

Press Release, April 25, 2019.

More Quality, less Hype.

If you have been following the development of current modern music in recent years, you may have noticed that it's only numbers that seem to matter anymore. Who is racking up the most streams on Spotify? Who is in the Top Ten? Who is selling how many tickets? Regrettably, what tends to get overlooked more and more in all this brouhaha is what music should be all about: quality, craftsmanship, and the sheer thrill of a live performance. That's why this year's Blue Balls Festival lineup looks somewhat out of place and out of time. Blue Balls artists may not have the most-clicked-on video on YouTube to offer, or worldwide chart-topping singles, or sold-out arenas – instead they offer you outstanding musical chops. Samy Deluxe, for example, may not be Germany's most-hyped rapper. However, technically and lyrically, he is up there with the very best. Or Cat Power: Perhaps she isn't the songwriter who has the king-size venues packed. But then, what other singers manage to touch their audiences like she does? And while there may be folk singers who have written "greater" hits than Glen Hansard – those who have 'em hooked like that are very few and far between. Of course, the Blue Balls Festival's emphasis on quality and craftsmanship extends to art, photography, video, film and talk, as well as to the more than two dozen acts for whom their Blue Balls performance is also their first ever in Switzerland – a breath of fresh air for Switzerland's hot festival summer! Among the first-timers: Irish songwriter Ruth Anne. A Blue Balls exclusive, RuthAnne is one of the festival's opening night performers, taking the stage right before Joss Stone.

Multi-award-winning songwriter RuthAnne arrives with highly anticipated music: Her forthcoming uplifting single 'Love Again' sparks a new chapter for the Irish artist as she gives us a taste of what's to come from her long-awaited debut album, out later this year. The new track follows on from RuthAnne's previous successful singles 'The Vow', 'Take My Place', 'Liquid' and 'It Is What It Is' which have a combined 6 million streams. Her music has received accolades from influential media including The Times, Billboard, Wonderland, Complex and CLASH. RuthAnne recently won 'Woman Of The Year' at the Irish Tatler Awards and was VEVO's 'Artist Of The Month' in October 2018. RuthAnne's innate talent to create chart-topping music is undeniable and her own upcoming debut album – inspired by musical greats like Aretha Franklin, Amy Winehouse and Alicia Keys – embodies her step from being the writer behind the hits to an all-encompassing recording artist.



Wendy Bevan.

British photographer and musician Wendy Bevan lives in London and Los Angeles. Working together with top names in fashion photography, she has developed her distinctly personal style. Her colorful, surreal and dramatic works have appeared in the leading international fashion periodicals. Having shot Blue Balls Face RuthAnne for this year's festival poster, she will also present an exclusive selection of her works on the KKL Lucerne Terrace. All prints will be available for purchase.

Kameron Neal.

Young New York video artist and designer Kameron Neal was "Artist in Residence" at the Digital Graffiti Festival in Florida, and among the videos he has co-directed is the promo for Rufus Wainwright's song Sword of Damocles. He uses a mix of kinetic, wild collages, animated absurd objects and not least of all a great deal of humor to tell his colorful stories. And now Kameron Neal's body of video art is ready to go live at the Video Lounge on the KKL terrace under the big roof.

Street Art.

Adding even more color to the festival's lineup, every evening a host of street artists such as Paul Schrader, Husman / Tschaeni, Dario De Siena, Simon Mhanna, Eric Haacht, Joséphine Sagna, Moncur, Thierry Furger, Ted Fox and Inso Mundo will create new art – art, by the way, which will be available for purchase after the festival.

Talk Show.

Our nightly pre-show "Meet The Artists" event, where host Hannes Hug asks musicians to join him on the stage of the KKL Auditorium to "talk shop", is yet another, if small, festival highlight. All you need to have access to it is a concert ticket valid on the relevant day, or a Blue Balls Festival lapel pin.

Miles Davis, Birth of the Cool.

This documentary, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, will be shown as a Swiss exclusive preview at the Blue Balls Festival. The film features never-before-seen footage, including studio outtakes from his recording sessions, new interviews and rare photos. Quincy Jones, Carlos Santana, Clive Davis, Wayne Shorter and Ron Carter are just a few of the luminaries weighing in on the life and career of a true visionary, innovator and originator. The documentary is the definitive account of the man behind the legend. Director Stanley Nelson's goal was to discover what was the man behind the myth by unpacking his upbringing, his methodology, his relationships, and his demons. The documentary allows viewers to begin to understand the man who would redefine the original American musical genre, jazz and has influenced generations of musicians in rock, funk and hip-hop.



Young Talent Stage.

The Young Talent Stage at the KKL Seebar will be reserved for the jazz students from Switzerland's music academies who have responded to the festival's invitation. This platform, which features a new band/artist every day, is supported by "Migros-Kulturprozent."

Locations, Hotels, Tickets.

Locations: The festival's venues – KKL, outdoor pavilion/bowl und Schweizerhof Hotel – are all located on Lake Lucerne and within five minutes' walking distance of one another, as are Lucerne's train station and various parking facilities.

Hotels: For hotel reservations at daily updated rates, please contact Luzern Tourismus AG, phone 041 227 17 27, e-mail hotels@luzern.com or visit www.luzern.com

Tickets: available at KKL or from Starticket. Starticket outlets (Post, Manor, etc.), phone 0900 325 325 (CHF 1.19/min., land line), or online at www.starticket.ch Ticket prices range from CHF 75 to CHF 175 (advance sale and box office). A concert ticket valid on any given festival day also give access to the same day's KKL events (Plaza concerts, Seebar concerts, Video Lounge, art exhibits, Photo Expo, talk show, film showings), the open-air pavilion/bowl concerts and art exhibits, and the Schweizerhof concerts. The CHF 20 Blue Balls lapel pin, available on the festival's premises as well as at the bars, gives access to all the above except the KKL concerts. Every true-blue Blue Balls fan wears one! The festival's lineup is subject to change without notice.

Special Thanks.

City of Lucerne, Luzern Tourismus, RKK Luzern, KKL Lucerne, Schweizerhof Hotel Lucerne, Doppelbeu Boxer, DIAGEO, Burger Söhne (Dannemann), SCHULER St. JakobsKellerei, Coca-Cola, Red Bull, Habegger, Andreas Messerli, Maréchaux, 20 Minuten, SRF 3, Goldbach Audience, audie-nzz, Luzerner Zeitung, zentralplus, Radio 3FACH, Radio Pilatus, Tele 1.

Accreditations.

For media accreditation applications and photo and interview requests, please contact Blue Balls Music, Ramona Eberhard (ramona.eberhard@blueballs.ch).

