

BT at secret dress-rehearsal
D-A-D threw a party at Amager Bio

Employees and volunteers and a few friends of the house thought they were going to enjoy a coverband of Pretty Maids while having their Friday-beer. But a surprise was lurking as a couple of million other danes started biting their nails while watching handball - semi-final at the European Championship for men.

The big sports-arenas have also been the domain of Disneyland After Dark since their breakthrough in Denmark with No Fuel Left For The Pilgrims (1989) and Riskin' It All (1991). But Friday night the band was at the smallest thinkable stage capacity when they moved their production rehearsal from Amager Bio to the neighbour, Beta, an even smaller club.

About half the space of Musikcafeen in Magstræde, where the band had its debut concert March 3. 1984 with Jacob (Cobber) Binzer, guitarist, as the fourth member in addition to brother Jesper Binzer, guitar and vocal, Stig Pedersen, bass and now former drummer Peter L. Jensen.

This date is set as the birthday of D-A-D and the reason why they go on a tour a couple of months to 30 anniversary shows at 30 small clubs in Denmark. And that's why they had staged their 'Pretty Maids Jam' for a small closed 'cirkle' at Beta which is normally used for hiphop-battles among the hoody-youth of the city, unknown doomsdaymetal from Japan or cult death metal from hell.

On private party terms.

Shortly before 21.30 when the handball-semi went on pause D-A-D moved on Beta's dark stage. With their backs on the audience and drummer Laust Sonne hidden behind cymbals they jammed through a heavy instrumental intro before the three stringplayers turned around and the band threw a fierce Riskin' It All.

Their cover was blown. And it was D-A-D completely at private-party-terms, fully dedicated in front of 100-120 rockfans whose priority was music over handball. And a D-A-D testing their very special set of rare and forgotten dives into the catalogue.

It was cheering authentic to hear the band kick themselves joyfully through the spotless AC/DC pastiche in Overmuch, and it was close to Magic of the summer festivals on a freezing january night when Call Of The Wild called to carefree Fridayparty.

Songs as Nineteenhundredandyesterday and Cloudy Hours which BT had already enjoyed at the sound-rehearsal also worked as the brilliantly catchy and D-A-D defining songs they really are.

Genuine and flashy

'We play an old set with no hits... we had no hits in the 80s, they came later' as Jesper is joking. Anyway, we got a few hits and semi-hits - also from the 80s - and even from the 90s and the present.

Friday night at Beta wasn't just about the most obvious hits, and also not about the coming club-tour. The 30 year birthday band make an indelicate embrace of their comprehensive catalogue. An experiment that on the small stage of Beta immediately mutated into a playful, creative hug of the hidden excellences of the past.

There were several numbers with a long life off the setlist, new funny song-introductions, sing-along-games, a crazy version of an old half-classic and even a unique medley of old and new in the same song!

Yes, it was a dress-rehearsal, and there were a few spots and bumps along the way, but no serious trouble, D-A-D made a genuine and at times even flashy performance..

Swinging final

At the end of the show Jesper Binzer thanked the audience for 'not sitting in front of a TV', and right before the last extras he got his face on a Smartphone display on the front row and announced the happy result of the handball semi-final Denmark-Croatia 29-27.

At that time D-A-D already had their victory. The finale of the band - and probably the handball team - were gulped down and swung home in the reformed hairy blues I Won't Cut My Hair. A one hour and forty minutes long concert through which D-A-D appeared extremely playful and in good form in an efficient mix of youthful drive and selfconfident experience, exactly as a 30 year old should be.

D-A-D starts the 30 year anniversary tour on Tuesday January 28 in Maskinhallen, Frederikshavn.