P R E S S  R E L E A S E

**DEATH GRIPS AT POHODA 2019**

**11. – 13. JUL 2019 – AIRPORT TRENČÍN**

Pohoda 2019 will also host the Californian band Death Grips. Their extremely vigorous mixture of experimental hip-hop, industrial noise electronics and punk rock earned recognition from music critics and fans around the world right with their first album. Many media write about them as one of the most interesting bands of this decade, while Pitchfork included their debut among the top ten albums of 2012. Death Grips have also collaborated with a number of famous celebrities like Björk and Robert Pattinson, and inspired the albums of Kasabian and David Bowie. In 100 days they’re coming to the Trenčín airport to inspire the attenders of our festival as well.

Death Grips were founded in 2010 in California's capital by drummer and producer Zach Hill, sound engineer Andy Morin and rapper Stefan Burnett known as MC Ride. Right on the first day of the band’s formation they recorded "Full Moon (Death Classic)". It also appeared on the freely available eponymous EP from March 2011. A month later they released the ***Exmilitary*** mixtape and a year later their debut ***The Money Store***. All Music described it as avant rap and Pitchfork as a confrontational, rough and messy record. The author of the review, Jayson Greene, wrote about the album that he had an overwhelming desire to split his forehead open on a cinder block while listening to it. Out of context, it may not sound very flattering, but it was, in fact, a compliment to their aggressive music. The album earned a 8.7 out of 10 score and the Best New Music label. British Drowned in Sound even awarded it with 10 out of 10, while the author Mike Diver called it the album of 2012 ("Aww, fuck it ... album of the year, in this house").

Shortly after the debut, they leaked their second album, ***No Love Deep Web***, which resulted in their label ending the collaboration with them. It was, again, accompanied by music critics’ odes. NPR, for example, called it a soundtrack to modern urban life. Their vast creativity was confirmed by the third studio album in two years called ***Government Plates***. It was the third album in row that Pitchfork ranked more than eight out of ten. Ian Cohen wrote that they make music that doesn't care how you feel, but how you react to it. A year later they continued with the ***Powers That B*** double album composed of ***Niggas on the Moon*** (with Björk’s vocals) and ***Jenny Death***. At the same time, however, fans weren’t happy with the news about the band's break-up. Eight months later they admitted that they’d do some more music together. In May 2016 they released ***Bottomless Pitch***, again, with fantastic feedback. According to Rolling Stone, it proves that Death Grips sound like no other band in the world. The magazine says that inn their music, Death Grips consume all the different genres just to spit them back. Last summer they released the sixth studio album, ***Year of the Snitch***, which, according to The Line of Best Fit, pushed every boundary around it. Although Burnett's aggressive rap is dominant in their songs, their music is not primarily sought after by hip-hop lovers, but by fans of industrial electronics and heavier genres. Regardless of genre preferences, we recommend their show at Pohoda 2019 (especially to fans of Ho99o9).

Pohoda 2019 will host the British soul singer Lianne La Havas. Lianne won the iTunes Album of the Year Award and was nominated to Mercury Prize for her debut **Is Your Love Big Enough**?. In addition, she has had nominations for the MOBO Awards, as well as nominations for the BBC Sound of Brit Awards, and Grammy Awards. Strumming guitar and an excellent voice with a unique colour were what immediately appealed about this exquisite singer to celebrities such as Prince, Alicia Keys, and Justine Vernon (Bon Iver). During the tour with Bon Iver, the American media called her the most remarkable voice since Adele. The concert of Lianne La Havas of the NPR Music Tiny Desk Concert is one of the five most watched in the history of this popular series (and Adele follows in the chart). Last summer, we saw her solo performance live on the main stage at Sziget and we are very pleased that her breath-taking voice will be heard also at the Trenčín Airport.

The daughter to a Greek father and Jamaican mother, Lianne was born in the late 1980s in London. She was immersed in music since her early childhood and was influenced by her parents’ extremely diverse music tastes. Lianne began singing at the age of 7, and wrote her first song at the age of 11. She learned the basics of guitar and piano from her father, and it is the excellent guitar play that decorates her performances, along with the enchanting voice. However, she didn’t learn to play guitar until she was 18. She started her professional career as a vocalist for Paloma Faith. Her own pieces were discovered on MySpace, but three more years passed until she released her first EP **Lost & Found**.

Her opening track, “No Room For Doubt,” featured Willy Mason. On the day of the release of the album, Lianne also appeared on Later… with Jools Holland, a programme that also featured band Bon Iver. Justine Vernon (singer) was so fascinated by her performance that he called her the next day and asked her to support them on their North American tour. The song **Lost & Found** also became the first single of her debut **Is Your Love Big Enough?**. PopMatters rated the album 9 out of 10 and commented that it isn’t often that audiences are given so much all at once from such a young artist. She has been praised by Los Angeles Times and New Your Times, Boston Globe, and Q and Clash magazines. The album peaked on the 4th place of the British charts; iTunes called it the album of the year, and it received nominations for the Mercury Prize and Ivor Novello Awards.

Shortly after that, she supported Alicia Keys at MTV ʽCrashesʼ Manchester, and performed at Glastonbury and Isle of Wight. Another star that was captivated by Lianne in the early beginnings of her career was Prince. He invited her to collaborate on the album Art Official Age and played a gig in her living room in London. She also appeared on an Alt-Jʼs album on the track “Warm Foothills” and collaborated with Aqualung on the song “Eggshells”. In the summer of 2015, she released her second album inspired by her roots called **Blood**. There, she expanded her genre range to neo soul, jazz, and R&B, and she was likened to Lauren Hill and Jill Scott. The album contains beautiful songs such as “Unstoppable”, “Green & Gold”, “What You Donʼt Do”, and “Wonderful”. The album topped the charts the Netherlands, was second in sales charts in the UK, and it earned Lianne a Grammy nomination. In 2017, she did a cover of “Starry Starry Night” by Don McLean for the film Loving Vincent that tells the story of Vincent van Gogh. Another of her great covers is the one of Aretha Franklinʼs “Say a Little Prayer” that has recently appeared in This Is Us. Lianne is currently working on new songs. In little more than a hundred days, this fabulous singer with a velvety voice will play an intimate yet incredibly powerful solo at Pohoda 2019.

**VIDEO:**

* [Death Grips - Get Got](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIrKSqb4H4A" \t "_blank): <https://youtu.be/HIrKSqb4H4A>
* [Death Grips - Guillotine (It goes Yah)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Orlbo9WkZ2E" \t "_blank): <https://youtu.be/Orlbo9WkZ2E>
* Death Grips - No Love (Official Video): <https://youtu.be/2MHhLDCJ57E>
* Death Grips - I've Seen Footage: <https://youtu.be/DigtCrO77L8>

**About Pohoda Festival**

Pohoda offers an eclectic program that ranges from classical to techno, and all the way through experimental music. Pohoda is a multidisciplinary festival, where theatre, dance, literature, and visual arts are also strongly represented. The festival has won the European Festival Award (EFA) for Take a Stand 2018, our CEO Michal Kascak won EFA Award for Excellence & Passion in 2018 and in 2017 Pohoda won the EFA for Green Operations.

**Confirmed artists Pohoda 2019:**

Liam Gallagher, Lykke Li, The Roots, Skepta, The 1975, Mac DeMarco, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Michael Kiwanuka, Mura Masa, Lianne La Havas, Death Grips, Lola Marsh, Amadou & Mariam and The Blind Boys of Alabama, Vitalic, Sofi Tukker, Dimension, Donny Benét, Calypso Rose, Sudan Archives, IC3PEAK, Viagra Boys, Bazzookas, BaBa Zula, Bukahara, Dream wife, PARA, Korben Dallas, Noga Erez, Gleb, FAKA, Cari Cari, Life, Kokoko!, Illnurse, Penelope Isles, Ekman Live, Sink Ya teeth, Čavalenky, Shibuya Motors, Natalie Sharp,...

Videos & more information can be found here: [www.pohodafestival.sk/en/artists](http://www.pohodafestival.sk/en/artists)

Tickets for Pohoda 2019, can be purchased here: [www.pohodafestival.sk/en/product/3-day-ticket-2019](http://www.pohodafestival.sk/en/product/3-day-ticket-2019)

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