

The Norman Lear
CENTERTAINMENT
FOR THE STUDY OF ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA & SOCIETY

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Media Contacts:

Josh Kun at jkun@usc.edu

Veronica Jauriqui at jauriqui@usc.edu or (323) 782-3316

**Musician and Girlschool founder Anna Bulbrook
Named 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist in Residence at
The Norman Lear Center's Popular Music Project**

New residency and podcast to spotlight key figures working to address inequality in the music and creative industries



LOS ANGELES (October 2, 2019) – The Norman Lear Center's Popular Music Project (PMP) is proud to announce **ANNA BULBROOK**, musician and Girlschool founder, as its 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist in Residence.

Anna Bulbrook is a recording violinist and multi-instrumentalist known for her work as a founding member of The Airborne Toxic Event and as a frequent collaborator with Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros. She has performed and recorded with numerous artists, including Beyoncé, Kanye West, Sia, Vampire Weekend, Mikal Cronin, and Broken Social Scene, among many others.

Bulbrook founded Girlschool in 2016 in response to how few women she saw around her in the



Photo by Maria Jose Govea

rock world and on international music festival stages. Girlschool started as a local music and ideas festival, centering women-identified talent and bridging creative communities with a mission: to celebrate, connect, and lift women-identified artists, leaders, and voices. It has since expanded by popular demand into a creative cultural programming and curatorial studio that centers excellent, if under-represented, talent on the forefront of popular culture and social good.

Girlschool works regularly with partners to present transformative music- and creativity-led experiences dedicated to bringing gender equity to center stage—most recently partnering with

the Los Angeles Philharmonic to present a critically acclaimed 75-woman tribute to Yoko Ono called BREATHEWATCHLISTENTOUCH at a sold-out Walt Disney Concert Hall performance.

In addition to her work with Girlschool, Bulbrook has become a cultural curator of note in Los Angeles, recently serving as artistic director of SILENCE at Descanso, a new, site-specific experimental music series at Descanso Gardens, alongside fellow artistic director Christopher Rountree.

GXRLSCHOOL

Led by 2016 MacArthur Fellow and Director of the USC Annenberg School of Communication Professor Josh Kun,

PMP invites industry innovators each year to join as the featured Artist in Residence and be a part of the broader USC and PMP community. As PMP's 2019-2020 Distinguished Artist in Residence, Bulbrook will work closely with PMP to develop a multi-platform project dedicated to showcasing key figures actively working to tackle issues of structural and systemic inequality in the music and creative industries. As part of this effort, Bulbrook and Girlschool will debut in Spring 2020 *The New New*, a podcast hosted by Bulbrook that will highlight artists, activists, and industry innovators who, out of necessity, creativity, or vision, have invented new paths or systems to make the world better through popular culture. Bulbrook's PMP residency and the launch of *The New New* will also be accompanied by curated playlists and public programming to be announced soon.

"I have so much respect for the thoughtfulness with which Josh and my killer USC and PMP colleagues are looking at how music and popular culture express and contextualize our lives and the world around us," Bulbrook says. "I'm grateful and honored to have the opportunity to bring Girlschool into Annenberg to co-create a modern take on an 'oral history' with *The New New* that explores how other people on the forefront are using popular culture to expand what's possible."

The New New will be executive produced by Girlschool's Abbey Smith and Perry B. Johnson, PMP Research Fellow and USC Annenberg doctoral candidate. Audio production will be overseen by USC Annenberg doctoral student Alexandria Arrieta and undergraduate student Olivia De Witt, with research support from USC Annenberg doctoral students Simogne Hudson and Anastasia Howe Bukowski.

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Anna Bulbrook cannot be contained: the performing artist is also an interdisciplinary artistic director, creative producer, cultural programmer, and speaker/writer at the intersection of music, pop culture, ideas, and social good. A "recovering" classical violinist, Anna spent a decade as a fixture in the indie rock scene of Los Angeles before founding Girlschool. Anna also possesses an RIAA-Certified Gold Record for "Sometime Around Midnight" from her time with The Airborne Toxic Event.

Founded and led by Anna Bulbrook, **Girlschool** has been “undoing uncool shit by doing cool shit” since 2016. Called “a vision for the way forward” by the *Los Angeles Times*, Girlschool has collaborated with interdisciplinary artists and speakers including Fiona Apple, Yoko Ono, Shirley Manson, Carrie Brownstein, Leikeli47, Jay Som, Morgan Parker, Eve Barlow, Karen O, Mereba, St. Vincent, Nina McNeely, Kamil Oshundara, and many more. Girlschool has also collaborated with partners including the LA Phil, Red Bull, THINX, Glenfiddich Single Malt, 3.1 Phillip Lim, Stumptown Coffee, FORM Arcosanti, and Amy Poehler’s Smart Girls, among others. For more information, visit www.girlschoolla.com

The Popular Music Project is a one-stop home for the interdisciplinary study and analysis of popular music. Bringing together faculty and students from across the USC campus with musicians, critics, and industry innovators, PMP takes pop music seriously as an object of sustained critical inquiry through a mix of public events, research projects, listening lunches, course development, podcasts, publications, databases, blogs and Los Angeles campus residencies. The project’s goal is to treat the making of pop music as a key site for education and pedagogy and for re-thinking questions of society, culture, history, and communication. For more information, visit www.learcenter.org/project/pmp/

The Norman Lear Center is a multidisciplinary research and public policy center that studies and shapes the impact of entertainment and media on society. From its base in the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Lear Center builds bridges between faculty who study aspects of entertainment, media and culture. Beyond campus, it bridges the gap between the entertainment industry and academia, and between them and the public. For more information, visit www.learcenter.org

Located in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California, the **Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism** is a national leader in education and scholarship in the fields of communication, journalism, public diplomacy and public relations. With an enrollment of more than 2,200 students, USC Annenberg offers doctoral, graduate and undergraduate degree programs, as well as continuing development programs for working professionals across a broad scope of academic inquiry. The school's comprehensive curriculum emphasizes the core skills of leadership, innovation, service and entrepreneurship and draws upon the resources of a networked university located in the media capital of the world. For more information, visit www.annenberg.usc.edu

Please contact PMP director and USC Annenberg Professor Josh Kun with any questions or comments at jkun@usc.edu. For questions about The Norman Lear Center at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, please contact Veronica Jauriqui at (323) 782-3316 or at jauriqui@usc.edu.

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