

For Immediate Release:

GOETHE-INSTITUT LOS ANGELES PRESENTS

Alle gegen ALLES

PUNK @50

FEATURING

TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD'S PUNK MUSEUM,
CAVA LIVE AT REDWOOD BAR IN DTLA,
WOMEN IN PUNK PANEL DISCUSSION,
LISTENING SESSION WITH KAPUT MAGAZIN,
DOCUMENTARY EXHIBITION, FILM SCREENING
AND MORE

August 20, 2026 (Los Angeles, Calif.) – Goethe-Institut Los Angeles presents ***Alle gegen Alles. Punk@50***, a transatlantic celebration of the punk movement. Programming starts on August 27th with the exhibition opening event, and runs through the end of the year. Angelenos, Germanophones and visitors from every corner of the world are invited to view, listen, learn, maybe reminisce, but ultimately grapple with the question: what does punk mean now?

TEQUILA MOCKINGBIRD'S PUNK MUSEUM: August 27th - October 7th

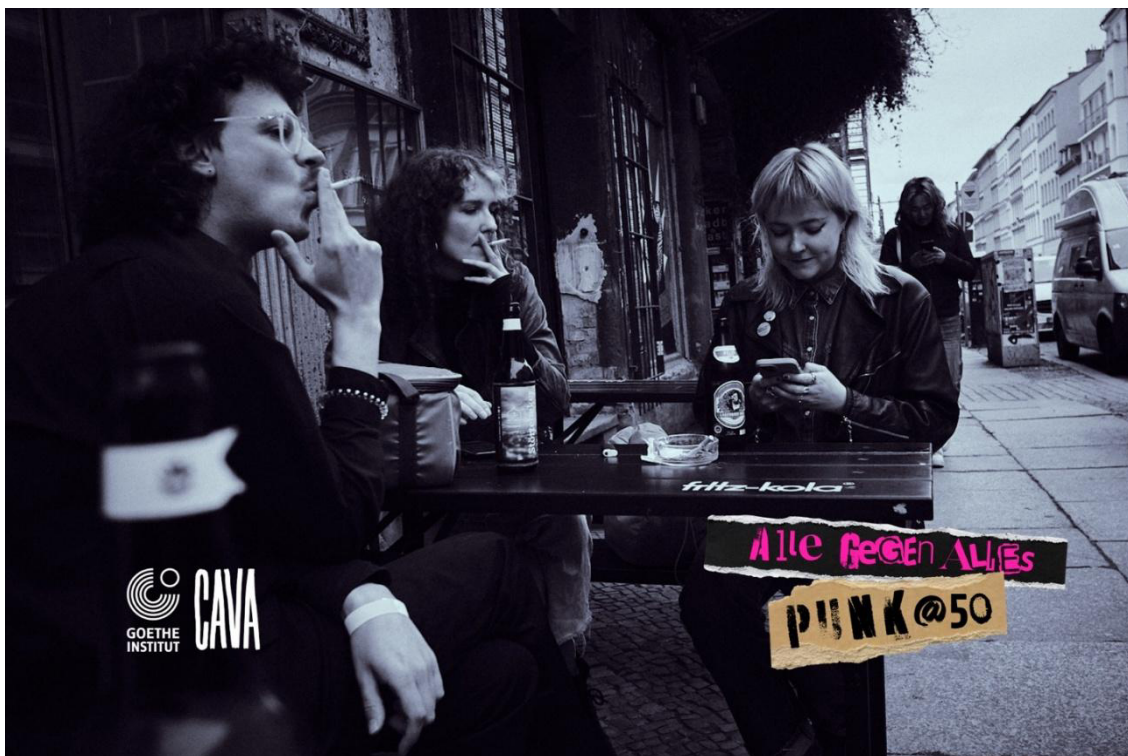
Drawn from the extensive archive of artist, curator, and long-time punk historian **Tequila Mockingbird**, this immersive exhibition showcases an extraordinary collection of punk art, memorabilia, photographs, flyers, zines, posters, records, and rare ephemera that trace the evolution of one of the city's most influential cultural movements, even drawing connections to the punk scenes in Europe and Germany.

"From the first time I heard the word Punk I knew it was gonna be something special," **Tequila** says. "I had seen many movements come and go, but I knew that this one would be here to stay. I felt the cultural shift. Punk continues to enlighten and entertain."

CAVA FROM BERLIN: August 28th

Berlin-based garage-punk band **CAVA** kick-off their tour across America at the Redwood Bar in downtown L.A. as part of an extraordinary line-up featuring headliners Fea, and scene stars Ratasc en Zelo along with queer core darlings The Groans.

CAVA are known for their high-energy performances and uncompromising sound. **CAVA** channels the DIY ethos and rebellious creativity that have defined punk for generations. Through a series of live concerts and special appearances, the band will help transform the **Punk@50** project into a living, breathing celebration of underground culture.



CAVA (photo credit: Tobias Lamp)

WOMEN IN PUNK: September 9th

The **Women in Punk** panel discussion will screen segments of **TEQUILA T.V.** public access footage that UCLA has digitized, interspersed with a moderated discussion lead by **Jessica Schwartz** (Associate Professor, Department of Musicology, UCLA), featuring **Tequila Mockingbird**, **Pleasant Gehman** (Screamin' Sirens, LA Weekly) and **Jula Bell Liebi** (Bulimia Banquet, Bobsled) who says: "To an outsider, punk rock might have looked like careless hedonistic nihilism. For the people involved in the punk scene, it was something much more profound. It was about gaining a family that accepted you unconditionally. Within our scene we were sharing a passion for music, art, sexual freedom, fashion, and non-conformity. It was social and inclusive. Punk started as an egalitarian movement; gender was not an issue. It was a liberating, fearless, fun, and an unapologetic way to express our discontent with a post '70s milquetoast world. Nothing was sacred; and we relied upon one another to survive the oppressive societal norms of the times."

LISTENING SESSION: September 30th

Thomas Venker (journalist and co-founder of **Kaput Magazin**) will lead a **Listening Session** at the Goethe-Institut. Filmmaker **Dave Markey** ("The Secret Lives of Bill Bartell"; "1991: The Year Punk Broke") and **Lorraine Petel** (NTS Radio, CREAM Magazine) will join him for a lively discussion.

SURVIVE, THRIVE OR DIE: October 21 – December 15

Multi-media documentary exhibition **Survive, Thrive or Die: LA Punk and The Poor Kids on LSD** comes to the space via the **Neighborhood Interpretive Center**. This unique exhibition glimpses into the unexplored multi-decade evolution of Los Angeles punks. Told through immersive installations of film, photographs, archival punk show footage, documentary interviews and more. The exhibition space will be activated by live community events - this is a story of punks, by punks – curated by filmmaker and anthropologist Melody Mayer.

FILM SCREENINGS AND ONLINE RESOURCES

A curated punk film series is digitally accessible on **Goethe-on-Demand** and includes titles such as the award-winning documentary **B-Movie: Lust & Sound in West-Berlin** (Germany, 2015) or the striking portrayal of the East German music scene **whisper & SHOUT (flüstern & SCHREIEN)**, GDR, 1988). More information at gegenueber.goethe-on-demand.de.

In-person film screenings will be part of the **20th German Currents Film Festival** (Oct 08 – 13), a coproduction of the Goethe-Institut Los Angeles and the **American Cinematheque**.

In cooperation with **Kaput - Magazin für Insolvenz & Pop** the Goethe-Institut's online **Gegenüber Magazine** will dedicate one entire issue to the celebration of punk. **Gegenüber** is the digital magazine of the Goethe-Institut in North America, available in English, German, Spanish, and French and available at goethe.de/gegenueber.

Additionally, a punk podcast brings together diverse voices for a transatlantic perspective on the genre. Recorded, produced, and broadcast in partnership between the Goethe-Institut and **dublab**, hosted by dublab resident DJ **Annett Scheffel**. The special episodes of Annett's show, THE YEAR WAS, weave together music and voices from both sides of the Atlantic and shed light on punk's impact and legacy. The first episode will be broadcast live on August 20th focusing on the year 1982 and its significance for punk scenes around the world. Tune in at www.dublab.com.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Alle gegen Alles. Punk@50 is a transatlantic collaborative project of the Goethe-Institutes in the United States and Mexico, led by the Goethe-Institutes in Los Angeles (**Luisa Rath-John**, Director) and San Francisco (**Alexander Behrmann**, Director). Marking the 50th anniversary of punk, the project brings together exhibitions, concerts, film screenings, and discussion formats in a polyphonic dialogue on subculture, protest, and self-determination. Developed in close collaboration with local partners, it fosters a vibrant network that connects historical perspectives with contemporary artistic positions – demonstrating that punk continues to resonate as both an attitude and a catalyst for social debate and engagement.

Los Angeles institute director, **Luisa Rath-John** says “For me, the connection to punk is something very personal. Growing up in East Germany, the former GDR, punk played a big part in the youth culture that surrounded me. Punk is more than just a music genre. It's a lifestyle, a creative form of challenging the mainstream. And while punk attitudes differ globally, and over time, it still feels to me that it has a strong connective power.”

Project Dates: August–November 2026

The logo for CAVA, featuring the word "CAVA" in a bold, black, stylized font with a slightly distressed or hand-painted appearance.

ONLINE

www.goethe.de/usa/punk50

CONTACTS

For Project inquiries

Luisa Rath-John, Director Goethe-Institut Los Angeles

Luisa.rath-john@goethe.de

Alexander Behrmann, Director Goethe-Institut San Francisco

Alexander.behrmann@goethe.de

For Press inquiries

Ilka Erren Pardinas, Goethe-Institut Los Angeles

ilka.errenpardinass@goethe.de

Catalina Langer, Goethe-Institut San Francisco

Catalina.langer@goethe.de

#