Montmartre. Gordon even learned Danish before he eventually returned to the US to reboot his career. Webster now lies buried alongside other Danish cultural greats in Assistens Kirkegård. Before their deaths, however, they managed to pass knowledge on to local talent and secure Copenhagen's reputation as a key stop on the European jazz circuit.

First appearing in 1979, the jazz festival is a product of the rich musical environment they helped foster. Copenhagen hasn't looked back since. With a fan base from around the

world, the Copenhagen festival consistently ranks among the world's top ten jazz festivals.

The real genius of the Copenhagen Jazz Festival is not the artists, however, but rather the organisation and ambience. A handful of concert themes like Jazz By The Sea and Jazz for Kids gives the event a down-to-earth vibe. And dozens of open-air concerts make it incredibly easy – and inexpensive – to experience quality music that ranges from bebop to free jazz. You can enjoy music outside the Royal Playhouse while sipping a cocktail. Or in the public park Kongens Have while sunbathing. And for those looking for a more refined experience, there are top names like Concha Buika at the DR Koncerthuset or Alex Riel at Jazzhus Montmartre.

So even if you have never listened to jazz, go ahead and download the festival app, find a free concert near you and open your mind and ears. No matter if it's 'Summertime' or 'Stormy Weather' or some unrecognisable free jazz, you might just be in for a surprise. **M**

COPENHAGEN JAZZ
FESTIVAL
JULY 4-13
JAZZ.DK

OUR FAVOURITES

TINARIWEN
JULY 9, 20:00, DR KONCERTHUSET
ØRESTADS BOULEVARD 13, ØRESTAD



The Tuareg nomads of the Sahara might not seem to have much in common with the legacy of Miles Davis and John Coltrane, but the guitar-based blues dished up by Tinariwen (Tuareg for 'deserts') are living proof of the elastic, international nature of jazz.

Formed in 1979 in a refugee camp in Algeria, Tinariwen intertwines the nomadic rhythms and melodies of the Tuaregs with the more pop-oriented approach of Berber music. With *The Radio Tisdas Sessions*, the band won a following beyond the Sahara, but conflict in their homeland Mali forces them to keep moving. They still find inspiration in the desert, however, and their Grammy-winning album *Tassili* was recorded under the open skies of the Mojave Desert just outside Los Angeles. When the band takes the stage in Copenhagen, they trade open skies with the pristine acoustic chamber of the DR Koncerthuset.

THURSTON MOORE AND MATS GUSTAFSSON
JULY 6, 21:00, JAZZHOUSE, NIELS HEMMINGSENS GADE 10, CITY CENTRE



Noise rock and free jazz collide when Moore and Gustafsson take the stage in the intimate space of Jazzhouse. As a founder of the legendary Sonic Youth, Moore has already established a reputation as a post-punk guitarist who embraces improvisation and never shies away from the chance to explore new territory. He has already cast a long shadow and continues to inspire guitarists around the globe, while always remaining open to new trends and movements. Gustafsson has meanwhile carved a niche as one of Scandinavia's top free jazz saxophonists.

Sparks flew when the two teamed up on projects such as 'Play Some Fucking Stooges' and 'Vi är alla Guds Slaver' (We Are All God's Slaves). Expect more of the same when Moore's avant-garde guitar style meets Gustafsson's free-flowing soundscapes at Jazzhouse, perhaps the city's premier jazz club.

WILD AT HEART
MARIA LAURETTE FRIIS & STIAN WESTERHUS + PUCE MARY (JULY 8);
JOMI MASSAGE & HENRIETTE SENNEVALDT + MAZUR/CRONHOLM/JONSSON
(JULY 9); BROKEN TWIN (JULY 10), ALL THREE CONCERTS START AT 22:00
HOVEDBIBLIOTEKET, KRISTALGADE 15, CITY CENTRE



Three concerts and three very different groups of female composers and instrumentalists, all united under one theme. The 'Wild at Heart' series unfolds in the main branch of the Copenhagen library with a handful of talent that includes Danish percussion legend Marilyn Mazur, an artist who can't be accused of blending into the musical landscape. On stage, she surrounds herself with a potpourri of percussion instruments. Subtle and playful, at a moment's notice she can take on a summer thunderstorm's rumble.

There's also up and coming talent like Puce Mary, Jomi Massage and the critics' darling, Broken Twin (aka Majke Voss Romme) who has earned accolades for her unique voice and solid songwriting. NME claims she is "the most arrestingly beautiful songwriter we've heard in eons," and Pitchfork chimes in: "there's something about the unaffected clarity of Broken Twin that rings true straight away."

Copenhagen Jazz Festival July 4-13, 2014



10 days, 100 venues, 1200+ concerts

Tinariwen (ML), Gregory Porter (US),
Concha Buika (ES), Stacey Kent (US),
Dave Holland & Prism (UK/US),
Christian McBride Trio (US), Hiromi (JP),
John Scofield Überjam Band (US),
Chick Corea & Stanley Clarke (US),
Joshua Redman Quartet (US),
Manu Katché & Richard Bona (FR/CM)

Thurston Moore & Mats Gustafsson (US/SE), Josephine Foster (US),
Broken Twin, Untold (UK), Juju & Jordash (IL), Jagwa Music (TZ),
Kassem Mosse & Mix Mup (DE), Orquesta Libre "Plays Duke" (JP),
King Ayisoba (GH), Fred Frith (UK), Corsano/Rasmussen (US/DK),
Frisk Frugt, The Thing (SE/NO), Christian Hjeltn, August Rosenbaum,
Ginman/Blachman/Dahl, Kira Skov, Jakob Bro, Er De Sjøældne?,
Girls In Airports, Lars Greve/Aske Zidore, Dreamer's Circus
+ many more...

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