



## **The Boys are Back In Town**

### **BLECHREIZ! Sweat and keep dancing – the ska show from Berlin is back!**

Skank until your suit is soaked and the condensation drips from the ceiling!

Back on stage after 12 years: The original members of Blechreiz are together again and the ska veterans from Berlin/Kreuzberg still know how to blow it out and party.

10 men who love to heat up the stage 'til the sweat flows and the party goes crazy would like to have this dance!

With their irresistible live sound and furious pace, the group occupied an outstanding position as a live act from Berlin. Blechreiz was one of the most important bands on the German ska scene during the '90s.

### **The ska revival movement and British punk of the '80s: the music that inspires Blechreiz**

Formed in the mid '80s, the Berlin musicians play in the manner of British bands like Madness, The Specials, Bad Manners, The Beat, The Selecter and The Bodysnatchers. New Wave, rock bands like The Jam and punk bands like The Clash are the band members' heroes.

### **Blechreiz is one of the first bands from the West to tour the GDR**

In the summer of 1989, Blechreiz planned to tour the walled-in GDR with Michele Baresi, the "only ska band from East Berlin". The tour became a victim of the administrative chaos that prevailed under the old system. Backed by outgoing GDR teen broadcasters DT64 and elf99, both bands took the GDR by storm shortly after the Wall came down in the spring of 1990. That was the first time many of the concert venues where Blechreiz played had ever hosted a band from the West.

### **One of the most important ska bands in Germany in the '90s, Blechreiz tours throughout Europe**

At the beginning of the '90s, Blechreiz and a handful of other German bands were the pioneers of the German ska scene, playing whenever and wherever they could. Invitations to tour France, England, Italy, Belgium, Austria and Poland underscore the band's top position. The boys from Kreuzberg played more than 500 concerts on their tours, which brought them together with all the significant international ska acts and national music legends in the course of more than 10 years.

## **Blechreiz strictly separates itself from right-wing extremism in the East and West**

Blechreiz was especially active against the emerging right-wing extremism in the "Wild East" and West in the '90s. Because as everyone knows, skinheads also like ska. Blechreiz has always been on the side of anti-racist and anti-fascist skinheads, including the international SHARP (skinheads against racial prejudice) movement and the "Trojan skins," who are well aware of the black roots of Jamaican ska.

## **Official Best Live Band in Berlin of 1993: Blechreiz**

Blechreiz received the Berlin concertgoers vote for Best Live Band in Berlin in 1993. A concert with many guest stars at Berlin's Tempodrome triggered a press avalanche.

## **Blechreiz combines ska and Russian folk music in the SKASDROWJE project**

Together with Russian "volksmusik" band Apparatschik, Blechreiz helped launch the SKASDROWJE project in 1994. A 20-member big band put a new twist on ska by playing Russian folk music ska-style at various festivals. Ska's musical significance and Blechreiz' special post-Wall role as West Berlin's representative of the ska movement boosted the Kreuzberg band's popularity to a new level. This culminated in the renowned television film "Which Side Are You On – Ska in Berlin," which featured portraits of both Blechreiz from West Berlin and Michele Baresi from East Berlin.

## **Blechreiz stops the show in 1996...**

After four LPs and countless contributions to international compilations, Blechreiz said farewell to its fans on its last tour around Germany in 1996. The band went on stage for the last time in a sold-out concert at SO36 in Berlin/Kreuzberg.

## **...and returns to the stage in 2008, older but just as much fun**

The members of the original '90s Blechreiz get back together to heat up the stage again in 2008. In February the band's closest friends were treated to a short concert that caused a meltdown in the "Red Salon" in Berlin/Mitte. The band's sound still generates the same irresistible joy it did during the Golden Age of German ska. But Blechreiz has developed its rockin' ska style further, referring to current top hits and even quoting ZZ Top in its version of the gospel classic "Those Were the Days." The band has three new songs, freshly produced at Studio Wong in Kreuzberg: the wong sessions. You haven't heard the last of Berlin's most important ska band!

More about Blechreiz:

[de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blechreiz](http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blechreiz)

[www.blechreiz-berlin.de](http://www.blechreiz-berlin.de)

[www.myspace.com/blechreiz](http://www.myspace.com/blechreiz)