

BIOS

Dominique the Berlin based band started informally around 1999 with producer, singer and bassist Richard Davis, conceptual artist and guitarist Dave Allen and vocalist and keyboarder Dominic Eichler getting together in a Kreuzberg lounge-room with borrowed instruments and a four-track cassette recorder. The idea was to make a record for the not yet existent indie record label of author Ingo Niermann. Ingo had bought a record at a flea market - the single 'Money I want More' and found lots of bank notes inside it. He thought it was a good idea to reinvest that money into music and asked Dominic if he'd like to make a record. Artist Antje Majewski undusted off her cello, Ben Clark taped his drum-kit 'Cactus' together and Ninon Liotet stepped up to the mike for the first time. Many others guests also came to the project including a naked Krylon Superstar. Their efforts eventually resulted in the cultish and celebrated debut album 'Speak to Me' (2002). The record was first released on a limited edition CD by Berlin indie-labels TOUCHME and tête-à-tête. A couple of years later Dominique got a small stipendium to make their more or less live, indie, guitar pop orientated album 'the same you' (2004) which was released by SueMi and tête-à-tête. Meanwhile cellist Anna Stark and artist and guitarist Michael Lapuks joined the band. In 2005 Dial re-released the debut album on vinyl to great acclaim. Around then guitarist Simon Olivier joined the band. For the last two years Dominique worked on their new third album 'more love now' which will be released on Dial/Kompakt/Rough Trade in January 2008.

Ben Clark (drums, percussion, guitar, arrangements and additional instruments on 'goldchain' and 'you know now') was born in London in 1979. Grew in Sydney, Australia. Moved to Berlin on a lucky whim ten years ago. There he hooked up with Dominique from the very beginning after meeting in the alternative theatre and culture off room 'Open Space' in Adalbertstrasse, Kreuzberg. These days he works on theatre and opera sets and nibbles on the edges of contemporary art in particular as an assistant to Julian Göthe who did the album cover.

(Paul) Richard Davis (/producer and mixer, lead vocals, bassist, lyricist, arrangements) was born in Twickenham in Greater London when computers still filled a whole room. In 1997 he moved to Berlin after meeting his girlfriend, Astrid, in a bar while on holiday. He has released records as Junkie Sattre but currently uses his almost real name, Richard Davis and has released two albums, "Safety" (2002) on Punkt Music and "Details" (2005) on Kitty-Yo Records. He has contributed vocals to tracks by Trentemoller and Phonique, and is a regular vocalist with Swayzak. He co-founded Dominique in 2000 or thereabouts and on the this new album threw himself in at the deep end producing and mixing the album with Dominic Eichler in his home studio in sunny Neukoelln.

Dominic Eichler (assistant producer and mixer, lead vocals, keyboards, lyricist, arrangements) was born in 1966, earlier than expected in the gold rush town Ballarat, Australia and more or less moved to Berlin in the mid-1990s for an indefinite period. Not to be confused with the group's unisex one-name-fits-all pseudonym 'Dominique', Dominic was another of the co-founders of the band, which started more as a recording project that led to 'Speak to Me'. He talks too much. When he's not talking, he often writes about contemporary art (www.frieze.com), puts on group exhibitions like 'Door Slamming Festival' and sometimes he makes some video art with Ninon Liotet. (see www.youtube.com - search 'dominiquetheband'). In Dominique he plays keyboards, sings a bit and shares internal monologues. The band Dominique is his musical first love if you don't count childhood ivory tickling and organ playing.

Thomas Goldhahn (sound engineer, string arrangements and strings recording engineer, editing, website programming) considers himself amongst the most important characters to stem from Bergisch Gladbach (the home of Heidi Klum), a town he left early and gladly to develop his personality in Berlin. The laying of Dominique's golden eggs 'Speak to me' and 'The same you' owe more than a bit to Goldhahn's masterful midwifery and other-worldly talents as a sound engineer and arranger-of-classical-string-instruments. A jack of all trades, Tonmeister T. is also engineering the work of Famoudou Konaté, the legendary virtuoso of the West African Djembé (www.famoudoukonate.com) as well as sharing a taste for post-colonial punk design with singer Ninon Liotet (www.rethinking-nordic-colonialism.org). Currently involved in the creation of Fairtrade Foodboutique *Goldhahn & Sampson* (www.goldhahnnundsampson.de).

Ninon Liotet (lead vocals on 'Lad' and backing vocals, website design, video) was born 1972 in Champagne, France. She worked in collaboration with other people very early, starting in high school with Olivier Schulbaum, where she tried to play various instruments in bands that changed names every week, ("Bloody Mary" and "some kind of tracks" are the only ones that she remembers) but the collaboration with Olivier Schulbaum flourished later in film rather than songs. She then skipped Paris and left the bubbles altogether for Berlin in the mid-1990s. Since, she has been producing and co-directing documentaries such as *Neue Kraft*, *Neues Werk* - <http://www.platoniq.net/nknw/> - about the work of Terre Theamlitz, Sadie Plant, Jenny Holzer, Electric Indigo and others which presents, through feminist and queer theory methodologies, a political approach to the use of digital technology. She also edited Douglas Gordon's 'Feature Film' (1999). Ninon first sung in Dominique on the title track of 'Speak to Me'. She also makes music and backing visual clips and graphics for Dominique.

Anna Stark (cello, singing saw, string arrangements) Born 1978 in Bonn, came to Berlin for the new millennium to study music at the University of fine arts. A performer in diverse classical and experimental projects, Anna was head-hunted by Ben Clark 5 years ago and bundled into the studio at the last minute to record „The Same You“ after spontaneous combustions had left the band a saucer short of a tea-set. She has been playing since with the band and as a hired gun (for example on the Richard Davis album „Details“). Anna is also working as a high school teacher.

Simon Olivier (aka Oliver Schlüter) (lead and rhythm guitars) Simon Olivier was born in 1975 in Friedrichshafen near the swiss border, and started to play the guitar at the age of 19. From 1997 to 2001 he studied guitar and composition at the HfM Weimar. He moved to Berlin in 2002 and tries to make nice music with nice people. He is also involved in a lot of other musical projects, from electro-pop to free jazz, but dominique is surely the most digestible.

GUEST MUSICIANS AND SPEAKERS

Michael Lapuks (harmonica on Goldchain and additional guitar on 'Wrong', guitar at live gigs) is a Bremen born Berlin based artist and musician. Since the early 1980s he has played in 'The Porkies', the Ambulance Chasers' and the 'Drytones' before joining Dominique a few years back. He is currently working on his ongoing artist book project 'Rasant'. He was a member of Dominique between 2003 and 2007.

Moshe Aharonov (violin) was born in Israel in 1980. He studied the violin in Israel and Germany. Was a member of the "IDF Quartet", "Gertle Quartet", and the "Triola" group. Took part in various music festivals around Europe. He was also the recipient of the AICF scholarship. Since 2006 a member of the celebrated "Meitar" ensemble with whom he has presented numerous works in world premier both in Israel and Europe. He is also featured in recordings on the "IMI" label playing music by Leef and Schoenberg.

Angela Bulloch, Alyssa DeLuccia, Joy Gutthardt, Astrid Küver and Annette Ruenzler (guest speakers on 'negatives') are four Berlin based artists and one actor (Joy).