

# ORKESTAR KRIMINAL

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*"By Saturday night, SXSW felt like the Tuesday nights of a decade ago: quiet, kind of boring but full of opportunity. This was the night to go check out the wild and seedy Eastern European jazz-punk band Orkestar Kriminal (who took advantage of the wall of vodka...)" - Star Tribune*

*"Except for racist scum, who doesn't enjoy some wild klezmer ('yiddish gangster') music with sousaphone, musical saw and violins? What really makes this Montreal crew go is their engaging, footloose singer Giselle Claudia Webber." - Blurt Magazine*

*"Yes. It's the Original Gangsta." - Mark Lepage, The Gazette*

**Orkestar Kriminal** is comprised of improv performers who interpret inspired renditions of slum-based "world music". They sing gutsy and adventurous criminal songs from a dangerous and forgotten era, like Mexican tequila-smuggling tunes, Russian prisoner laments, and the grooves of a Yiddish gangster. The band formed in 2012, three days before the POP Montreal Music Festival, so that Giselle Webber's former orchestra could scam free passes to the festival.

Tummel", the Yiddish word for "chaos", summarizes the racket the band can create. *Tummel* is a collection of songs from Moldova, Morocco, Greece, Ukraine, Poland, Argentina, Russia and Mexico. Fresh off their week of sold-out performances at SXSW 2017, the biggest criminal punks in world music are touring Eastern Canada, spreading chaos and havoc everywhere they go.

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## Recent Activities

**Winter, 2017** - Intensive repertoire arrangement rehearsals with Producer Josh Dolgin (Socalled). 7 Sold-out SXSW performances in Austin. Media coverage from HBO Latin America, Fox News Austin, DMNDR.com, etc. Named under the top 15 bands of SXSW by the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

**Fall, 2016** - Performance at Pop Montréal (Outdoor Stage). Performance at Club Soda in Montréal with Tintamare. Preproduction for upcoming album at Breakglass Studios with Josh Dolgin as Producer.

**Summer, 2016** - Performances at Widewood Festival in Shawinigan, Carnaval Estival in Montréal, Festival Musique du Bout du Monde in Gaspé, and Festival Outaouais Emergent in Gatineau.

**Spring, 2016** - *Der Shmayser* video release. Release party at La Sala Rossa with Kutsi Merki. Performances at the Sainte-Cécile Festival for Dare to Care's 15 year anniversary. Live stream rooftop show in Montréal. Performances at Northern Lights Festival in Sudbury.

**Winter, 2016** - *Tummel* vinyl release. Ontario Tour with Geoff Berner. Performance on the Belle et Bum television show (Episode 312). Quebec Tour begins. Carnaval de Sherbrooke performance. Show in Quebec City with Tintamare.

**Fall, 2015** - Pop Montreal showcase at Rialto Theatre with Fanfarai. Orkestar Kriminal nominated for World Group of the Year (Camuz.ca). Orkestar Kriminal wins a GAMIQ award for Roots Album of the Year. GAMIQ Gala performance. Mundial Montréal showcase at Bon Pasteur Historical Chapel with Yves Lambert Trio.

## Members

Giselle Claudia Webber - voice

Damian Nisenson - saxophone

Julie Richard - sousaphone

Étienne Barry - accordion

Lisa Gamble - musical saw, baglama, trumpet, percussion

Eli Camillo - trombone

Briga Dajczer - fiddle

Sam Minevich - electric guitar, bouzouki

Anna Frances Meyer - back vocals, percussion

Christos Smirnios - drums

**Additional Members:** Danny Marks - darbuka

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## English Press

March 22nd, 2017 - [BLURT MAGAZINE](#)

<http://blurtonline.com/feature/sxsw-2017-report/>

March 21st, 2017 - [MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE](#)

<http://http://www.startribune.com/a-sxsw-wrap-the-15-best-acts-from-five-days-of-music-and-mayhem/416565483/#1>

March 19th, 2017 - [FOX NEWS AUSTIN](#)

<https://youtu.be/ChtMG1UVwjk>

March 11th, 2017 - [THE FORWARD](#)

<http://forward.com/news/breaking-news/365701/south-by-southwest-2017-5-don-t-miss-jewish-events/>

February 24th, 2017 - [BROADWAY WORLD](#)

<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwmusic/article/Orkestar-Kriminal-at-SXSW--Criminal-Gypsy-Punks-Mix-Guerrilla-Shows-20170224>

January 20th, 2016 - [PETERBOROUGH EXAMINER](#)

<http://www.thepeterboroughexaminer.com/2016/01/20/a-band-with-a-kriminal-past-montreal-based-group-brings-yiddish-gangster-tunes-to-the-garnet-sunday>

January 19th, 2016 - [CULT MTL](#)

<http://cultmontreal.com/2016/01/orkestar-kriminal-interview/>

June 23rd, 2015 - [SPOTLIGHT TV](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ZmOKtLkv\\_IY?list=PLKhw-cTrbAK11ImP\\_SIN4NUOaUN8b-UA](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ZmOKtLkv_IY?list=PLKhw-cTrbAK11ImP_SIN4NUOaUN8b-UA)

March 27th, 2015 - [MONTREAL RAMPAGE](#)

<http://montrealrampage.com/to-do-tonight-orkestar-kriminal-album-launch/>

February 16th, 2015 - [EXCLAIM!](#)

[http://exclaim.ca/Music/article/orkestar\\_kriminal\\_announce\\_new\\_album\\_share\\_to\\_toust](http://exclaim.ca/Music/article/orkestar_kriminal_announce_new_album_share_to_toust)

March 21st, 2013 - [MONTREAL GAZETTE](#)

<http://www.pressreader.com/canada/montreal-gazette/20130322/282114929021770>

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## Important Links

Web site: <http://www.orkestarkriminal.com>

Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/orkestarkriminal/sets/ryobra>

Youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/orkestarkriminal>

Bandcamp: <https://orkestarkriminal.bandcamp.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/orkestarkriminal/>

Tumblr: <http://orkestarkriminal.tumblr.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/orkestarkriminal/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PrisonOrchestra>

## Contacts

### Manager

Giselle Claudia Webber

[gisellewebber@gmail.com](mailto:gisellewebber@gmail.com)

819-430-6863

### Media Relations

Sarah Shoucri

[info@shoucshouc.com](mailto:info@shoucshouc.com)

514-264-2802

### Sainte-Cécile (Dare To Care) Label Rep

Alexandra Nadeau

[alexandra@daretocarerecords.com](mailto:alexandra@daretocarerecords.com)

514-953-2570

