

## **Sub Pop Stage at the OFF Festival Katowice 2014**

**Artists signed to America's legendary Sub Pop record label are frequent guests of the OFF Festival, but this time we're taking things one step further! On Friday, August 1, Sub Pop will be taking over the Experimental Stage for an entire day, serving up a lineup that features Wolf Eyes, Clipping, Rose Windows, and more!**

Sub Pop has changed the history of music on at least one occasion. In the late 80s Bruce Pavitt and Jonathan Poneman decided to launch their own label to promote music that was similar to the bands on SST and Touch and Go, but more listener-friendly. Sad and dirty, but catchy. The Seattle-based label took inexperienced rookies and their bands under its wing: Nirvana, Soundgarden, Mudhoney... Despite the enormous commercial success of grunge rock, the label never lost its indie cred, and has instead become a trendsetter over the last two decades. Though Sub Pop started out as a rock label, it's made a name for itself outside the guitar world, fostering the careers of such greats as The Postal Service, Fleet Foxes, and Shabazz Palaces; according to several influential music review sites, the experimental hip-hop on *Black Up* was the best thing to happen to music in 2011. And so we're proud to announce that Sub Pop will be one of the curators of the Experimental Stage at this year's OFF Festival. The lineup selected by the label will perform in Katowice on August 1.

### **WOLF EYES**

Industrial, noise, free jazz, hardcore, metal, and avant-garde electronic music: if it can hurt you, they've got it. Led by Nate Young, this band has been working hard to earn comparisons to the likes of Merzbow, Einstürzende Neubauten, and Throbbing Gristle. They terrorize audiences with noise, a hair-raising horror film atmosphere, and hypnotically passionless vocals. Don't expect this show to go down smoothly.

### **CLIPPING**

Clipping take hip-hop on a journey that resembles Shabazz Palaces and Dälek, but goes even further. Daveed Diggs' precise, fast, and classic-sounding lyrics are constantly flooded with a heavy wave of noise. The compositions by William Hutson and Jonathan Snipes (formerly of Captain Ahab) echo concrete music and Fuck Buttons. This sound may knock you out, but it's a challenge worth accepting.

## **LYLA FOY**

Her debut on the Sub Pop roster should be quite an event. Lyla Fox has all the qualities of a large-format star. Her melancholy songs are minimalistic, frugal in form, and thus showcase her voice perfectly. And she does have quite a voice to show off. This singer has the same softness and enigma that are the trademarks of Kate Bush and Lykke Li. Her debut *Mirrors the Sky* comes out mid-March and is set to cause quite a stir.

## **PROTOMARTYR**

Once famous for its cars, Motown, and Grant Hill, the decrepit city of Detroit is slowly rising up again as a main contender on the post-punk scene. The ranks of Tyvek and Bars of Gold are now being joined by Protomartyr, whose masculine sounds are somewhere between the rawness of Iceage and the all-encompassing gloom of The Birthday Party. Their new album *Under Color of Official Right* is coming out in April on Hardly Art, a Sub Pop imprint.

## **ROSE WINDOWS**

Led by Chris Chevey, this septet wants to prove that you don't need to travel into the future to write novel music. Rose Windows set aside futurism for a marriage of West Coast psychedelia with Persian trance and an Indian instrumentarium. The synths sound like a Doors album, the guitars are as sharp as Led Zeppelin's, and the vocals are as powerful as Jefferson Airplane's. And yet there's no way you can say this has already been done.

## **Wild Books**

Who said you could only play rootsy, dirty, sunburned rock in Texas or Tennessee? The duo Wild Books proves that you set out from a Polish garage to follow in the footsteps of Jack White and The Black Keys. Wild Books' self-titled 2014 debut record showcases retro-rock in its whole ass-kicking glory.

## **Kaseciarz**

Three years ago, this guy proved you could be a surfer in southern Poland. This year he's back with *Motörcycle Rock and Roll*, a mix of psychedelia, garage, and surf, or as he likes to call it, "garbage rock." Fortunately the sound quality is inversely proportional to its aesthetic value. Maciej Nowacki's music will blow your socks off,

even though he himself admits that the only reason he got into music in the first place was to prove he was in the arts at parties.