

MONOCHROME*

COMMUNICATION & BOOKING KIT

.2003

Correspondence // booking@monochromepopgroup.com | monochromepopgroup.com

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PRESS INFO MONOCHROME FERRO 12inch/MCD, May 2003

Rash and the Perpetual Itch // It's been four long years since we've heard from Monochrome in Europe. Their multi-layered 1999 effort, "Laser" received kudos from those in the know for its masterful post-punk pop-follow-up blend of knife-sharp musical outbursts and haunting rhythms that are lashed together by tender, pleading vocals.

But now in 2003, with the band members strewn across Switzerland and Germany, they finally found the time to grace our ears, eyes and guts with a new 12" and Mini CD, called "Ferro".

The first track "F Itt" (missing, falling) does just the opposite and misses nothing by delivering what Monochrome aficionados have come to expect, a first-chord-wake-up-call followed by a 2 minute and 42 second journey through give-and-take pop at its best. Six songs later, you realize two things. One, the guys and Ahlie are spreading and deepening their craft into more melodic territory. This doesn't mean they're turning "soft" on us.

Like all musicians with real talent, they've found a way to reinvent themselves and add yet another layer to their already texture laden music. It will also dawn on you that nobody is doing pop like this. Mainstream and even the hippest radio station program directors would have a hard time trying to classify what Monochrome does.

Dare we call it "pop with brains" or "brain pop"? No. Forget about trying to label their music, just get a hold of "Ferro" and listen for yourself. You will, again and again, and again.

Monochrome Comes to Play: Ahlie's voice drips over the songs, softening the 100-decibel punch. Moves on stage like it's her living room and where she belongs. Marc is Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde! One second he's delivering a line in a "Sorry Miss, I have some bad news" tone, the next he's wailing like the devil were after him. Helm plays guitar like a brain surgeon who's had too much coffee and no sleep; teeth clenched, fast and furious, but with the touch like our lives are in his hands. Dominik: Way cooler than Sting (not too hard to do) and probably a lot funnier than John Entwistle. Driving the bass line like the good guy he is. Marten The unsung hero or workhorse of the band? Like a pair of Doc Marten shoes, fits with all outfits, and you're glad you have 'em and couldn't live without them. Christian: Probably was a circus juggler, lumberjack and helicopter pilot in his previous life. Anybody who can pound the skins for Monochrome has to be coordinated and talented.

Professional Hockey, true fans only please? To the untrained eye, ice hockey looks like a bunch of guys crashing and bashing into each other while smacking a black biscuit into a basket, drop-the-gloves-anarchy-for-idiots. But those who know the game see the improvisational blend of speed, brute force, finesse and yes, teamwork. Monochrome live and on disc is like an epic NHL Stanley Cup Final Game 7. It's all there, the action, drama, spontaneity, and the players rising to the occasion. Once you really open your eyes and ears, you'll hopefully appreciate this band for its interpretations, which move their music beyond punk, pop and hardcore. It's all there in many layers and packed into their CDs and live shows.

(Randolph J. David, May 2003)

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SHORT CUTS MONOCHROME FERRO 12INCH/MCD, SOL 017

Track Listing // 1. F Ilt, 2. Angelfire, 3. Markets & Conversations, 4. Luftkissen, 5. Flimmern, 6. Misanthropes, 7. Insomnia. Time: 20:00min. All songs were produced and recorded by Bernhard Hahn at E.L.C.H. Studios, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany.

Players on Ferro // Ahlie Schaubel (vocals), Marc Calmbach (vocals), Helm Pfohl (guitars & songwriting), Dominik Thomann (bass), Marten Thielges (guitars & programming), Bernhard Hahn & Christian Specker (drums).

Origins // Located in Stuttgart/D, Bale/CH and Bern/CH. Founded in 1996 From the ashes of Dawnbreed.

Radio & Television // A large number of previous songs got airplay in several independent radio stations throughout Europe and the US. The video clip Kontern from the `99 album Laser got airplay in former music television viva2.

Tours/Shows // Monochrome have toured extensively throughout Europe (*2000/*02/*03), the US East Coast twice (*1998/*2000) and plan to tour the US West Coast and Japan in the near future. The band toured the following countries: Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland, Slovenia, Czech Republic & the United States (Summer 1998 & 2000). The band shared stage with (amo) The Make-Up, Bluetip, NoMeansNo, Le Tigre, Stand Still, Trans Megetti, Tristeza, Brazen, Kevlar, Engine Down, Rye Coalition, Robocop Kraus, Indecision, World/Inferno Friendship Society, Unwound, etc.

Band Contact // Monochrome, Helm Pfohl, Wagnerstrasse 23, CH 3007 Bern. Phone: 0041 78 623 01 74
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DISCOGRAPHY

FERRO 12inch/MCD, 2003; Trans Solar Records *017

VARA 7inch single, 2001; Dim Mak Records *025

LASER LP/CD, 1999; Trans Solar Records *008

RADIO 12inch/MCD, 1997; Trans Solar Records *003

HOOK 7inch single, 1996; X-Mist Records *054

Label Contact // Trans Solar Records, Kastanienallee 55, D 10119 Berlin, Germany | transsolarrecords.de

Distributed by // Green Hell (Germany), Conspiracy Records (Europe), BCore(Spain), Stickfigure (USA)

Mailorder & Wholesale Distribution // X-Mist Records (Germany)

Writers on Monochrome/Reviews

MONOCHROME FERRO // Monochrome sind so was wie eine Institution innerhalb der deutschen Gitarrenlandschaft. Jedoch eine wohl gehödete und das ist gut so. Aus der Asche von grandiosen Bands wie Dawnbreed hervorgegangen, machte man sich auf, die Welt mit intelligenten Popsongs zu bereichern und es mal auf die ganz subtile Art und Weise zu versuchen. Dass man sich dabei selbst betroffen hat, ist nicht erst seit dem begeisternden letzten Album "Laser" klar, sondern auch die folgende 7" auf dem amerikanischen Dim Mak Label ließ Großes ahnen, was jetzt endlich in Form von "Ferro" Wirklichkeit geworden ist.

Sieben neue Monochrome Songs erstrahlen hier in neu gewonnener Schlichtheit. Man hat dem Popfaktor noch einen etwas größeren Raum eingeräumt, so dass die Songs jetzt noch kompakter, schlüssiger und eingängiger daherkommen als jemals zuvor. Selbstredend spielen Monochrome in einer Liga, in der man sich bei niemandem anbiedert oder zwanghaft neue Freunde sucht. Die Band verfolgt konsequent ihren künstlerischen Weg weiter und schaut sich dabei nicht einmal um. Hinter ihnen gibt es eine Menge, vor ihnen nicht unbedingt.

Der Gesang von Marc und Ahlie ist besser denn je aufeinander abgestimmt und ist mit seinem leicht unterkühlten Charme definitiv das Aushängeschild der Band, die live regelmäßig noch mal eine ganze Ecke Energie und Leidenschaft drauflegt. Den leicht aufgesetzt wirkenden, intellektuellen Studentenflair hat man auch abgestreift und zeigt sich jetzt noch offener, besser und selbstbewusster. Wenn die Menschen einen guten Geschmack und die Ohren nicht mit zuviel Müll zugestopft hatten, wäre diese Band in jedem Plattenschrank zu finden. Ich finde, bessere Popmusik habe ich mit Gitarren hierzulande lange nicht gehört. Danke. // Review by Matthias. -> music-scan.de

MONOCHROME FERRO // C'est la suite de leur passage Toulouse et un concert un peu devant que j'ai découvert Ferro. Après les 3 minutes de bonheur livrées par leur dernier 7", les six allemands nous reviennent donc avec 5 nouveaux titres résolument plus poppy. Il y a toujours cette approche blouissante des guitares, et ce son si personnel, mais la structure des morceaux est désormais plus standardisée.

On est en pleine pop couplet-refrain. Il suffit de jeter un œil à la durée des chansons pour s'en persuader : tous les titres font entre 2'30 et 4'00. Néanmoins, ce mini album est vraiment réussi. Le premier titre « Filt » aurait pu figurer sur Laser mais là encore, tout est plus direct, comme sur « Angelfire » qui figurait déjà sur le 7" de Dim Mak. Mon titre favori est peut-être « Luftkissen » où tout me semble vraiment parfait. Idem pour le « Insomnia » qui clôture le disque. Ce mini album reste une vraie perle et correspondra tout fait cette période printanière ensoleillée. A noter : c'est une habitude mais le digipack et l'illustration intérieure sont vraiment magnifiques. // -> unhurt.free.fr

MONOCHROME FERRO // Oh my god, we've waited long for this new monochrome recordings. And yes, you could start wanking 'bout the fact it's only a 3"/10" and there 're only 7 songs on it, including the only new song you heard on their latest 7". But, (again) oh my god, the first song "Filt" blows all that wanking away and sets out the lines for probably the best pop album I've ever heard. Where their previous full-length "Laser. A view from the exterior." was quite an amalgam of different styles, this new piece is pure rock action performed by the "monochrome popgroup". Think of older songs like "Cabin", "Kontern" or "Elektrifizier/Laser".

The vocals of Marc Calmbach and chanteuse Ahlie Schaubel (& the music et all) have even got better in some way, more at ease or self-possessed, yet blowin' your socks off and leaving most rock/pop/emo/whatever-bands far behind, stunned. Damn, it's hard finding any references that would easily fit in with their sound. Maybe a European alternative for bands like milemarker or pretty girls make graves? I don't know, they just have this really unique sound... Don't get this and die not knowing. // -> mashnote.net

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MONOCHROME FERRO // Sometimes you feel like freedom is a rug, heaven is a truck, tapes no longer exist, Joan Jett no longer loves rock'n'roll, you dream your shoes are rainbow-coloured, your guitar amp does not work, your best friends are out of town drunk on tenth-rate beer, well you should face it, you're all by yourself, you can't read or draw or do anything involving your eyes. At this very moment, only music can save your night. Last night, insomnia did not manage to ruin my emotionally unstable state of mind thanks to Monochrome's latest album.

Monochrome had released nothing in Europe since their outstanding Laser in 1999 (they only released a 7" in 2001 on Dim Mak Records which was really hard to get in Europe). The 6-piece German band comes back with a good-looking digipack entitled Ferro, a 7 song cd made of five brilliant noise-pop songs and two short but fine instrumental tracks. Monochrome is going more and more pop at first sight but their intertwining male/female voices noise-pop is still encrusted with emo parts for the best.

"F llt" is a nice noise-pop song which begins at full throttle, its atmosphere being close to the previous albums. These 5 songs take the time to slow down and offer lush arrangements, catchy vocals and alternate power chords riffs with varied quieter parts (from entwined arpeggios to post-punk passages). There's often a guitar line loitering around for your greedy ears. In fact, it's just the vocals that tend to be more heady and addictive but the songs remain far from being main-stream. 'Angelfire' (the very song which has already been released) and 'Flimmern' are the most catchy songs and therefore might be the ones representative of their next album. 'Flimmern' chorus remains in your mind, 'Turning the hooks, turning the hooks to get in...', and ends on a welcome old-school hardcore part. When they play gentle noise-pop somehow close to Stereolab and Prolapse at rest ('Luftkissen'), the end of the song provides staccato ragged riffs full of utter stark energy. In 'Insomnia' there even is a surprising acoustic guitar wandering through the song disappearing to let a nice noisy crescendo build up and then surprisingly reappears.

Ferro is really enthralling and grows impressively on you. The two short instrumental tracks provide a break from the overall steady pace. Its major flaw is a proof of its stunning appeal: its length is disappointing (20 minutes only). Definitely one of the best things released this year so far. They've turned the hook to regularly get in your cd-player! // Review by Seb Wood. ->onlyangelshavewings.com

MONOCHROME FERRO // Sexy Verpackung mit ad quatem Inhalt. Sieht nicht nur chic aus, es klingt auch noch grandios, was Monochrome hier abliefern. Ja, Artwork heißt in diesem Falle: „Diesaign“ (weich und langgezogen aussprechen). Sieben Songs, die ein wenig zusammenschrumpfen, wenn man das bereits veröffentlichte "Angelfire" der Dim Mak-7" und die zwei kurzen Instrumentals als „echte Stücke“ abzieht. Bleiben vier neue Vollwertstücke, die sich vor allem durch die Erkenntnis auszeichnen, dass Monochrome trotz Sparflamme und verringerter Trainingszeiten mehr denn je in einer völlig eigenen Liga spielen. Ferro ist - wenn man mal von "Angelfire" absieht - durchgehend relaxt und auf eine so selbstverständliche Art cool, dass nur die kurze Spieldauer Raum für eine leichte Unzufriedenheit lässt (in der Tat, da ist man gerade angefixt und voll drauf, dann muss man schon wieder von vorne anfangen).

Monochrome machen mit diesem Kleinod einen riesigen Schritt, einen, den mit Sicherheit keiner vermutet hätte, denn die Band war ohnehin schon weitab jeden Maßstabs. Selbst nach dem zwanzigsten Hörn bleiben die Stücke spannend und nützen sich nicht ab. Von welcher Platte, die Du Dir in den letzten fünf Jahren gekauft hast, kannst Du das noch behaupten? Als Platte und als Band mehr wie ein Buch, das Du mehrmals lesen kannst ... nein, musst, um es überhaupt zu verstehen. Artwork: Sex! Musik: Pop mit messerscharfen Kanten! Wer hier schlft, dem geht es nicht mehr anders!!! // Review by KH Stille. -> bobtorture.de

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SHOW REVIEW // Auf Posen gebettet: Indierock de Luxe // Hätten noch zwanzig Leute mehr den Abschluss der Monochrome-Europatournee im Travellers Club miterleben wollen, wären einige Gäste genötigt gewesen, ein oder zwei Leute auf die Schulter zu nehmen. Der Stuttgarter Band hätte dies sicherlich gefallen, dem Publikum vielleicht weniger. Monochrome's Indierock ist sperrig. "Verweigerung gegen Pop" meinen die einen - die anderen halten die Klappe und genießen den furiosen Rundumschlag zwischen Pop, Hardcore, Punk und Indierock.

In sehr guten Momenten ist das Sextett eine Eierlegende Wollmilchsau. Da stimmt alles, da ist alles möglich. Sängerin Ahlie Schaubel umschmeichelt den energischen Sprechgesang von Marc Calmbach mit geschmeidigen Melodien, Drummer Bernhard Hahn und Bassist Dominik Thomann grooven, als ob es morgen verboten wäre, und die Gitarristen Marten Thielges und Helm Pfohl sollte man bitte schnellstens in Gold aufwiegen. Denn Hartsein ohne Plumpsein ist eine Kunst, die Monochrome perfektionieren. Unkontrollierbare Lärmrauschere werden von zarten Melodien besänftigt, und weil's schön ist, geht's immer wieder in die Verlängerung.

Monochrome wissen, dass sie gut sind, sie genießen das zu Recht. Nicht viele Stuttgarter Bands können von sich behaupten, mehrmals erfolgreich durch Europa und die USA getourt zu sein. Selbstredend beherrschen sie auch das Einmaleins der grossen Indierock-Pose. Marc Calmbach windet sich am Mikroständer, schlägt Rad, springt, zerzaust sich beim Singen die Haare. Als Monochrome nach einer Stunde den vollig durchschwitzten Club wieder sich selbst überlassen, hat jemand mit den Fingern "Sven ist doof" an die beschlagene Glasfront gemalt. Vielleicht ist das wahr, aber eigentlich hätte dort stehen müssen: "Monochrome sind eine sehr grosse Band." // Stuttgarter Nachrichten; Article by Michael Setzer, 16.3.02

MONOCHROME VÅRA // Dim Mak is probably one of my favorite labels, if not my most favorite. They put out quality releases from quality bands. This review isn't about that wonderful label Dim Mak though, it's about this band they put out. They're called Monochrome. This was actually my introduction to this fine, fine band that convinced me to seek out their other albums (one being their full-length Laser, which quite possibly may be one of the most beautiful albums I've ever heard).

The record features two songs, Angelfire Analog/Ehrlich. The last one being a re-recorded version of a song from their last release, Laser. Both songs have a Milemarker, and At the Drive-in feel except not nearly as political or heavy as the latter. In fact, half of the lyrics you can't even understand because they're in German. The vocals switch off between male, female, English, and German which makes for some interesting melodies. I don't know what else to say except go purchase this piece of plastic. It will end up in my top 10 at the end of the year, that's a fact... along with their next full-length which will be released on Dim Mak later this year. Beautiful, driving, inspiring post-punk outfit. It's everything you should be looking for in your music. However if you're interested only in blast beats and growls, look elsewhere. // Reviewed by Popyura. Rating : 4.5/5. -> dethroned.net

MONOCHROME VÅRA // About time we got something new from MONOCHROME, pity it's just one new track and make-over of an old one because I could have done with so much more.

Anyway, the new track "Angelfire" is amazing, making full use of MONOCHROME's seamless blending of pop melody, a jagged punk-edge and of course those superbly contrasting male/female vocals. It's such an original and innovative sound that MONOCHROME have carved out for themselves. The flipside is a reworking of "Analog and Ehrlich" from their amazing "Laser" album (if you don't have this, you should) which is a little more rocking and driving than the album version and sounds just great for it. Comes on plush clear-green wax and of course with the excellent artwork/design you've come to expect from these guys. A new album would be very much appreciated.

// Fracture #21

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MONOCHROME VÅRA // Chic sieht es aus, das kleine Lebenszeichen von einer Band, die sich schwierig gestaltet, weil ein Teil der Band sich praktizierend bei verglühenden Musiksendern herumtreibt, ein anderer zwischen lila Kissen und geleckten Biergersteinen ein klästerliches Dasein am Fuße irgendeines „Meisters“ pflegt und sich wieder einmal kein dauerhafter Schlagzeuger findet. Es geht trotzdem - irgendwie - weiter, was die Europatour gezeigt hat. Es reicht musikalisch zwar „nur“ für einen neuen Song auf dieser Single, aber dafür ist „Angelfire“ ein grandioses Stück, das auch auf die letzte Platte gepaßt hätte.

Wie gut Monochrome noch immer sind, das war auf einigen Bühnen deutlich zu sehen! Sie rocken immer noch wie keine andere Band und ich hoffe sehr, daß die Zeit der Überbrückung bald vorbei ist, damit es wieder mehr Monochrome zu sehen und zu hören gibt!!! Auf der Rückseite dieser grünen Scheibe findet sich „Analog und ehrlich“, das zwar hinlänglich bekannt sein dürfte, in Grün aber einfach besser aussieht! // Review by KH Stille -> bobtorture.de

MONOCHROME VÅRA // Monochrome really is band I can't rant and rave enough about. After not having heard of them for a long time I had the pleasure to see them live last month and now a new 7" by them. Who said life sucks? Monochrome has come a long way since their first Prozac Barrio/ Hook 7" in 1996. Having released two Lps (Radio 12" and Laser full length), Monochrome always was and is about progressing and developing their own special interpretation of pop music. Talking of pop music, crap like Britney Spears will come to your mind, but this is the real deal. If pop comes from popular, I hope Monochrome will become it, because they really deserve it.

On their new 7" Monochrome enjoy me with two songs. The first one "Angelfire" is a energetic pop anthem completely sung in English with that beautiful female/male vocals. Great new song, I'm really excited about more new stuff to come!!! So get it while you can, because I think it's limited...making pop a threat. Get it! Get it! Get it! Go! // Review by David. enough fanzine

MONOCHROME LASER // First off, these cats feature some ex-Dawnbreed members but as to be expected, this can not be used as a valid musical reference point. Monochrome are truly advanced musicians/composers who create an instantly original feel to the worn 'post-hardcore' genre.

Before you even put the CD on you have to navigate the outstanding packaging which is the finest I have seen for a CD in a long-time. It's just a shame that I cannot read the alternating French/German lyrics. Aside from this aspect "Laser" is pretty much faultless from the aforementioned packaging to the slick as fuck production job. Musically, few names come to mind, but I will mention My Bloody Valentine, Drive Like Jehu, Jawbox and Sunny Day Real Estate (all in a very non-specific way). My favourite song is the three minute pop masterpiece "Kontern". I love the way Monochrome build up to create subtle melodies which then spiral into dischordance over the sweetest male and female vocal playoffs.

This is god damn genius and light years away from any American stuff I have heard from this musical persuasion. In these desperate times of watered down pseudo indie rock, Monochrome come through to show you how it should be done. // Review by Petey Waterfall -> collective-zine.co.uk/reviews

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MONOCHROME LASER // Beautiful packaging on this CD with a nice slip cover, beautiful multi-page booklet and CD copak type case. Musically this blew me away. I believe this band is German, but they don't sound like the typical German we normally get sent to review. Monochrome is unique.

Melodic indie rock that is full of hooks and rocking guitars as well as a nice male/female vocal combo, Monochrome is a band who I listened to the entire record before writing this, which is rare these days. The last line in their booklet sums it up. "Thank you for listening. We hope you are still ok." I couldn't have put it better myself. Find this record and prepare to be rocked. // Muddle #17

MONOCHROME RADIO // Monochrome sind aus Deutschland, sind Gitarrenmusik, sind anders- und gleichartig zugleich. Monochrome schimmern in vielen Farben. Kristallines (blu)Noise, schlaues Weilheim, feinstes Kitty-Yo, keine hanseatische Ironie. Kontrollierter Schlafentzug, erratische Stimmung, Kopfschmerz und Wut. Kognition und Affekt im Clinch. Blumfelder im Text. Männliche Stimme rezitiert kleine Geschichten. Symboliken ohne Platituden. Flüstert, spricht, bricht aus, schreit und verzehrt sich. Weibliche Stimme konterkariert mit sphärisch zerbrechlichen Harmonien. Elektronik und Dub mischen in den Sound-Too Pure. Mut zum klanglichen Experiment und zur Grenzüberschreitung galore. Das Wunder geschieht: Monochrome fügen aus den verschiedenen erlesenen Versatzstücken ein prachtvolles Ganzes zusammen, welches mehr ist als die beschworene Summe seiner Teile. Eine Gestalt größer als der Rest, aber nicht als das Leben. Radio ist leider nur ein Mini-Album. Schade, aber verdammt toll. // Review by Marco. Revelation Magazine *1998

MONOCHROME RADIO // Brilliantly progressive rock with added ambient and trans-hypnotic beats. They don't rely on rock alone to flirt with their listeners. Just imagine a Tortoise sound with the hard and intense elements of June of 44, Rex or Hoover to the more somber and lucid of Slint. Very eclectic and highly intelligent. Experimental music like this is fucking hard to find. I would expect someone like John McEntire and the guitarist of Hoover to start up a band like this. When they do allow vocals on the songs, it is accompanied with a dual male/female presence. There are only 4 songs here but let me tell you, some of them are long enough to cover one side of an LP.

Yet these songs don't bore you to death, they become addictive. Actually, I pressed the repeat button on "Fallstudien" the grooviest of them all, for an entire night. Still, after a week of just listening to Monochrome I haven't taken it out of my CD player. Trust me, any Thrilljockey or Touch and Go fans will be pleased. An Aoki guarantee. // Review by Steve Aoki. Heartattack *18

MONOCHROME RADIO // So of course you were all wise enough to pick up DAWNBREED's "Aroma" album last year weren't you? That great album of off-kilter hardcore with the samples and trumpets, and those almost Ennio Morricone-esque moments in amongst the noise. A great album.

Well anyway, the MONOCHROME COLLECTIVE is members of DAWNBREED turning out a similarly eccentric sort of noise but this time they've tied it together with an ethereal atmosphere of dubbed loops, reverbed guitars, female and male vocals that bounce off each other and rhythms that play games with the sounds. And of course they've removed the noise so your more fragile-eared friends can enjoy it too. It's a record that creates an overpowering and uneasy feeling of a calm-before-the-storm, and would suit some sort of drug-induced psychosis to a tee. The packaging is incredible too, the design is some of the best you will ever see, harking back to 60s and 70s East European styles and printed onto velvet textured cardboard, and inside it all is the the (sic!) thickest piece of vinyl you will ever have the pleasure to pick up. For those that yearn for something more, this is the answer. Wow! // Review by RR. Fracture Magazine *1998.

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Dialogue

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Booking

Booking // booking@monochromepopgroup.com

Show Requirements

Please download the Stage Plan & Rider for technical information and requirements. There`s a large number of promo materials we can send to you for any advertising concern. Don`t hesitate to write if you need flyer and promo templates, logos or pictures in various file formats. We appreciate good design, whether it`s in any case professional or just made from the heart.

Label Contact

*TRANS SOLAR RECORDS, Kastanienallee 55, D 10119 Berlin.

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Press Issues & Interviews

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