**Bio's gastmusici Spinifex Maxximus**

Born in 1985, cellist **Elisabeth Coudoux** came from classical instrumental studies via jazz to new music and free improvisation in search of new sounds and playing techniques. For her, exploring the sound spectrum of the instrument and improvisation as a hybrid art form is a constantly expanding search for her own voice in a contemporary context. By analyzing intuitive movement patterns, poetic miniatures are given form and performance is explored compositionally. As a solo artist, she loves the challenge of spontaneous encounters.

Violist and composer, **Jessica Pavone**, explores the tactile and sensory experience of music as a vibration-based medium. Inspired by processes centered on intuition and instinct, her music channels these ideas by focusing on how music feels when played and heard, integrating her experiences as an instrumentalist into works that transcend time. Pavone has dedicated her practice to exploring alternative avenues for creative musical expression and “has made a career of redefining the possibilities for her instrument” (Steve Smith, National Sawdust Log).

Based in Berlin, **Evi Filippou** constantly researches the balance in the coexistence of composition and improvisation, precision and authentic personal expression. In addition to performing with various orchestras and contemporary music ensembles all around Europe, she performs solo classical and improvised music. She also holds a strong presence in the music-theatre scene.

**Bio Spinifex**

The core line-up of Amsterdam-based Spinifex is a sextet. The band is named after a resilient Australian species of grass, and may at first sound like a blend of free jazz, punkrock and other typically Western contemporary music. Yet, beneath the surface lies a rich tapestry of cyclical rhythms inspired by Middle-Eastern and Indian musical traditions.

Initially formed as a nonet in 2005, Spinifex transitioned to its current

working-band size in 2010. Over time, the group has nurtured a distinct

ensemble culture through extensive touring and the release of eight albums.

Their music seamlessly integrates meticulously composed structures with

massive improvisational freedom. Journalist Eyal Hareuveni wrote:

“…only working bands as Spinifex can reach such high and tight levels of

communication and sonic scope…”

Spinifex released their 9th album ‘Undrilling the Hole’ in November 2024.

They have performed at festivals such as 3 Tage Jazz Saalfelden (AT), Moers Festival (DE), Belgrade Jazz Festival (SRB), AMR Jazz Festival (CH), North Sea Jazz Festival (NL), Jazz no Parque Festival Serralves (PT), Jazz Goes To Town (CZ) and Jazz Bez Festival (UA), among others.

Spinifex artistic director **Tobias Klein**, on alto saxophone, has also made a name

for himself as a bass clarinetist and composer of contemporary chamber music.

Originally from Germany, he has been based in Amsterdam since the early '90s.

His work reflects the cultural richness, spikiness and diversity of the Dutch

capital. He has worked with numerous musicians including Chris Speed,

Claudio Puntin, B.C. Manjunath, Claron McFadden, Marc Ducret, Marta Warelis, Jozef

Dumoulin, Benoït Delbecq, Ches Smith and Oguz Büyükberber.

Trumpet master **Bart Maris** has been a singular voice in European improvised

music for decades. He was part of cult bands like Think of One and X-Legged

Sally, and has worked with dEUS, Zita Swoon and Stromae. Current groups

include Flat Earth Society, 1000 (with Jan Klare, Michael Vatcher and Wilbert

de Joode) and Mâäk.

Tenor saxophonist **John Dikeman** joined Spinifex in 2015. Drawing inspiration

from a wide range of sources, John’s playing runs the gamut of improvised

music and technique. He is currently active as a member of numerous groups

including Cactus Truck, Universal Indians featuring Joe McPhee; the trio

Dikeman, Parker, Drake with William Parker and Hamid Drake, and numerous

other collaborations including projects with Andrew Barker, Marta Warelis, Dirk

Serries, Sun-Mi Hong, Steve Noble, Luis Vicente, Alexander Hawkins, Roger

Turner, Peter Jacquemyn.

Guitarist **Jasper Stadhouders** is also active as bassist, composer and bandleader.

He founded the PolyBand in 2015, for which he was commissioned by

Gaudeamus Muziekweek. He has worked with Ken Vandermark (in his groups

Made To Break, Entr’Acte and Next International), Nate Wooley, The Ex, and

performed with Han Bennink, Ab Baars, Paal Nilssen-Love, Marshall Allen,

Hamid Drake, Akira Sakata, Noel Redding, Andrew D’Angelo, Mars Williams,

Kaja Draksler, Ingebrigt Håker Flaten, Michael Vatcher, Magda Mayas and Mette

Rasmussen, among many others

**Gonçalo Almeida** is a Portuguese bassist and composer based in Rotterdam.

With a strong interdisciplinary and collaborative approach to his work, Gonçalo

plays in a variety of projects that go from modern jazz, freejazz, jazzcore and free

improvisation music, having shared the stage with improvisers such has

Ab Baars, Balasz Pandi, Chris Speed, Carlos Zíngaro, Ig Henneman, Fred

Lonberg-Holm, Jorrit Dijkstra, Luis Vicente, Luis Lopes, Martin van Duynhoven,

Nina Hitz, Peter Jacquemyn, Rodrigo Amado, Susana Santos Silva and Wilbert

de Joode, among others.

**Philipp Moser,** on drums and percussion, also holds a degree in

astrophysics. He has been active in a variety of settings as diverse as Jasper

Stadhouders’ PolyBand and the Dutch progressive metal band Cilice with

which he played major festivals like Euroblast, UK Techfest, Fonofest,

MetalGDL, Progpower, and Mayday Rock Festival.

**PERS Spinifex album Undrilling the Hole (2024)**

*"During its 20 years as one of Europe’s foremost improvising groups, the band has honed a fiery blend of free jazz, hard-hitting rhythms and time-bending orchestrations that produce live shows full of explosive moments.”*

- Ammar Kalia, DownBeat

*“For nearly two decades, they have forged original music from seemingly incompatible elements—mathematical structures, punk aggression, free jazz fire. Their ninth album, Undrilling the Hole, presents seven new compositions from alto saxophonist Tobias Klein that showcase the band's singular musical vocabulary… After nearly twenty years, Spinifex remains committed to making music that engages the mind and body, refusing to compromise while finding unity in apparent contradictions.”*

- Lawrence Peryer, Allaboutjazz

*“Amsterdam-based sextet Spinifex has long been a force to be reckoned with, blending free improvisation, punk energy, and intricate compositional mastery into a sound all their own. On their ninth album, UNDRILLING THE HOLE, they continue to push boundaries, crafting a compelling combination of meticulous complexity and primal energy, captivating both the intellect and the senses…. The album’s seven tracks, all composed by alto saxophonist and artistic director Tobias Klein, showcase Spinifex’s knack for melding diverse influences into a cohesive and pulse-pounding soundscape…UNDRILLING THE HOLE offers a thrilling ride, whether you’re drawn to the intricate interplay of its composed passages, the crazy abandon of its improvisations, or the sheer energy and inventiveness that radiates from every note.”*  - Tim Larsen, Jazz Views

“Undrilling the Hole, *the new album from Amsterdam's most uncompromising band, proves that experimental music can be both cerebrally challenging and viscerally thrilling…their music layers intricate compositional elements over aggressive rhythmic foundations before opening into passages of unfettered improvisation. Keep your arms and legs inside the vehicles and your seatbelts fastened at all times."*

- Lawrence Peryer, Needledrops/The Tonearm

*“...a group that pulls you unabashedly into its world… jubilant improvisations... one of our favorites for 2024.”*

- Thierry De Clemensat, Paris Move

*"... the natural, almost magical way in which diverse musical backgrounds... intertwine into a celebration of diversity... both cohesive and electrifying... an exhilarating adventure of both body and mind."*

- Vincenzo Roggero, Allaboutjazz.com

*“In a month with lots of excellent releases by well-known, high-profile musicians, this record was my favorite discovery. Based in Amsterdam and led by alto saxophonist/artistic director Tobias Klein, the sextet Spinifex mixes free improvisation, punk rock, and “jazz” with equal portions of artistry, irreverance, noise, and joy.”* - Mark Lomanno, The Rhythm of Study

*"...very few groups in contemporary jazz carry it off quite so well.... dependably edgy after 20 years, Spinifex’s fusion of sophistication and guttural noise is as relevant today as it ever was."*

- Fred Grand, Jazz Journal

*"Undrilling the Hole is a challenging and rewarding collection of tunes that will have you embracing the freedom and funkiness of the arrangements. It may even have you doing some off-kilter dancing of your own."*

- Bob Pomeroy, INK19

*"...a fully realized musical vision... They are exceptional and unpredictable, more often scrumming over an unwieldy center than settling on a melody .. I look forward to hearing what the band comes up with in the future, as they move into their third decade as a unit."*

- Nick Ostrum, freejazzblog.org

*“Breath, breath, and more breath. Turbulent, dynamic, swirling, stirring… a fascinating and captivating mix of sound, never predictable.”*

*– Ferdinand Dupuis-Panther, JazzMania.be*

*"... a group that plays at full throttle, delivering an intense sound with exceptional material that feels exponentially larger and more powerful. Without a doubt, 'Undrilling the Hole' stands out as one of the year’s most remarkable albums."*

- Phontas Troussas, Diskoryxeion

*"...perfect, very imaginative and extremely interestingly arranged! A great album! So buckle up and let yourself be carried away by this madness! Satisfaction guaranteed!”*

- Jacek Brun, Jazz-fun.de

*"... a kind of all-star group in the free improvisation music scene of the BeNeLux... The atmosphere, energy, and sound are exactly what you’d expect from the magic that happens ... when the music truly comes alive. Genever for everyone!"*

- Jan Granlie, Salt Peanuts

*“…metallic hardness meets free- improv aesthetics, snotty punk attitude meets the highest musical discipline, complex rhythmic patterns end in sudden breaks and changes of direction. Anyone who likes their jazz to be intensely expressive and with unpredictable twists will be thrilled.”*- Reinhold Unger, Jazz Podium

*“Above all, the sextet delivers quality – this is simply excellent playing! … Let’s dance until we drop!”* - Andrzej Nowak, jazzarium.pl