



IWM brings Syrian death metal to the UK for the first time in an eclectic programme of 'rebel' music from across the world

To coincide with the exhibition *Rebel Sounds* (5 July 2019 – 5 January 2020), part of the *Culture Under Attack* season at IWM London, Imperial War Museums (IWM) presents *Rebel Sounds Live*, a free series of live interventions and discussions with musicians and activists who have risked their lives for culture in times of war, exile and censorship.

From the Serbian rave scene in 1990s Belgrade to forbidden music in Cold War Russia, the programme brings a diverse taste of 'rebellious' music genres from around the world, debuting with the UK's first ever performance of Syrian metal music. Jake Shuker, frontman of death metal band Maysaloon, will perform special rearrangements of his music to reflect themes of mythology, resistance and rebellion. Other acts include Aeham Ahmad, renowned concert pianist and internet sensation who risked his life to perform in the bombed-out streets of Damascus, Syria; X-Ray Audio, a collective committed to sharing the story of illegal music and cultural resistance during the Cold War years of the Soviet Union; and a panel discussion from prominent music activists involved in Belgrade's politicised rave scene throughout the 1990s.

Taking place on various Saturdays throughout the *Culture Under Attack* season, *Rebel Sounds Live* offers a coming together of performance, discussion and music to explore how, throughout history, individuals have acted in resistance to oppressive regimes that threaten the eradication of culture and expression. Public interventions – live performances, demonstrations and sound installations – in IWM London's iconic Atrium will be accompanied by free, ticketed talks and discussions.

Rebel Sounds Live – Syria: Death Metal and Classical Music Under Threat IWM London, Saturday 6 July 2019

Atrium Performances: 12 – 12.10pm, 2 – 2.10pm (free)

Talk: 3 – 4.30pm (free, booking required)

The status of death metal and classical music in Syria will be explored in light of the country's recent conflict in this 'talking gig'. Jake Shuker, frontman of the death metal band Maysaloon, and concert pianist Aeham Ahmad, musicians from the Syrian capital Damascus, give rare UK performances in short interventions at IWM London. The pair will then share their experiences as musicians living through the conflict – how it affected them as artists and performers, what it was like to play at risk of punishment and the cost of 'becoming a 'rebel musician' – in conversation with BBC journalist and filmmaker Ben Zand.

Supported by the World Metal Congress

Rebel Sounds Live – Cold War Russia: Jazz and Pop Subculture IWM London, Saturday 21 September 2019

Atrium Performances: 12 – 12.10pm, 2 – 2.10pm (free)

Talk: 3 – 4.30pm (free, booking required)

Forbidden music and the underground cultural scene in Cold War Russia will be uncovered through live performance and a demonstration of backstreet record cutting from the X-Ray Audio Project. Stephen Coates and Paul Heartfield, custodians of X-Ray Audio, will play a 'forbidden playlist' of music that was censored in Soviet Bloc Russia, prompting questions around oppression, sacrifice and cultural expression. In an accompanying talk, Stephen Coates will reveal the stories of Soviet bootleggers who defied

government bans on Western music by secretly etching forbidden music onto discarded X-rays, creating their unique 'bone records'.

WOMAD Festival, World of Words Tent, Saturday 27 July 2019

Rebel Sounds Live – Belgrade: Techno Music and Grassroots Resistance

IWM London, Saturday 23 November 2019

Atrium Performances: 12 – 12.10pm, 2 – 2.10pm (free)

Talk: 3 – 4.30pm (free, booking required)

London-based journalist, broadcaster and DJ Kate Hutchinson will lead a panel of music-activists in a discussion about the rave scene in 90s Belgrade. Focusing on the role music played in politicising youth culture during the presidency of Slobodan Milošević, she will be joined by the Serbian DJ and music journalist, Tijana T; acclaimed music critic and programme editor of Dom omladine Beograda Cultural Center and EXIT Festival's Main Stage, Dragan Ambrozic; and co-founder of the independent Belgrade-based radio station B92, Gordan Paunovic. Accompanying the talk, extracts of influential mixes and a sound installation of recordings from Ö1 Kunstradio and B92 radio samples will give a flavour of the 90s subculture.

Rebel Sounds Live is part of *Culture Under Attack*, a free season of exhibitions, live music, performances and interventions at IWM London that explore how war threatens not just people's lives, but also the very things that help make lives worth living. Comprising three exhibitions and a series of events, which collectively tell stories spanning a hundred years, *Culture Under Attack* reveals why some people try to eradicate or exploit culture, while others risk everything to protect, celebrate or rebuild that which defines us as human beings.

The exhibition *Rebel Sounds* (5 July 2019 – 5 January 2020) at IWM London reveals how groups and individuals use music to resist, rebel and speak out against war and oppression. Exploring the significance of music in relation to cultural and personal identity, the exhibition demonstrates how, in the face of adversity, music has been used both as a weapon to fight battles and a means by which to defy the chaos of conflict.

Ends

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Notes to editors

All *Rebel Sounds Live* events at IWM London are free, but booking is required via IWM's website.

iwm.org.uk/cultureunderattack

Tickets for the event at the World of Worlds Tent on Saturday 27 July 2019 can only be purchased as part of general admission to WOMAD Festival. Tickets can be purchased at womad.co.uk from £185.

Culture Under Attack

Press View: 3 July 2019

#CultureUnderAttack

Culture Under Attack (5 July 2019 – 5 January 2020) is a free season of exhibitions, live music, performances and interventions at IWM London that explore how war threatens not just people's lives, but also the very things that help make lives worth living. The season comprises three exhibitions – *What Remains*, a partnership project with Historic England, *Rebel Sounds* and *Art in Exile*, as well as a series of events that reveal why some people try to eradicate or exploit culture, while others risk everything to protect, celebrate or rebuild that which defines us as human beings.

IWM London

IWM London tells the stories of those whose lives have been shaped by war through the depth, breadth and impact of our Galleries, displays and events. Explore the [First World War Galleries](#) and iconic Atrium; visit our [Holocaust Exhibition](#); discover stories of bravery in [The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes](#) or take in our latest major temporary exhibitions.

Open Daily: 10am – 6pm. Last entry 30 minutes before closing. (Closed 24 - 26 December). Free Admission

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IWM

IWM (Imperial War Museums) tells the story of people who have lived, fought and died in conflicts involving Britain and the Commonwealth since the First World War.

Our unique collections, made up of the everyday and the exceptional, reveal stories of people, places, ideas and events. Using these, we tell vivid personal stories and create powerful physical experiences across our five museums that reflect the realities of war as both a destructive and creative force. We challenge people to look at conflict from different perspectives, enriching their understanding of the causes, course and consequences of war and its impact on people's lives.

IWM's five branches which attract over 2.5 million visitors each year are **IWM London**, IWM's flagship branch that recently transformed with new, permanent and free First World War Galleries alongside new displays across the iconic Atrium to mark the Centenary of the First World War; **IWM North**, housed in an iconic award-winning building designed by Daniel Libeskind; **IWM Duxford**, a world renowned aviation museum and Britain's best preserved wartime airfield; **Churchill War Rooms**, housed in Churchill's secret headquarters below Whitehall; and the Second World War cruiser **HMS Belfast**.

World Metal Congress

World Metal Congress is a celebration of heavy metal and its global appeal. Our first event was held in March of 2019 and brought fans, artists, and key industry figures from every time zone together for panels, film premieres, live music, and important conversations about how to take our music and our culture forward. Created with the support of Arts Council England and conceived by ex-Metal Hammer editor and Twin V Ltd. founder Alexander Milas in partnership with Dr. Lina Khatib of world-renowned policy institute Chatham House, University of Central Lancashire's Dr. Niall Scott and independent promoter Josh Retallick of Old Empire, the aim of w\m/c is to connect the global metal community.

