

“The caveman and his queen “

text by Daniel Lehmann & Linus Nicholson

Once celebrated with Bodi Bill, the Berlin musician **Alex Stolze** is now readying his first solo-album. One thing is clear: regard for conventions is out of the question.

Anyone stumbling across a renovated ruin near the German-Polish border has a good chance of meeting Stolze. Here, 8 years in the making, he has built up his own studio. Removed from the city Alex can work in peace, whether that is on music or tending to the garden.

Merging agricultural work with creative might seem odd to some, but merging two seemingly unrelated things is exactly what Stolze thrives off. As Frederick Kapp said after one of his performances, "Alex Stolze brings the violin to the foreground and embarks on a journey through the centuries to revive archaic string arrangements and plucked rhythmic textures in an electronic environment."

Encouraged early on by a Mother with a love for music, Stolze played the violin since he was 8, impressing on the piano as well at a later stage. This is no mean feat by any means in the strict GDR system, filled with constant, vigorous tests and challenges.

Through all this, one thing that kept him going was his love for playing what he refers to as the "queen of the instruments". The fall of the wall came at a right time for the young man, in the middle of puberty, to explore the new world that had been opened up. "Me as a young man? Weed, traveling and Bob Dylan".

In the early 2000s he finds his way to the electronic end of the musical spectrum, trying himself at various experimental pieces and improvisations. Under the Pseudonym "Alex Amoon" he releases the EP "I'm the Virus" on Bpitch Records, followed by working together with Konrad Wilde and his brother Fabian as part of Nonostar. 2003 their debut album "Nude" is released. While performing with Nonostar he get acquainted with a regular visitor of the shows, Fabian Fenk. This leads to the creation of Bodi Bill in 2005. At first the two musicians create a few pieces as a two-piece but only when Anton K. Feist joins do the pieces sound "the way they should". 2007 "No Wars", the first of 3 albums, is released. In the same year Stolze marries the artist Andrea Huyoff – "the love of my life". With her he has two children, 2 and 5 years old by now. From an earlier relationship he has a further 2 children. At their core, most of his projects are family projects – "The first Bodi Bill videos were all directed by my wife".

Bodi Bill is a great success, critics laud the 3 piece's "Technoid Folk-Electro". Intense performances, getting the most out of every crowd, become a mainstay for Bodi Bill. 2012 the band decides to take a break, "We said from the start: We have to do this for at least 5 years otherwise this won't be worthwhile. In hindsight we may have been too driven from the start, wanted it too much."

Since, over 22,000 Facebook fans await the reunion and new material! "With such high expectations it can be very difficult to work on new pieces, but me and Fabian are going to sit down together without paying too much attention to that". After projects **Dictaphone** and **Unmap**, Stolze is now readying his solo debut album.

Stolze feels like a Caveman in a highly technological world. "We are at the beginning of an electronic age. Living side by side with robots is becoming a reality, we are all going to get implanted with Chips. For me now is the most interesting time to use the violin, an instrument steeped in history, and to keep it alive for the modern world.

Other than with Bodi Bill, where the violin was used to create moments of calm in between the fast paced experimental pieces, Stolze is using the violin as his starting point. This allows a view on what is still human. How far have we evolved? "The refugees crisis shows, that people exist who want to evolve", he states, who himself has taken in a Syrian family, "I believe in a utopia".