

COUNTRY in the City (of Berlin)

Die Berliner Band RodeoFM und ihr neues Album „Right Wing Planet“ macht auf die Szene in der Hauptstadt aufmerksam – Urban Country ist kein Widerspruch

Text: Christine Heise

Country in Berlin – das kann man sich leicht machen und einfach nach Reinickendorf fahren oder nach Siemensstadt, und schon steht man mitten im Klischee. Im American Western Saloon trägt man Hut und absolviert Line-Dance-Kurse, findet beim BBQ vielleicht auch in einer Ecke die Südstaatenflagge, kann aber regelmäßig gute Livebands erleben. Im „Old Texas Town“ sind noch Cowboys und Indianer die Helden und es wird das Wild-West-Flair gefeiert. Ein Themenpark mit strenger Hausordnung, Waffen sind verboten, und wer hinter der Hütte in die Bische pieselt, zahlt Strafe.

Die ganz andere Seite von Country in Berlin sind die Muscloader und Enthusiasten, die keine Mühe und kein Wochenende scheuen, um in Clubs und Wohnzimmer, Hinterhöfen

und auf Open-Air-Festen für wenig Geld aufzutreten. Ein Netzwerk aus Macherinnen und Fans ist entstanden, eine Community, deren Ruf in die Welt reicht. „Die Konkurrenz der Travelling Bands ist sehr groß. Eine Zeit lang gab es am Mehringdamm die Blaue Stunde, jede Woche eine Band aus Nashville, und was allein in diesem Jahr im Buchholz Saloon in Altlandsberg spielt, das sind unfassbar gute Bands – da können wir nie mithalten.“ Pat Carter von der Berliner Band RodeoFM muss sich gleichwohl nicht verstecken. Sie sind kurz vor der Veröffentlichung ihres vierten Albums „Right Wing Planet“ und pflegen einen urbanen, alternativen Country-Style. „Ich komme aus dem 1980er-Hardcore, bin mit Dinosaur Jr. und Hüsker Dü aufgewachsen und dann auf den Alternative Country von Giant Sand gestoßen, sie waren mein Dooropener. Erst danach kam „Folsom Prison“ von Johnny Cash und wurde zu meinem Erweckungserlebnis. Das ist so witzig und radikal und entsprach so gar nicht meinem Bild von Country.“

Bereits der Titel „Right Wing Planet“ macht aus der politischen Orientierung von RodeoFM kein Geheimnis, auch wenn die Revolte-Attitüde inzwischen auch von ungunstigen Kräften vereinnahmt wurde. Wenn sie



Links sein und Country schließen sich nicht aus: RodeoFM

„Something Wrong“ anstimmen, versehen mit Stones-Zitaten und Wall-Of-Sound-Bläserätzen, dann lebt der Outlaw-Streetfighter‘n Man-Spirit, aber in Songs wie „Living With Country“ zielen sie auf das Einzelschicksal als Stellvertreter für die gesellschaftliche Entwicklung.

Im Supermarkt Einkaufswagen zusammenschieben, das steht für ein gescheitertes Leben. Der verlorene Kampf um Würde ist in einem Storytelling-Country Song bestens aufgehoben. „Country war schon immer die Musik der Entrechteten und steht in einer großen Tradition. Wenn mir Leute sagen, dass ihnen das zu politisch ist, dann sollen sie mal schauen was Johnny Cash, Loretta Lynn und andere gemacht haben. In der deutschen Countryszene versteht man diese Nuancen nicht immer.“

Auftritt The BossHoss

Auftritt The BossHoss. Die Lokalmatadore werden im April ein neues Album veröffentlichen. Angelehnt an Sydney Pollacks Film „The Electric Horseman“ von 1979 mit Robert Redford als Lichterkettencowboy, nennen sie es „Electric Horsemen“, sehen auch exakt so aus und stehen dem Disco-Rummelplatz Sound von US Country-Pop-Superstar Shania Twain in nichts nach. Nur dass sie sich, bei allem kommerziellen Kalkül und ehrlicher Partywut, eine gewisse anarchischen Spiel Freude à la Alabama 3 erhalten haben. The BossHoss sind sich, besonders in ihrer Heimatstadt Berlin, nie zu schade, in kleinen Clubs und Plattenläden zu performen – bevor es wieder auf die große Bühne geht. Mit echtem Country hat das nur noch wenig zu tun, es ist Western Chic. Aber warum auch nicht?

Medientaugliche Countryprominenz kann auch funktionieren. Musikalisch waren Texas Lightning, die Countryband des Hamburger Komikers Olli Dittrich („Dittsche“), besser als ihr Ruf. Was als Spaß verkauft wurde, war eine amtliche Band, die etwas konnte. Vergleichbares kommt fast ausschließlich aus den USA und UK.

„Sound Of Nashville“ heißt eine Konzertreihe als Ableger von „CountryzCountry“, dem erfolgreichen Festivalkonzept, das große Namen geballt nach Europa bringt und bereits zweimal in Berlin Station machte. Pläne für 2024 sind in Arbeit. „Sound Of Nashville“ kündigt fürs Frühjahr unter anderem Countryrock und Springsteen-Adepte Kip Moore an, sowie Newcomer Elvie Sands, in dessen Schlepptau niemand geringeres als Sam Williams kommt, Enkel vom großen Hank, der nicht nur ein junges, diverses Publikum anspricht, sondern auch die „Sweet Side of Country“ repräsentiert.

Für True Country Fans sind Orte wie der Buchholz Saloon mit seinem engagierten Programm Pflicht. Allein der Auftritt von Early James mit seinem Country Blues aus Alabama im Mai ist alle Anreize wert. Und wann immer Berliner Bands aufzutreten, etwa Mike Penny And The Moonshiners, Cash & Candy, Hard Travellin‘, Roland Heinrich und die Rumtreiber, Hannes Strauss mit seiner Western Swing Band, die Blaukrauts, Alistair Christl, Freewy Fish und viele andere, mal mit, mal ohne den umtriebigen Moe Jaksch am Stand-Up Bass, sind sie auf die Booker der Clubs angewiesen. „Mit unserem amerikanischen Flair bekommen wir etwas eher einen Gig, genau wie die Bart- und Heavy Tattoo Fraktion immer im Vorteil ist. Man muss um jeden Gig kämpfen“, sagt RodeoFM’s Pat Carter.

RodeoFM
„Right Wing Planet“
(www.rodeo.fm)

Buchholz Saloon
Wesendahler Str.
15345 Altlandsberg
www.the-buchholz-saloon.de



Western Chic à la Country-Superstar Shania Twain: The BossHoss

Beyond Nashville

THE MULTI-CULTURAL MUSINGS OF YONDER BOYS

The multi-cultural musings of Yonder Boys

The Americana Berlin-based trio, Yonder Boys, have come together from all over the world, bringing their different influences and cultural sensibilities to the music scene in Germany. None of the core members of the group are from Germany but they have made waves in the music scene there. Banjo player, David Stewart Ingleton is originally from Forster, in Australia, guitarist Jason Serious hales from Baltimore, USA whilst Tomás Peralta who jumps from mandolin to double bass, drums to keys and helps out on the banjo, comes all the way from Santiago, Chile. Speaking of the band's formation Ingleton said "We all came to Germany for different reasons being music, work, love and family. We had different levels of experience and interests in all types of musical genres but we love to write and perform folk and Americana music." Speaking about the music scene out in Germany the Yonder Boys praised the fans saying, "Germany has a definite love affair with music and interest in all styles. German audiences are also very kind, attentive and some of the most generous fans you will meet so to play here, once you find a nice fan base, will always be a joy." Reflecting on the audience's perception of their music he says, "most in Germany and most likely in all of Europe would define all music played with a banjo as "Country," a little explanation of the different sub-genres of American Folk can help people understand the variety of different music that can be played on such, sometimes polarizing instruments as the banjo. "The band's latest album, "Acid Folk" features wild banjo melodies and intricate fingerstyle guitar, Sicilian chants and Beach Boys harmonies whilst the lyrics range from abstract to descriptive and melancholic. "We Yonder Boys are a band that likes to push those boundaries and enjoy pushing people into listening to our music that wouldn't normally enjoy a song with a banjo or mandolin and three part harmonies." says Ingleton. The musicians that they enlisted to play on the album spanned seven nationalities including Japanese, German, French and Chilean. Ingleton says that this shows "Country music, as people still might classify it in mainstream Germany, isn't always just white guys in Cowboy hats, well... not everyone at least!"

Rodeo FM adapt to changing music scene

The Berlin-based Rodeo FM are fresh off the back of releasing their EP "All The Things You Asked For". The Alt-Country/Americana group have been making music for the last 15 years, playing all around Europe from the south of France to the Russian border, from vernissages to line dance saloons, from weddings to funerals. Singer-songwriter in the band, Pat Cater, talks about the highs and lows of the scene in Berlin: "Berlin is still a great place to make music because of the huge number of diverse musicians of all kinds" Cater begins. "The Berlin Americana scene is small. One of Europe's biggest country festivals, the Country Music Meeting, takes place in Berlin annually but it is rather mainstream, which in Germany means it is verging on a genre called "Schlager", quite compatible with beer tents and the Oktoberfest." The alt-country scene is tricky to make a living from too, especially for bands due to running costs, "With clubs drying and fees at an all time low, more often than not, it means playing just for the hat" Cater continues. However, Rodeo FM have managed to carve out a long and successful career and have been able to adapt to the changing scene. "A lot of shows in Berlin have actually gone private with in-house concerts organised in flats or offices. That being the case, until 2020, Berlin was a hot spot for US touring artists like Willy Tea Taylor or the Dyrmed Brothers who have been here more than once." Rodeo FM have prided themselves on ear catching choruses, and guitar and pedal steel soaked tracks that take you on a journey from start to finish. This EP is no different from the old school sounds of Shame, Shame, Shame with its unusual banjo counter melody to the slow building "Worthless Gain, the first single to have been released off the bands latest project. The songs on this record were all recorded just before the first lockdown in 2020, but they are excited to get back out on the road and get back into the studio together soon!



Image credit: Johannes Gerblinger



"Country music, as people still might classify it in mainstream Germany, isn't always just white guys in Cowboy hats, well... not everyone at least!"

some quotes & reviews

Rodeo.FM are a tight band of consummate musicians and with Too Many Psychos, a foot tapping, vibrant, cross genre track. , they blend Rockabilly & Jazz, with a dusty, weathered vein of Americana. And it all works together beautifully. I defy anyone not to get the urge to get your dancing shoes on when listening to this track. It would be a pleasure to play this on Made in the Shade, I cant wait to hear the rest of Rodeo.FM.s tunes
Made in the Shade, Autralian radio station



"Left-Wing Country" (Cowboy band blog).

Amazing songwriting! We have enjoyed listening to this song until the last second. Cheers to the Viking, blog



"Even though it's grim and cynical in a sense, there's a theme of beauty that runs through the album, sonically. The bright sonic palette, the foot-tapping rhythm —there is so much to love, so much to take from life, and so much to fight for. A man who has lost hope in life would not be here to unite and fight. And there's also so much punk and ska in Right Wing Planet, taking shape in the brewing of nostalgic, twangy old sounds. Carter's honest vocals and unfiltered storytelling are angsty and piercing. A bit of dirt and a bit of grit. Life crashed through and smoothed off the teenage grungy punk edges, but still it lives in another form."

The devil and the riot will make any folk lover want to get up and start moving, this song has it all from catchy guitar licks, to driving percussions, and singable lyrics. Perfect! – Top Left Booking

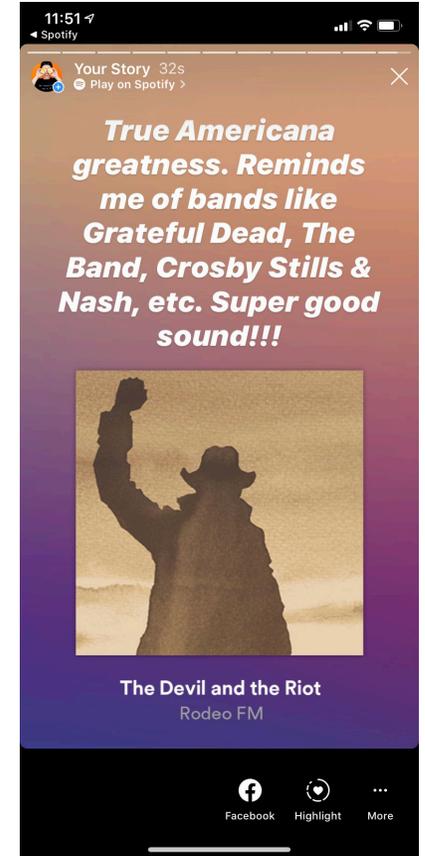


This writer is of the firm belief that it is the darkest, farthest reaches of the Americana world that produces the most interesting music. These acts tend not to be concerned with sounding contemporary or commercial, they are just doing what they want to do, moulding their influences from the music they love into a 'new' original sound.

Step forward Rodeo FM, all the way from Berlin.



I'm getting caught up on the good albums that have come out lately. Like this one.



some random Twitter

Vinny Sheridan @vinnysheridan04 · Sep 20
Rodeo FM - Summer Rain

Rodeo FM are an Alternative and Americana Country Band from Berlin, Germany. Singing in the style of Traditional sounds we used to hear from Nashville. Take a listen to the Gorgeous Country song ❤️

@rodeofm_berlin



Summer Rain - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

1 retweet 1 like

Sugartown Slim @SugartownSlim · Oct 13
Replying to @rodeofm_berlin and @philcoopermusic
Love it guys!! Another cracker.

1 retweet 1 like

Songwriting Magazine liked your reply
This is great.

Phil Elphee @lfie75 · Sep 19
The essence of a Sunday afternoon in laurel canyon. Check out Rodeo FM's Track Summer Rain @rodeofm_berlin

Rodeo FM @rodeofm_berlin · Sep 18
"Loved the track, really great tune, beautifully recorded. Hope it goes well for them. Cheers." - Neil @music_wells

@rodeofm_berlin #countrymusic #americana #music
open.spotify.com/album/2cRAM1r6...

1 retweet 1 like

Rodeo FM @rodeofm_berlin · Sep 19
"@rodeofm_berlin a great new band and song here that I just added to my #chillvibes playlist!! ❤️🎵🔥 Love how simple yet beautiful the whole song is." - @cheykat

youtu.be/kNBxRkxHBss

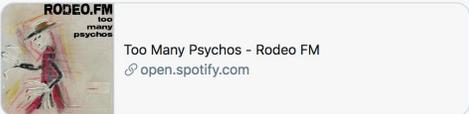
#indie #folk #countrymusic #alternative #blues #chill #americana #NewMusic #NewMusic2020



Rodeo FM - Summer Rain
Here's "Summer Rain", the second single of our upcoming album "The upgrade of truth", to be ...
youtube.com

2 likes

keith doyle @keithmdoyle · 5h
Liking this new song, making me tap my feet in an anxious week.
@rodeofm_berlin



Too Many Psychos - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

1 retweet 1 like

juan.nw @juannwmusic · Sep 16
If you like Americana and country music style here's a song for you!
@rodeofm_berlin

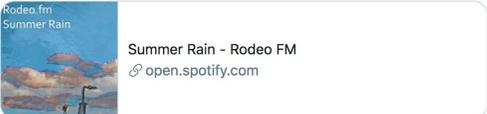


Summer Rain - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

2 likes

Rodeo FM @rodeofm_berlin · Sep 18
"Loved the track, really great tune, beautifully recorded. Hope it goes well for them. Cheers." - Neil @music_wells

@rodeofm_berlin #countrymusic #americana #music



Summer Rain - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

1 retweet 2 likes

Sugartown Slim @SugartownSlim · Oct 7
Replying to @philcoopermusic and @rodeofm_berlin
Yeah, I need to check out Wilco properly. Big Ryan Adams fan though. Gold a great album.

Phil Cooper @philcoopermusic · Oct 7
Replying to @SugartownSlim and @rodeofm_berlin
I don't mind a bit of Americana. Big Wilco fan... and Ryan Adams.

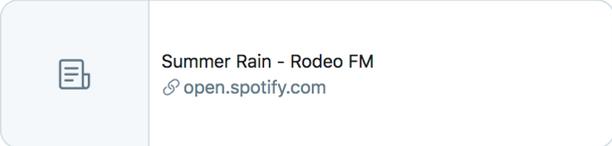
Sugartown Slim @SugartownSlim · Oct 7
Replying to @philcoopermusic
Here's a band I really like @rodeofm_berlin . Bit Country/Americana so not sure if it's your cup of tea Phil, but... open.spotify.com/track/6SSsblZ5... Was gonna send Without a Sound, but thought U might be sick of it (Ha Ha).



Summer Rain - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

2 retweets 3 likes

Rebirth of Cool Blogger AKA Michael @Mobytanner · Sep 9
Nice bit of #americana from Rodeo FM @rodeofm_berlin if you like #csny #thebyrds #dylan you'll like this. @WestOnColfax have a listen too. 🙌



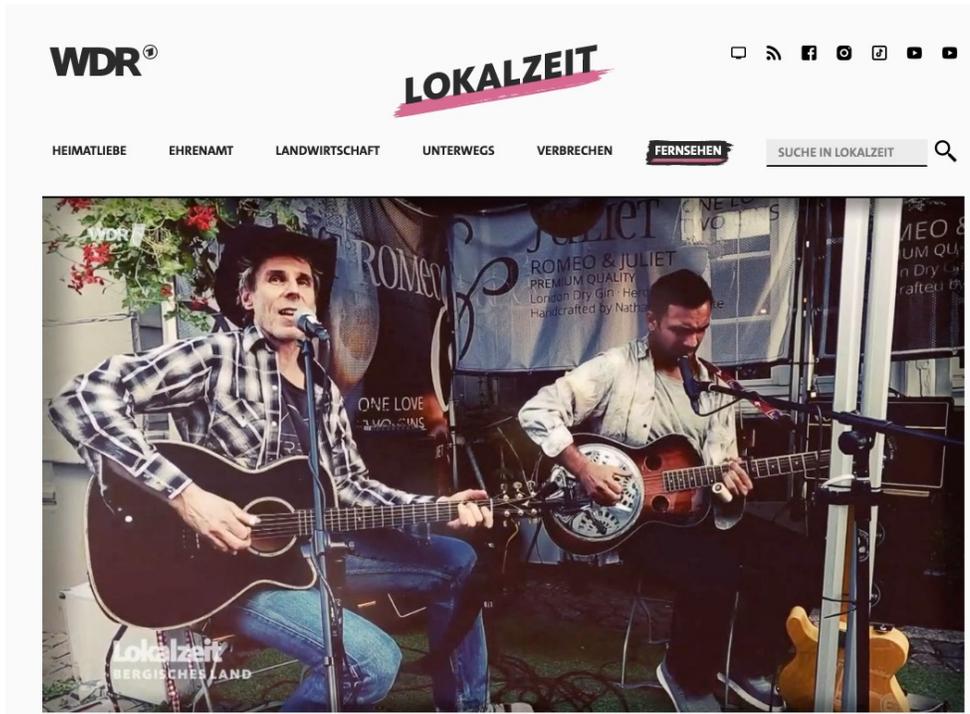
Summer Rain - Rodeo FM
open.spotify.com

2 replies 1 retweet 2 likes

Anderson, of a Painter @OfAPainter · Oct 13
@rodeofm_berlin Hey guys, I really like your track Summer Rain on @TupeloLime Playlist- great choice. Has a great song structure and chord voicings and top lyrics. And it's addictive!!!
Have you followed on Spotify and will listen to more

1 like

TV



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Carlow FM
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Country in the Kitchen
Fistful of Faceful
Free Country Eagle
ITNS Radio & SWC Global Media, LLC
Lonely Oak Radio
misc stations
Radio 1 / happy / sad
Radio Presenter, diverse
Radio Wigwam
Richie Ds Indie Country Show
Southsideradio
The international Americana Show
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MixTape Radio International
Steve Garnett's New Music Radio
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Sunshine Music iRadio
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kracradio.com
Monies New Music Radio
fromthetraits
Unsigned Radio
This Is Country Music Radio UK
Nashville Worldwide Radio
West Norfolk Radio
Radio ARA
Radio Crystal Blue
Radio Troubadour
Radio Ziba
Le Village Pop

