

Press Release

Beat'n'Word

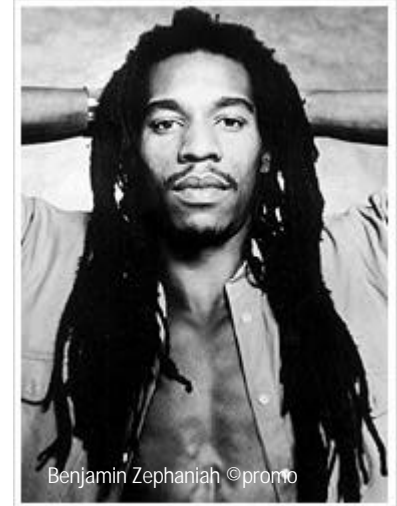
"This poetry is musical, radical, relevant and on TV" (Benjamin Zephaniah). On June 25th the Literaturwerkstatt Berlin will present, at the poesiefestival berlin, the now most popular form of poetry: Rap, HipHop, Spoken Word und Dub. Taking part will be Benjamin Zephaniah (GB) und Bams (France) and Tamer Nafar (Israel). The authors grapple, in sound and text, with the social and political realities of their countries, and comment on them. Their tone is urgent, their language accessible, and they want to reach people who don't read books, at the same time tying it all up with oral (narrating) traditions.

Benjamin Zephaniah (*1958) is considered a revolutionary of the British performance scene. It is his concern to take poetry in all directions: he wants to popularise poetry and bring his texts to life on stage. "His poems are short, funny and modern. It is poetry with attitude", writes *The Times*. About his own poetry, he says: "I try to write poems which are fun but also have a serious message."

The spoken word actor Bams (*1973) writes texts in French slang with fragments of other languages, and plays with the sound of words. With wit and anger she raps about the paradoxes and complications of life. Her name refers to her origins among Cameroon's Bamiléké ethnic group. The second solo album from Bams appeared in the spring of 2005 and was recognised as "superb". Her DJ Junkaz Lou provides the beats.

Tamer Nafar is the superstar among Israeli Arabs. He is a member of the first Palastinian rap group DAM, Da Arabian MCs, who sing in Arabic and Hebrew. The texts from Tamer Nafar describe his everyday world in Lod, a small town on the edge of Tel Aviv, in which Jews and Arabs live together. He feels like a "stranger in his own land" and expresses the experience of discrimination and violence. He fights for education and the rights of women. His music links Arabic rhythms with recitative.

The poesiefestival berlin takes place from 18th - 26th June with this year's focus "The Spanish-speaking world" in co-operation with the Instituto Cervantes.



Benjamin Zephaniah ©primo



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Beat'n'Word
HAU 2
Hallesches Ufer 32, 10963Berlin
Entry 9/6 euros
With Benjamin Zephaniah,
Bams, Tamer Nafar
Introduced by: Bas Böttcher

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