



U.S. PREMIERE!

# THE LION THE WITCH AND THE COBRA

## CHRISTEENE

+ VERY SPECIAL GUESTS

PEACHES

AND

SHANNON FUNCHESS  
(LIGHT ASYLUM)

PERFORMING  
SINÉAD O'CONNOR'S  
DEBUT ALBUM

SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024, AT 8 PM  
BOVARD AUDITORIUM  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

USC Visions & Voices    USC Roski

USC Thornton



@USCVandV



VISIONSANDVOICES.USC.EDU



# CREDITS

## CHRISTEENE

### *THE LION THE WITCH AND THE COBRA*

Conceived and performed by **CHRISTEENE**

Produced by **ARKTYPE / THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN**

Music direction by **PETER STOPSCHINSKI**

## THE FUKKN BAND

**CHRISTEENE:** Lead Vocals

**PEACHES:** Guest Vocals

**SHANNON FUNCHESS:** Guest Vocals

**LYLA VANDER:** Drums

**MARY FEASTER:** Bass Guitar

**VIVA DECONCIN:** Electric Guitar

**KEVIN KENKEL:** Synths

**COLE STONE FRISINA:** Saxophone

**PETER STOPSCHINSKI:** Keys, Synths, Percussion

## THE BOYZ

**SILKY SHOEMAKER:** DAWG ELF

**THOMAS GRAVES:** T GRAVEL

Gaelic translation by **Lisa Connell**

Production management & lighting design by  
**Jojo Franjoine**

Choreography by **Thomas Graves, Silky Shoemaker,**  
and **Paul Soileau**

Costume design by **Lee Benjamin** and **Paul Soileau**

BABEL collection face masks from **Rick Owens**

Music videos directed by **PJ Raval** and **Matt Lambert**

PR support from **Girlie Action**

*The Lion and the Cobra* written by **Sinéad O'Connor**

Originally produced by **Kamal Ackarie** for Sleeper  
Cell Productions

World Premiere, September 2019, The Barbican, London

**Non-flash photography is permitted.**

**Share your photos and tag us!**

**@USCVandV, @christeene\_official, @peachesnisker,**  
**@light\_asylum, @arktype**

Artwork by Katerina Jebb

## ARTIST STATEMENT

We are still in dark times, darker than I could have ever foreseen. We are still suffering at the hands of ignorant and dangerous men, and we are now without the physical form of Sinéad O'Connor roaming this earth, howling at its injustices and singing of love and understanding. There is no better time than now to ignite the flame of this show once again. To call to arms and gather our voices and our physical forms in recognition of the dangers we face as a people, and of a woman who faced those dangers head on.

— **CHRISTEENE** / Paul Soileau

## ARTIST BIOS



### **CHRISTEENE**

CHRISTEENE is a raw spirit of ferocious music, unabashed sexuality, and fiery intimate stank. The artist has collaborated with as well as performed with numerous acclaimed musicians, including Faith No More, Kembra Pfahler, Tribe 8, Narcissister, Marc Almond, and more. Longtime collaborators include award-winning filmmaker PJ Raval, along with iconic fashion designer Rick Owens and artist Michèle Lamy. CHRISTEENE has been photographed by Juergen Teller, Katerina Jebb, Matt Lambert, and Wolfgang Tillmans.

[christeenemusic.com](http://christeenemusic.com)



Photo: KEYI Studio

## PEACHES

An iconic feminist musician, producer, director, and performance artist, Peaches has spent more than two decades pushing boundaries and breaking barriers, dramatically altering the landscape of popular culture as she forged a bold, sexually progressive path that's opened the doors for countless others to follow. Through music, art, film, theater, television, and books, she has upended stereotypes and embraced taboos, challenging social norms and patriarchal power structures while championing LGBTQIA+ rights and issues of gender and sexual identity with biting wit and fearless originality. In 2019, Peaches starred as Anna in the Staatstheater Stuttgart's new adaptation of Brecht/Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* and launched her first institutional solo art exhibition that premiered at the Kunstverein in Hamburg entitled *Whose Jizz Is This?* At the Kampnagel Summer Festival, Peaches' futuristic stage happening *There's Only One Peach With The Hole In The Middle* celebrated its world premiere. This production featured 16 dancers, a 12-piece orchestra, special guests, and a fully redesigned stage and light extravaganza. *There's Only One Peach...* played at Royal Festival Hall (London, UK), Musikhuset Aarhus (Aarhus, DK), and Volksbühne (Berlin, DE). Peaches only continues to break new ground. In 2020 her seminal album *The Teaches of Peaches* turned 20, which NPR says fundamentally "shifted the window for sex in pop." She released the kinetic "Flip This," which *Rolling Stone* said "challenges status quo and calls for systemic change." 2021 saw her influence only further manifest. Peaches released the delightfully subversive "Pussy Mask." "The perfect release" (*Paper*) was hailed by critics, including *Stereogum* who said it "combines her inimitable political critique, ribald wordplay, and enveloping electro." She was also cited as the main inspiration for designer Anthony Vaccarello's AW21 Saint Laurent collection and "Fuck the Pain Away" was used as a climactic moment in Netflix's *Sex Education* Season 3. She celebrated the 48th anniversary of Roe v. Wade with friends Cyndi Lauper, Nona Hendryx, Linda Perry, and others on Amanda Shires' "Our Problem." In January 2022, Peaches announced *The Teaches of Peaches* Anniversary Tour, a celebration of the 20th anniversary of Peaches' seminal *The Teaches of Peaches*. It was met with sold-out audiences across North America, Europe, and the United Kingdom. Peaches extended the successful run to Australia and New Zealand in 2023.

[teachesofpeaches.com](https://teachesofpeaches.com)



**SHANNON FUNCHESS  
(LIGHT ASYLUM)**

Shannon Funchess is a self-taught interdisciplinary performance artist and the founder, vocalist, and producer of internationally revered, electronic music project LIGHT ASYLUM. Founded in Brooklyn, New York, in 2007, performances have culminated in traditional and non-traditional spaces such as underground raves, museums, art galleries, music festivals, and nightclubs. Her journey began in a gospel choir of a southern baptist church in Spokane, Washington, at the age of nine. A few years later at the age of 12, she would front her first punk band. With a passion for collaboration, Funchess has joined forces with peers and allies around the globe. From recording studio vocal features, remixes, and production for artists The Knife, TV on the Radio, Elysia Crampton Chuquimia, Shayne Oliver (LEECH), and Yves Tumor, among others. Ms. Funchess was also a touring musician and dancer for the aforementioned artists The Knife and performed live improv with the electronic music pioneer Laurie Anderson. Funchess has established herself as a force in her community and is lauded for her cathartic performances as LIGHT ASYLUM and side project HEALING CRISIS. You can find her DJing and performing in a city near you, acting in films for artists the likes of Michelle Handleman and A.K. Burns, or making assemblage, collage art, and music concrete.

[instagram.com/light\\_asylum](https://www.instagram.com/light_asylum)





**ARKTYPE /**  
**THOMAS O. KRIEGSMANN**  
**(PRODUCER)**

ArKtype / Thomas O. Kriegsmann specializes in new work development and production worldwide. He was shortlisted for an Oscar nomination and won best picture at the Cinema Eye Awards this year for Sam Green's *32 Sounds* w/ music by JD Samson and will premiere Sufjan Stevens & Justin Peck's *ILLINOISE* on Broadway at the St. James Theater in April. His past work includes projects with Kaneza Schaal, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Peter Brook, Daniel Fish, Victoria Thiérrée-Chaplin, Yael Farber, Anna Deavere Smith, Annie-B Parson & Paul Lazar, Jessica Blank & Erik Jensen, Peter Sellars, Julie Taymor, and John Cameron Mitchell. Recent premieres include 600 HIGHWAYMEN's *A Thousand Ways*, nora chipaumire's *Nehanda*, Bryce Dessner's *Triptych (Eyes of One on Another)* directed by Kaneza Schaal, John Cameron Mitchell's *The Origin of Love*, Kaneza Schaal & Christopher Myers' *CARTOGRAPHY*, Sam Green & Kronos Quartet's *A Thousand Thoughts*, Big Dance Theater / Mikhail Baryshnikov's *Man in a Case*, Toshi & Bernice Johnson Reagon's *Parable of the Sower*, and Nalaga'at Deaf-Blind Theater's *Not by Bread Alone*. Ongoing collaborations include Milo Rau, Bryce Dessner, Sophia Brous, 600 HIGHWAYMEN, Sam Green, Timothy White Eagle, Andrew Schneider, Big Dance Theater, John Cameron Mitchell, and Compagnia T.P.O. He recently produced the first citywide festival edition of the UNDER THE RADAR and is planning the festival's 20th Edition in 2025. Premieres include Sufjan Stevens & Justin Peck's *ILLINOISE*, Bryce Dessner & Kaneza Schaal's *Untitled Ocean Vuong Project*, Sam Green's *Untitled Trees Documentary Project*, and Penny Arcade's autobiographical epic *The Art of Becoming*. He is a founding member of CIPA (The Creative & Independent Producer Alliance).

[arktype.org](http://arktype.org)

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

This event is a performance based on Sinéad O'Connor's debut album, *The Lion and The Cobra*, by the artist CHRISTEENE with her Fukkn Band and Dancers, featuring feminist musician Peaches and performance artist Shannon Funchess (Light Asylum).

## SINÉAD O'CONNOR

Sinéad O'Connor (1966–2023) was an Irish musician known for her early-'90s hit songs, shaved head, dedication to social justice, and unabashed outspokenness. She “saw herself as a protest-singing punk” (*New York Times*).

O'Connor shaved her hair off after a music executive suggested she grow it out and present in a more feminine way. She won a GRAMMY in 1991 for the album *I Do Not Want What I Haven't Got* and boycotted the awards ceremony, writing, “I don't want to be part of a world that measures artistic ability by material success.” The following year, during her performance on *SNL*, she ripped up a photo of Pope John Paul II in protest of abuse within the Catholic Church. She had previously backed out of a different *SNL* performance in protest of the misogyny of the host, Andrew Dice Clay. In the early '90s, the abuse in the Church was not widely acknowledged, and O'Connor was seen as having thrown away her career for her controversial stance. She was vilified, ridiculed, and called crazy. By the time of her death in 2023, she was widely understood to have been right. O'Connor stood by her stance all those years, even saying it kept her on the right path, as opposed to the wrong path of pop stardom.

Sinéad O'Connor also spoke out about abortion rights and Irish politics, was an ally to trans rights and AIDS activists, performed for peace, criticized imperialism and colonialism, and vocally supported Palestinian rights for decades. She converted to Islam and started using the name Shuhada Sadaqat as well as Sinéad O'Connor. This year, her estate demanded the Donald Trump campaign stop using her music. In an article for NPR, USC Thornton School of Music Dean Jason King writes that O'Connor was a “freedom singer” and a “feminist killjoy” . . . “whose greatest gift was to deliver mournful songs of lament and original tunes of personal and collective liberation. Many of her songs strove to soothe suffering and remedy trauma.”

Sinéad O'Connor released 10 studio albums and is the author of the memoir *Rememberings* (2021).



## THE LION AND THE COBRA

*The Lion and the Cobra* (1987) was Sinéad O'Connor's debut album. The album title references Psalm 91:13 (“You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.”). The album was critically acclaimed, and is listed among *Pitchfork*'s 200 Best Albums of the 1980s, with Cameron Cook writing:

“It's absolutely mindblowing that Sinéad O'Connor was able to exist, let alone thrive, in the pop-dominated chart landscape of the late '80s. She looked like a punk in combat boots, but her voice was gargantuan, both sweetly innocent and brashly raw. Her music dealt with the love and heartbreak rooted in her native Ireland. She was a living, breathing protest. . . Released a month before O'Connor's 21st birthday, *The Lion and the Cobra*'s themes of patriotism, sexuality, Catholicism, and social oppression set the stage for a career marked by a resolute sense of independence.”

## LIONS, COBRAS, WITCHES: A PLAYLIST BY ALLISON WOLFE

Original Riot Grrrl and Bratmobile front person Allison Wolfe curated a Spotify playlist for this show featuring songs by Sinéad O'Connor; artists who influenced her, from Bob Marley to Bob Dylan; Sinéad's contemporaries and allies like Public Enemy; and artists that Sinéad inspired and share her political vision, including tonight's performers CHRISTEENE, Peaches, and Light Asylum, as well as Bikini Kill, Alanis Morissette, and more. Check it out here: [bit.ly/VVPlaylist-CHRISTEENE](https://bit.ly/VVPlaylist-CHRISTEENE)

## IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

- Classes and Performances at the USC Roski School of Art and Design | [roski.usc.edu](https://roski.usc.edu)
- Classes and Performances at USC's Gender and Sexuality Studies | [dornsife.usc.edu/genderstudies](https://dornsife.usc.edu/genderstudies)
- Classes and Performances at the USC Thornton School of Music | [music.usc.edu](https://music.usc.edu)
- ONE Archives at the USC Libraries | [one.usc.edu](https://one.usc.edu)
- Feminist Center for Creative Work | [fccwla.org](https://fccwla.org)
- REDCAT | [redcat.org](https://redcat.org)
- Highways Performance Space  
[highwaysperformance.org](https://highwaysperformance.org)
- Zebulon Café Concert (especially Weirdo Night with Dynasty Handbag) | [zebulon.la](https://zebulon.la)
- Los Angeles Performance Practice  
[performancepractice.la](https://performancepractice.la)
- Upcoming Visions and Voices Events:  
**4/3/24** [Another Beautiful Country: Chinese American Artists in Cross-Cultural Conversation](#)  
**4/4/24** [Envisioning Empathy through Graphic Memoir: An Afternoon with Alison Bechdel](#)  
**4/6/24** [The Great Wall of Los Angeles at 40: A Conversation with Judy Baca and Screening of \*Mur Murs\*](#)  
**4/27/24** [Rhythms + Visions / Expanded + Live 4](#)



Sinéad O'Connor, *SNL*, October 3, 1992



A Conversation with Judy Baca and Screening of *Mur Murs*, Saturday, April 6, 2024



Rhythms + Visions / Expanded + Live 4, Saturday, April 27, 2024



@USCVandV



VISIONSANDVOICES.USC.EDU





## DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

**Bridgid Fennell** of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this event. Electronic resources are accessible through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at [libraries.usc.edu](https://libraries.usc.edu) but may require the user to log in using their USC credentials.

### ARCHIVAL COLLECTION

#### ◉ [Craig Michael Lee Papers](#)

Held at USC Libraries' ONE Archives, this collection consists of music fanzines, fliers, writings, correspondence, clippings, photographs and other material from Craig Michael Lee, a music critic and openly gay musician in Los Angeles-area punk bands during the late-1970s and 1980s.

### ARTICLES

- ◉ Grace Barnes, "[RTF Associate Professor PJ Raval Contributes Unique Background, Filmmaking Experience to UT,](#)" *University Wire*, November 20, 2019.
- ◉ Atlanta Ina Beyer, "[The Queer Punk Visions of J.D.s.,](#)" in *Punk, Fanzines and DIY Cultures in a Global World* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019), 159–82.
- ◉ Vaginal Davis and Lewis Church, "[My Womanly Story,](#)" *PAJ A Journal of Performance Art* 38, no. 2 (2016): 80–88.
- ◉ Michael du Plessis and Kathleen Chapman, "[Queercore: The Distinct Identities of Subculture,](#)" *College Literature* 24, no. 1 (1997), 45–58.
- ◉ "[Drag Performance Artist Christeene Vale is the Music Icon We Need,](#)" *Dallas Observer*, November 3, 2023.
- ◉ Marnina Gonick, "[The Teaches of Peaches: Performance, Hybridity and Resistance,](#)" *Girlhood Studies* 2, no. 2 (2009), 139–42.
- ◉ Tim Jonze, "[Christeene's Full-frontal Assault: 'There's No Such Thing as a Safe Space!'](#)" *The Guardian*, August 29, 2018.
- ◉ Jason King, "[Sinead O'Connor Was Our Freedom Singer, Our Keener and our Feminist Killjoy,](#)" *NPR Music*, August 2, 2023.
- ◉ Curran Nault, "[Three Dollar Cinema: The Down and Dirty DIY of Queer Production,](#)" *Journal of Film and Video* 70, no. 3–4 (2018), 63–84.
- ◉ Emer Nolan, "[Sinéad O'Connor: The Story of a Voice,](#)" *Five Irish Women: The Second Republic, 1960–2016* (Manchester: Manchester Univ. Press, 2019), 49–79.
- ◉ Evan J. Peterson, "[From Lowbrow to High Art: The Rise and Rise of Peaches,](#)" *The Stranger*, September 30, 2015.
- ◉ Ben Sisario and Joe Coscarelli, "[Sinead O'Connor, Evocative and Outspoken Singer, is Dead at 56,](#)" *New York Times*, July 26, 2023.
- ◉ Maria Stehle, "[Knitted Naked Suits and Shedding Skins: The Body Politics of Popfeminist Musical Performances in the Twenty-First Century,](#)" *German Politics and Society* 35, no. 2 (2017), 99–116.
- ◉ Maria Stehle, "[Pop-Feminist Music in Twenty-First Century Germany: Innovations, Provocations, and Failures,](#)" *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 25, no. 2 (2013), 222–39.



CHRISTEENE



Peaches

Photo: Ryan Pfluger