

BEST OF BERLIN

BY THE EXBERLINER EDITORIAL TEAM

Yoga

BEST DOWNWARD-FACING DOOM

“Is this loud enough? I think we could go a little louder.” So begins **SCHWARZES YOGA**, as instructor Charlotte Messerschmidt clicks up the volume on her phone and screeches, roars, and pounding drums fill Friedrichshain’s intimate, candlelit Infinity Sunlight Yoga Room. Yes, bring on the mat-toting bearded men in Napalm Death t-shirts: Berlin has finally gotten round to combining death metal and yoga! Messerschmidt started teaching

the weekly hour-long class last April, inspired by a similar group in Pittsburgh – though she eschews the opening head-banging, and the original instructor’s choice to teach the class wearing a black hood. “If I did that, I would just start giggling!” There’s something endearing about watching the calm, friendly teacher leading yoginis of all skill levels through a series of hatha sequences to a playlist of Finnish black metal, familiar American bands (think Metallica) and

dark drone from Pittsburgh’s Black Yoga Meditation Ensemble. And it’s actually a great combination, the physicality of the music providing exhilarating encouragement as you contort your body into ungodly positions. The class is conducted entirely in German, so brush up on your body-part vocab before going in. — **EJ**

📍 **Schwarzes Yoga** Gubener Str. 27, Friedrichshain, Tue 18:30-19:30, €6 trial lesson/€12 thereafter



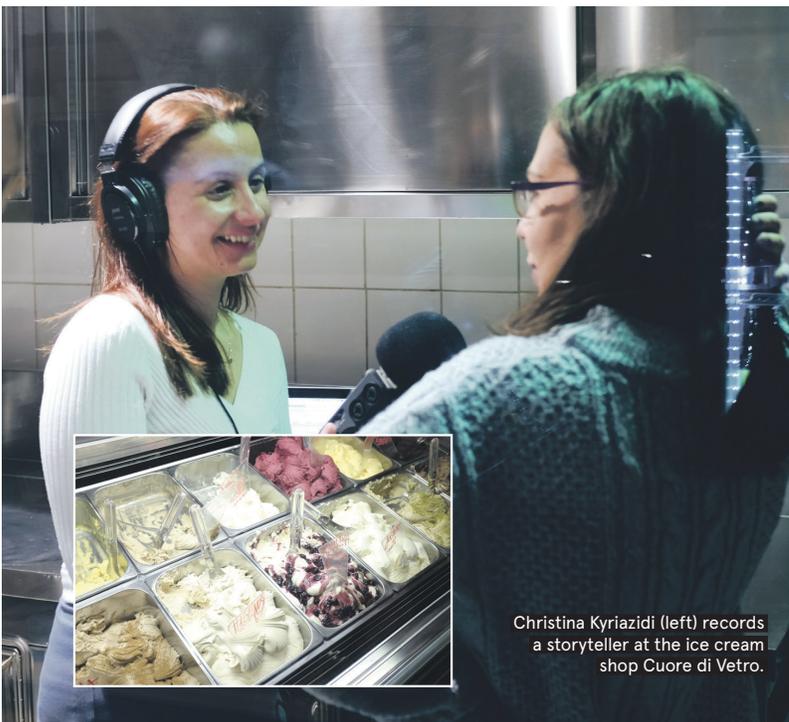
Marie Yako

Project

BEST LITERARY CURRENCY

Instead of wasting your ramblings on friends in bars, why not turn them into edible, drinkable benefits? That’s the concept behind Greek actress and playwright Christina Kyriazidi’s pet project **STORY FOR FOOD**, in which she wants to prove to Berliners that their stories have value. Just show up at one of various cafés around the city, meet her in a quiet separate room, and record a real or fictitious narrative of any length, in any language, on any topic you like. In exchange, you’ll get a tea, coffee or ice cream on Kyriazidi’s dime. She files her recordings under various tags, like “love” and “travel”, with more than a few falling into the “expat moving to Berlin” category. Once she hits 600, her goal is to archive them in an “audio library”, to be housed in her own yet-to-be-crowdfunded café. Despite holding three or four recording sessions a week at Mitte’s Cuore di Vetro, Prenzlauer Berg’s Caffé Monelli and other locations, it might take a while – currently, the count’s at less than 100 with only a handful of storytellers trickling in per sitting. So if you’re looking for a chance to translate your cultural capital into a steaming hot cup of joe, you’ve still got time... — **PK**

📍 **Story For Food** Mon 18-21 (Cuore di Vetro), Tue 16-19 (Caffé Monelli), see online for other times and locations



Christina Kyriazidi (left) records a storyteller at the ice cream shop Cuore di Vetro.

Marie Yako

Queer

BEST WEEKLY DRAG FIX



Guest performer Dee Dee Dior

Marie Yako

With the next season of *Drag Race* months away, how are Berliners supposed to get their regular dose of camp escapism? Head to Schöneberg, of course, where the international gay haunt Juniper Kitchen and Bar on the ground floor of the equally gay Axel hotel has featured a Friday evening residency from American drag queen **JUDY LADIVINA** since August. In

true diva fashion, she glides into the room greeting her fans with kisses, handshakes and pageant waves before launching into an impressive display of lip-syncing over old and new hits, often accompanied by a special guest. The night frequently turns into a dance party and ends with LaDivina seamlessly mouthing songs in five different languages chosen on the spot by her DJ and hype man Jochem. Study up on your Cher, Whitney and Madonna to guess songs and earn free shots for the “Super gay of the night” segment, introduced by none other than... Vladimir Putin himself (via playback of some strategically manipulated sound bites). Technically it’s dinner and a show, but nobody’s forcing you to order the €21 rack of lamb or €18 Argentinian entrecôte. Cocktails will run you €7, not bad for a Friday night pregame. Get there fashionably late but not too late – you never want to upstage a queen’s entrance. —SB

♥ **Dinner with Judy LaDivina** Juniper Kitchen and Bar, Lietzenburger Str. 13-15, Schöneberg, Fridays 20-23



Judy LaDivina

Marie Yako

MARCH 2017

NOW IS THE TIME
OF MONSTERS
WHAT COMES AFTER NATIONS?

MARCH
23-25, 2017

HKW

Haus der Kulturen der Welt