

**Danes with schizophrenic career
D-A-D celebrate their anniversary like teenagers!**

30 years od Disneyland After Dark - short: D-A-D, that means 30 years of massive melodic heavy rock and a big chapter in Danish music history. While they are absolute stars for our northern neighbours the four guys from Copenhagen is only known as a straight tip or at best known for their hit Sleeping My Day Away. To change that the band has prepared for a mammoth project: The Best-of-album 30 Years 30 Hits was in the treasury long ago, 30 gigs in their homeland Denmark have already taken place - Now it's a matter of rocking the rest of Europe in 30 different clubs of course. n-tv.de met frontman and singer Jesper Binzer shortly before the concert in Berlin.

n-tv.de: Warm congratulations on your anniversary! You have now rocked the musicbusiness solidly for 30 years. Is it time for retirement?

Jesper laughs: No, it feels much, much better than ever before. We feellike 17 year olds who are just starting something big, so it's definetely not time for retirement yet. Another thing is that nowadays there are much more possibilities than when we started. Through the internet we can reach far more ppl and it's simply more fun. It's actually like a kind of rebirth.

Your program for the year of anniversary looks exactly like that! - First 30 gigs in your homeland, and now 30 concerts in Europa....

Yes, this year is simply fantastic. After the 30 gigs there will even be 30 more in addition: Festivals in Schweden, Finland, Germany andof course Denmark, so 30-30-30. And I must say: For us it's getting better all the time to perform in front of an audience! And from that we also draw our motivation to go into the studio again. We will play again, dammit!

In which country would you like the best to go on tour?

That changes all the time. In Denmark we earn more money than anywhere else and in the Mediterranean area, Italy, Spain and Portugal we don't earn anything at all. But it's definetely much fun to be on tour in these countries. But I think our international carreer got its necessary push in Germany first. Surely we succeeded the change from light to heavy in Germany first.

Which concert was your biggest and your best concert?

Oh - Possibly the two or three first shows at Orange Stage on Roskilde Festival, as we on those occasions could play for a 90.000 audience. That might have been our biggest, our best concert.

We have come to your Best-of-Album, '30 Years 30 Hits'. Two CDs, the full package of D-A-D. Was it difficult to choose the songs?

No, actually not. If we had had to make a list of 12, 15 or 17 tracks it would have been a challenge. But with 30 we agreed. There was only two songs we had to think about: The Road Below Me and.... *laughing*: I have already forgotten the other. But altogether we agreed. 30 years, 30 hits - 30 is a really great number for us.

The album is really an impressive compilation. Of course your mega-hit *Sleeping My Day Away* is in between. That's one of my absolute favourites. - I would like to ask you a question that I know you have answered millions of times already. But in spite of that you could take pity on me one more time: What does that song mean to you?

Of course. It's a very honest song. It mirrors our way of life at the time we wrote it. It was also a riff that simply got into your ear and that we could play over and over again. For us it's a song and a riff very much to the point like the text. And it has been a locomotive for our carreer altogether. It was simply a lucky punch and still is our biggest song.

How would you describe your musical genre after all these years?

Well, we call it *classic rock*. You can't define it exactly though. Of course there are different influences as for instance *blues*, *punk* or *country*, co but for us it is *classic rock*.

Of course a rock band like yours is very popular on festivals. Though you for example have played 3 times at *Wacken-Festival* now most Germans know you at the best because of *Sleeping My Day Away* or the fantastic album *No Fuel Left For The Pilgrims*. Is that annoying to you? In Denmark you are after all absolute stars..

For ten years maybe we were frustrated, but not anymore. We have a schizophrenic career: To many we are just one more rock band from Denmark - but in Denmark we are mainstream. That's funny and somehow schizophrenic. But altogether we are grateful for our career. In Denmark we can earn money - money that we then spend on shows in South Europe *laughing*.

Are there bands who have influenced you in any way?

Well, there are so many bands that have had influence on us over the years. But if, then *The Ramones* is our first choice. That is a real rock band! Many of our first tracks were influenced by a band named *The Gun Club* with singer *Jeffrey Lee Pierce*. But generally that changes all the time. To stay successful it's important that you let yourself be inspired from outside classic rock. When D-A-D meet in the rehearsing room then four different tastes of music meet. That's why it's important that we find something that we all like. We have only become big by recognizing each other's inspiration. So generally it's difficult to say who or what especially influenced us.

With who would you like to once rock the stage?

We want to play with everybody! On that point we are completely open!

Why should one at least once in a lifetime have been to a D-A-D show?

We have 30 years of experience and we play intense Rock'n'Roll. Besides it is important to visit a D-A-D show because there is a lot of love hidden in it. Love in the sense of a lot of fun and intensity. And also because we do not at all take ourselves seriously: We are absolutely serious with what we do! I think that's the perfect mix which you should without doubt try listening to!

One of your - and your - biggest hits is *I Won't Cut My Hair*. Why are you the only one in the band who still has long hair?

Yeah, I don't really know what is wrong with the others *laugh*. In the end it became my truly personal song. My advice: If you have hair let it grow! It is definitely a sign that you appreciate your roots. But you also clearly feel that you do not fit in.

Christoph Rieke interviewed Jesper Binzer.