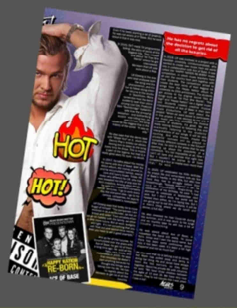
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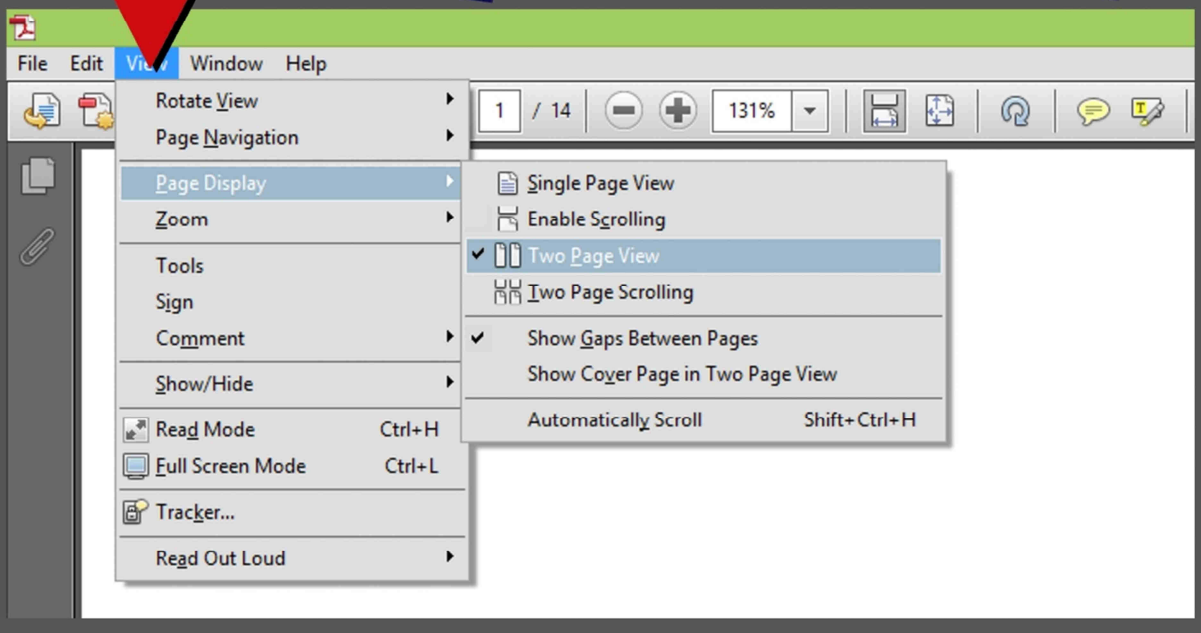
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Partnership contact: Alan Kardyka, e-mail: drsun@op.pl

EDITOR'S LETTER:

Dear Acer Community,

6 march 2022 - I proudly introduce our new project: Acers Magazine. The pandemic left me with a lot of time for new ideas. I remembered the old days when fan clubs published their fan magazines. I thought: why not make a digital one? Although Ace of Base has not been touring for years, there is still a lot to write about. This magazine will only appear once every year. Therefore, expect another issue only in 2023. I would like to thank everyone who helped me with this issue and wrote many articles. Big thanks goes to Ben, who carefully checked some of the correctness of the texts and to Ray for exclusive interview with Ulf! All imprint, editors and credits can be found on this page. On the left I made a reproduction of the official Cruel Summer US release poster. There will be more reproduction in the future. Some sections will stay with us permanently: Acers stories and remixes review. If anyone wants to join to the editorial team, please let me know. Happy reading.

Alan - founding editor



BECOME A WRITER!

Wanna join and write an article? Let us know! Sen e-mail to: drsun@op.pl or PM via our Ace Of Base HOUSE official fanpage on Facebook. We are waiting for your application! All Acers are invited to contribute for next magazine.

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NEWS & RUMORS

NEW DIGITAL RELEASE

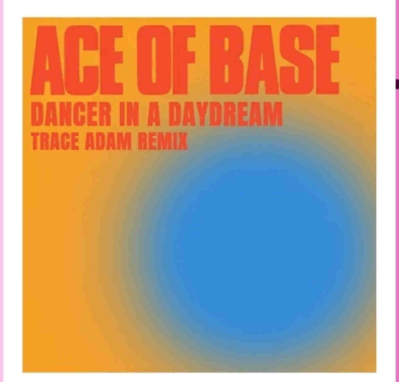
19.11.2021 - Trace Adam (one of the Acers who works with Playground) has released new remixes on streaming services. Everyone was surprised to hear a remix of a song that had never been remixed before, and one that had never been released as an official single. Here is a list of the remixes:

1. Dancer in a Daydream – Trace Adam Remix

2. Dancer in a Daydream – Trace Adam Dream Remix

3. Dancer in a Daydream – Trace Adam Extended Remix

4. Dancer in a Daydream – Trace Adam Extended Remix Instrumental



UPCOMING PROJECT?

01.02.2022 - There was a rumour that a big project is coming with lots of Acers involved. However, the truth is that Jonas is just working on new remixes with Trace Adam for official release. Playground is happy to release them because it boosts streams of the whole Ace of Base catalogue. Trace recently revealed in a podcast that the next remix to be released will be Living In Danger.

TRUTH ABOUT LINN

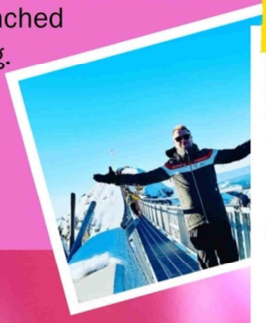
At the end of 2020, Ulf took part in a podcast by Chris Lehman on Wolf Bytes Classic Dance Weekend (which is still available on the official website of Listen Note). He claimed that around that the band members all knew in around 2001 that Malin was going to leave the band. Nevertheless, Lasse (the then manager of the band) kept telling us Malin will be on next, 5th Album. However Linn continued to record with the band until 2005.

IAM 2022

02.03.2022 – International Acer Meeting 2022 postponed again? In 2020, there were plans to organize another IAM, this time in Sweden. The organizers prepared many surprises. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic has spoiled everything. IAM was first postponed to the following year, but then it turned out that the pandemic was prolonged. For fear of the risk of infection and that everything would not have to be postponed or cancelled again, it was finally decided that the next IAM would take place when the pandemic had stopped for good.

ULF GOES SKIING

27.01.2022 - Some weeks ago Ulf and his family took a trip to Switzerland. As you can see in the attached photo, he enjoys skiing. Unlike the Berggren siblings, Ulf often shares his photos on social media.





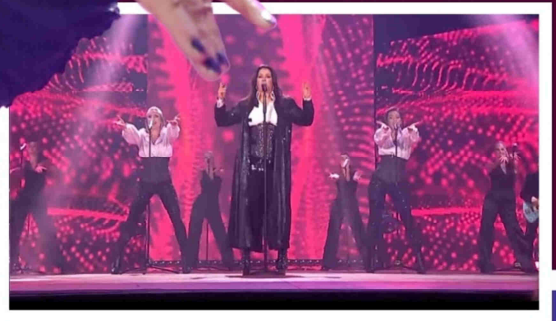
ATSW ANNIVERSARY

This will be a good year. Information about 30th Anniversary Picture Disc appeared. As we read in recordstoreday.co.uk website: "Celebrating the worldwide number 1 single 'All The She Wants', this anniversary edition brings together in a ‘double groove’ the classic radio edit and the "Bhangra version", plus the extended 12” version on side two". LP release by Demon Records coming up in 23th April 2022, however vinyl is expensive. It will costs even around €40.



CONTROVERSY ON POLISH TV

05.12.2021 - Jenny's controversial performance on Polish TV. The situation in Poland on the border with Belarus has been very difficult recently. Migrants were used for political purposes. Deluded and tempted by a better life, they were brought to Belarus to then be sent to western countries. Meanwhile, they were detained at the border with Poland, because it is also the border with the European Union. The law prohibits them from entering. In December, the nights and days began to reach minus temperatures, and the migrants were still camping on the border. Some were starving. Meanwhile, Polish television organized a concert at the military base guarding the border, which was to support the border services. Many significant Polish stars refused to perform, so the channel had to use foreign singers. Jenny, among others, were invited. According to sources, Jenny and the other international artists invited to perform were misled about the true nature of the concert, and they only became aware after they had already signed contracts.





Jenny on "Murem za Polskim mundurem" show which means "We support our soldiers".

ARE THEY REAL

The Ace Boards

The Ace Boards is an international internet forum that has faithfully served all Acers for eighteen years. It was established on 11 May 2004 by Emil Markowsky (AcerStan). The design of the forum has changed over the years, as have its users. The forum itself has been with us to this day. The subject of our discussion today will be a place that most of us have had to deal with at least once.

The year 2000 was the beginning of a new era of broadband internet. More and more people in different countries - even the poor ones - had free access to it. Some still used the internet in reading rooms, libraries or internet cafes, while some enjoyed high-speed internet in the comfort of their own home. At that time, modern scripts: java, css or php allowed developers new solutions in designing more complex and advanced forms of communication. It was at the beginning of that decade that various online forums flourished around the world. This also applies to the Acer world. In addition to the national forums that were created in the countries where the language was written in the native language, there were also international ones. One of them was The Hallo Boards, about which we will certainly write a separate article someday. It was an international forum bringing together Acers from all over the world. At the end of THB's activity, a similar new forum was founded by Emil: The Ace Boards. And so, for some time, two forums functioned side by side: THB and TAB. While The Hallo Boards eventually collapsed, The Ace Boards has held up bravely to this day. A similar, sad fate befell other forums. To this day, I remember a discussion with one of the users. When I tried to advertise The Ace Boards on one of the smaller forums a few years ago, this user claimed that his forum was better and that he didn't need TAB. A few years later his forum collapsed and... he moved to ours and he writes on The Ace Boards to this day. How ironic.

Unfortunately, everything has a beginning and an end. The forum's golden age falls in the first half of the 2000s. In the years that followed, the advent of Facebook and other social media platforms meant that users began to migrate en masse and relocate there. The decline in Acer entries was very noticeable. When you entered the forum in the heyday and you had to go through a mass of replies and private messages almost every day, in the later period there were gradually fewer and fewer posts. And the decline in Ace Of Base activity did not contribute to it. There was still a bigger upturn on Facebook than on TAB. The biggest bomb that divided us for a while and thinned the fans into two camps was the creation of the Ace.Of.Base “constellation”. Half of the Acers were delighted with the new line-up, while the other half were devastated and disappointed. A real war has raged through TAB between opponents and supporters of the new Ace.of.Base. Many fans were very aggressive - from memes and avatars to entries. Ultimately, this led to a separate forum dedicated to Ace.of.Base for fans of the new lineup.

Currently, TAB is rather quiet. There are still active users (including me!). Rarely, but still new users appear. Occasionally, someone who has already had an account here will sometimes join. Some have left, abandoned their accounts and don't write anything anymore.

What do I value the most about The Ace Boards? It is a treasury of knowledge and a mine of history.



Boards

STORY BY EMIL

The AceBoards started in 2004 as a project of AcerStan, one of the many "Acers" - or in other words - Ace Of Base fans, with the help of other Acers from all across the globe. (Feeling old? There was no Facebook, no YouTube etc. in 2004).

At that time the biggest gateway for fans was another forum called "The Hallo Boards". Many fans though found it hard to fit in that community for one reason or another. Also around that time the "Demo wars" were a thing. Some fans had recorded Ace Of Base unreleased songs and demos from various sources. Some would share, others wouldn't. When we created TAB we decided that every fan had the right to at least hear those and many other treasures that leaked later on at the forum. Fast forward to 2015 when the majority of those treasures were released as the "Hidden Gems" album. Over time, and with the discontinuation of "The Hallo Boards", The AceBoards became the biggest & as of now only international forum for AOB fans. Some of the band members used to be active on the forum too (especially Jonas). Jenny has said in the past that she also reads the forum from time to time. Many friendships started here and will last forever. One of the strong points of the forums was the ability to select a personalized forum skin based on your liking. The forum had 20+ Ace of Base themed skins, even ones for the “dots” lineup and Jenny solo. With the turn of the decade, the forum became part of the largest forum community - Tapatalk. Finally the forum had a functional mobile app capable of delivering push notifications. Today, the forum is quiet, but it has the ability to spring into life when there are news and developments around the band. So let’s hope we have more of that in the future.

In 2024, the forum will turn 20 years old.

Written by Emil

While it's hard to find older entries on other platforms, it's easy on The Ace Boards. Everything is archived. Just use the search engine on the forum or simply click the appropriate tabs. We have systematized categories here, everything is clearly arranged. And so today I nostalgically browsed through my entries from 2004. I even looked at archival messages when Emil made me an administrator. Interestingly, I noticed that a few users from the very beginning of the forum still write on it. What did the Acers write about? It's fun to read all those topics asking for a demo: Look Around Me, Edge Of Heaven, of requests for Island In The South and Hey Darling. When I was reading these threads, I realized that no one even thought then that in a dozen of years we would have all these demos in great quality on official albums. I have found even a topic about Phoneyx, who leaked demos from Da Capo on THB - it's good that a copy on TAB was archived.

At a time when The Ace Boards got really quiet, I tried to resuscitate the forum. Through my website, I started releasing a few demos as Phoneyx - thus referring to and honoring the legendary original Phoneyx from years ago. Users wishing to access the demos on my site had to log in to TAB first to search for a post with the current login and password. I was hoping that this would force some to log in and those who already had an account there to stay on the forum. This artificial resuscitation did not take long - I came to terms with the state of affairs. What has to be will be. And so, I am writing on the forum without any pressure to this day. Some come, others leave, some write, others just browse and read. The Ace Boards is still there, still alive, still doing well. Maybe there aren't many crowds on it, maybe there are days when no one writes new topics, but there are still a lot of logged in users browsing the threads every day. I try to write sporadically and even though I put information on other social media platforms, I copy and paste them also on TAB, knowing that only here will they be well archived. It is still a place where I feel good - not only because of nostalgia - I used to spend my time here as a teenager, now I spend my time as an adult. The Ace Boards is now also part of my life.

Written by Alan

ULF EKBERG

IS MAYBE THE MOST ACTIVE OF THE ORIGINAL FOUR

Writteny by Sebastian

When Ace of Base is under the spotlight, NOTHING CAN STOP HIM. He always has a million ideas.



Ulf on his birthday with Marcus Collberg in 1995





Even if he loves starting a lot of projects, he was not aware of A*Base. But he said about it that it was nice.

In 2015, SVT made TV programmes telling the story of some of the biggest hits. They release one about "All That She Wants" where he got interviewed. We learn that Ulf was sure about a flop.

Ulf Ekberg is the one who best analyses both the song and the phenomenon, and it's fun to follow along when he returns to the studio in Stockholm. Many remember how the band suddenly took their place among cool DJs. Producer Sten "Stonebridge" Hallström tells how the annoying saxophon - and Gothenburg accent - was killing him. He was certain, the song would be the biggest flop in the history of the world: "It was so silly."

He also says that the demo tape with "Mister Ace" on it, stuck into Denniz Pop's rickety car stereo, forcing him to listen to the song every time he drove. This is maybe a part of the legend, but that is a really good story for sure - no doubt.

In 2017, he talks about the money he earns with Ace of Base. With the debut album, the money poured in, and he accumulated homes, rowing cars and luxury boats. Today, life looks very different for Ulf, who has now swapped his title of pop star for tech investors. Among other things, he runs the investment company Norvik Ventures. "I go to work every day like everyone else. I go to my various companies, he says to Aftonbladet's newspaper."

Ulf Ekberg says that today he is more frugal of himself. "The companies I am involved in as a co-founder, we live on bread and water. Then privately,when we go on holiday with the family, we allow a little more luxury. But at work, budgets are tight. It's not something that you can float out and spend extra money, then you have to set a good example."

And as for all the luxuries he accumulated over the years with Ace of Base, he got rid of them a long time ago. He sold all the flats, cars, boats, and motorbikes in 2000. He says that novadays he doesn't own anything because he thought the things were taking over his life. He has no regrets about the decision to get rid of all the luxuries.

He has no regrets about the decision to get rid of all the luxuries.

In 2018, Ulf was involved in a project with a Swedish university, Linnéuniversitetet, who wanted to create new music from old world hits in collaboration with Ace of Base. It was called the "HAPPY NATION RE-BORN" music competition, in which music teachers from all over the country took part together with their students. The competition aimed to create the best remix of their biggest hit songs from the Happy Nation album to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The students got access to the original sound files of songs such as "All That She Wants", "The Sign" and "Happy Nation" via a digital music tool. Students created creative musical interpretations of Ace of Base in their own music productions. Ulf said about the project: "When we were asked to participate in this project, it was obvious to say yes. If our music can help stimulate the musical creativity of students, it's great. We are really looking forward to following this and eventually listening to the students' interpretations of our songs. It will be very exciting. And who knows, maybe the students' remixes will be played in completely different contexts in the future?" After that, he said to the press that he was opening up about the possibility of a comeback. "It's not impossible at all. Now I can't sit here and promise that right now. But I wouldn't be averse to at least considering a tour or maybe even more than that," he said.

In 2020, Ulf celebrated his 50th birthday. He enjoys life and remembers with joy Ace of Base's heyday in the 90s, but also how hard they had to struggle before their breakthrough. "Nobody believed in us", he said to Aftonbladet. Regarding the celebration of his birthday, he said: "I had planned to celebrate in September next year, but I don't think the world will be healed then either, so I'm laying low. But I am going out to eat this weekend, it will be a men's thing where we do lunch and dinner, a full day".

He also revealed he had Covid-19 during the summer, and it was stuck to his lungs and six months later he still has a bit of trouble breathing.

He was asked about Ace of Base, it nowadays the band still exists. "In some form. Jonas and I own the band name, but there has been some controversy about how it has been used. It's been a bit high chaparral and not so much fun".

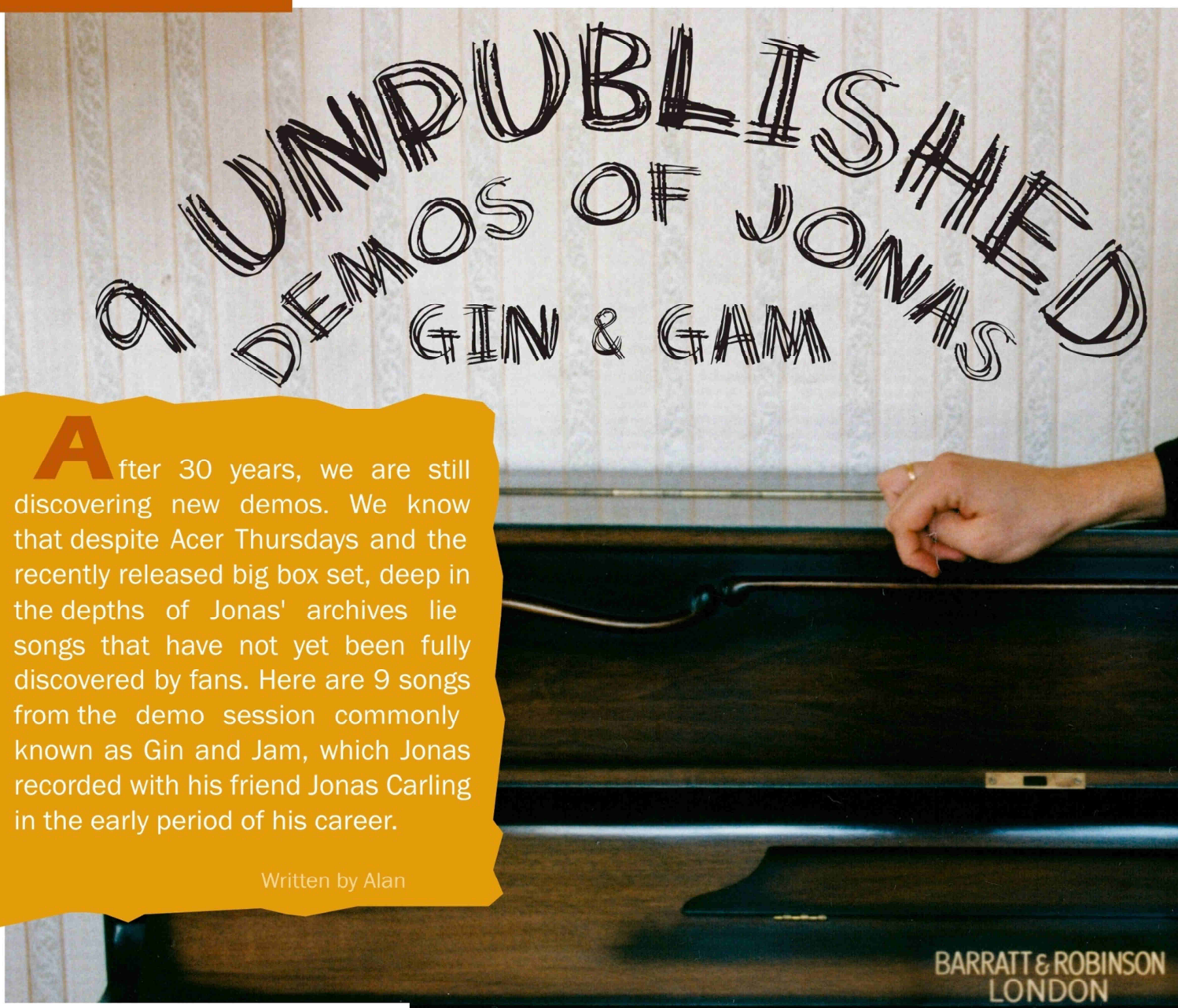
He also said that he is talking a lot to Jonas, but Malin has pulled away and Jenny is doing her thing. He and Jonas have always been the two warriors, so they stick together. About his private life with Johanna, he said: "We have three children between the ages of 12 and 16. We have very nice children. They're not rascals like I was when I was a kid".

9 UNPUBLISHED DEMOS OF JONAS

GIN & GAM

After 30 years, we are still discovering new demos. We know that despite Acer Thursdays and the recently released big box set, deep in the depths of Jonas' archives lie songs that have not yet been fully discovered by fans. Here are 9 songs from the demo session commonly known as Gin and Jam, which Jonas recorded with his friend Jonas Carling in the early period of his career.

Written by Alan



All the songs that leak from this session show one thing: Jonas' creativity. We know very well that this composer can do all kinds of music - he has already created ballads, up-tempo songs and even those that refer to (and inspired by) the 60s, such as Always Have Always Will. However, this time I will experience something different, because all of Jonas' previously released recordings were written in mind for an AoB album. Since they were totally commercial creations, it can be assumed that this limited Berggren's work. These 9 demos are unique: they show Jonas' humour, lyrics full of rhetorical figures, strange sounds and experimenting with different vocal techniques. Let's take a closer look at all of them.

1 I'M A ZOMBIE

The one and only demo from that session which has leaked online so far, firstly as a short clip by the AOB House website on 10th November 2014. A few years later, Ray shared the full version on YouTube. However, this is not the original version, as on YouTube the track is only 3:41 (and ends with gradual fading), when in fact the track is 3:57 long (and the ending is that you only hear the main synthesizer melody with no background and the spontaneous, funny singing of an improvised melody sung by Carling as if he was singing to himself in the shower). This song is a collection of great, jokey verses: *I'm a zombie, that's what I am / Visiting me, don't give you a damn / I'm a zombie, I'm a living dead / Lucky you, who share my bed.* Unfortunately, this is the only track that you can hear so much of Jonas' vocals on. In the rest, Carling takes the lead. It is worth mentioning that by singing the words "Zooombie" at the beginning and in the middle of the song, to mimic a sluggish zombie, Jonas performs this with a slide vocal effect, “sliding down” from one sound to another.



2 PRINCE RAMA

I am blonde, overweight, hairy legs / I can take an hour of spanking, hanky, panky tra la la - this is how we are greeted by the beginning of the song sung by Carling a capella. Thereafter, an instrumental introduction occurs abruptly. It is a lively and fast song. During most of the vocal parts, Carling sings twice - he has recorded the main vocals and a second voice. In some places (and often in other songs) Carling charges his voice using a vocal technique called a growl. It is not a pure growl known from heavy metal music - it sounds more like a much stronger version of the "hoarse Jenny" from The Sign intro. Each bridge features a catchy melody reminiscent of Arabic and Persian styles. Sitting all alone in my palace / Take me on your magic carpet – I wonder whether the song was composed for a female or a male vocalist? Immediately after these words, our doubts are dispelled by further parts of the vocal, because Carling sings another line, imitating the woman's voice mockingly. So it is a kind of dialogue. Listening to this piece, one gets a strong impression that it was written for a joke and the guys had a good time together. This is my personal favourite song written by Jonas.

"I am blonde, overweight and hairy legs".

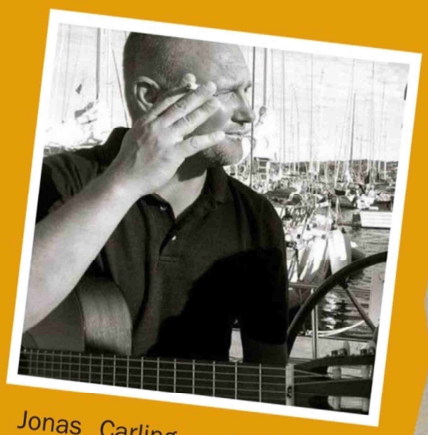
Prince Rama

3 CAFE IN PARIS

Sitting in an old café in Paris – the song begins with these words and 10 seconds of a short melancholic instrumental section follows. *Try to figure out way to get home* - do you have any idea what this song is going to be about? Carling shows the vocal range reaching down to the lower D#2. *I get my promises, 'cause I gave them to myself* - the song livens up a bit with the higher parts of the chorus and the addition of a beat. The most interesting moment in the song starts at 2:55. The song changes the concept a bit. From now on, we can hear Carling's chorus - a vocal loop, singing the same phrase over and over again: *Take me out of here.* Then, against the background of the choir, Jonas Carling shows off his vocal skills by improvising inserts of short and long phrases. It made a great impression on me, especially since this technique was not often used in the songs of Ace of Base - only at the end of Don't Turn Around, Linn showed a little bit of improvisation.

4 BABY I

This is an up-tempo dance song sung exclusively by Berggren. In sound, it resembles a bit of Tokyo Girl, but with completely differently matched parts. This is the only track where Jonas has slightly reduced the special effects placed on his voice through production and mastering, which is why his voice is so much like his siblings that it wanders between Jenny and Linn's. *Oh baby I, I caught your heart, let's get together for the time that we have* - sings Jonas. There are a lot of distinctive sounds from the Tech Noir era that fans who like 80s music would like.



Jonas Carling - singer from Gin and Gam project. He sings in most demos.

The one and only demo from Gin & Gam project is already available on YouTube. Low quality sample was leaked 8 years ago. After few years different edit of "I'm a Zombie" was shared on YouTube.

YouTube

NO DARK IN THE RAINBOW

5 this time the song gives the impression of being sung by two boys. In fact, it is sung exclusively by Jonas Berggren. The treatment used in this piece is similar to that of the verse in Life Is A Flower, Hey Darling or Adventures In Paradise, where one of the Berggren sisters sang high and the other sang low. Jonas performs the upper part and the lower part in this piece. *There's no dark in the rainbow / Just happy colour / There's no dark in the rainbo / That's me and you / All the colours of the rainbow reminds me of you* - the "two Jonases" sing along with guitar riffs playing in the background. Some of the short vocal parts are performed without upper parts, however, for reinforcement, he recorded his vocals twice again. It's a really catchy song. It should be rearranged and released as a song on an Ace of Base balbum.

I'M AN EASY GO

6 with the text from the title, Jonas greets us, performing a high vocal part. After a 30-second intro it turns out to be a bouncy and up-tempo song. The synthesizer mimics the elements of the percussion, and in the background you can also hear electric guitar riffs. *If you say you love me honey, I'm an easy go* – sings Carling, who is the main vocalist in this song. In the background, you can hear the parts of Berggren singing his upper parts, which are enriched with the effect of a large echo, which gives the impression that these parts are sung by a woman (an effect similar to the intro of Happy Nation). It's one of those songs that catch your ear from the first time you hear it, and follows you in a circle - the melody stays in your head for a long time. It is a pity that Berggren did not decide to release this song on one of his albums with Ace Of Base. Such pearls will forever remain at the bottom of his drawer.



LUCKY NUMBERS

7

And again, and again – lucky numbers - in the a capella introduction both boys sing: Berggren high, Carling low. The verse is sung only by Carling. Between the verse and the chorus, Carling performs strong vocal inserts *G-g-g-go! N-n-n-now!* which he performs with chest vocals, his voice strong, juicy sounding. I really like this part. Now I know why Berggren chose this particular guy for his project. In the background you get the impression that something is clearly missing - the piece is clearly unfinished. There are too few instrumental parts. You only hear a beat and a synthesizer and some small melodic samples. Still, the song is very enjoyable. I wonder what the end result would be?

"Oh baby I, I caught your heart, let's get together for the time that we have"

Baby I

WALK IN THE LIGHT

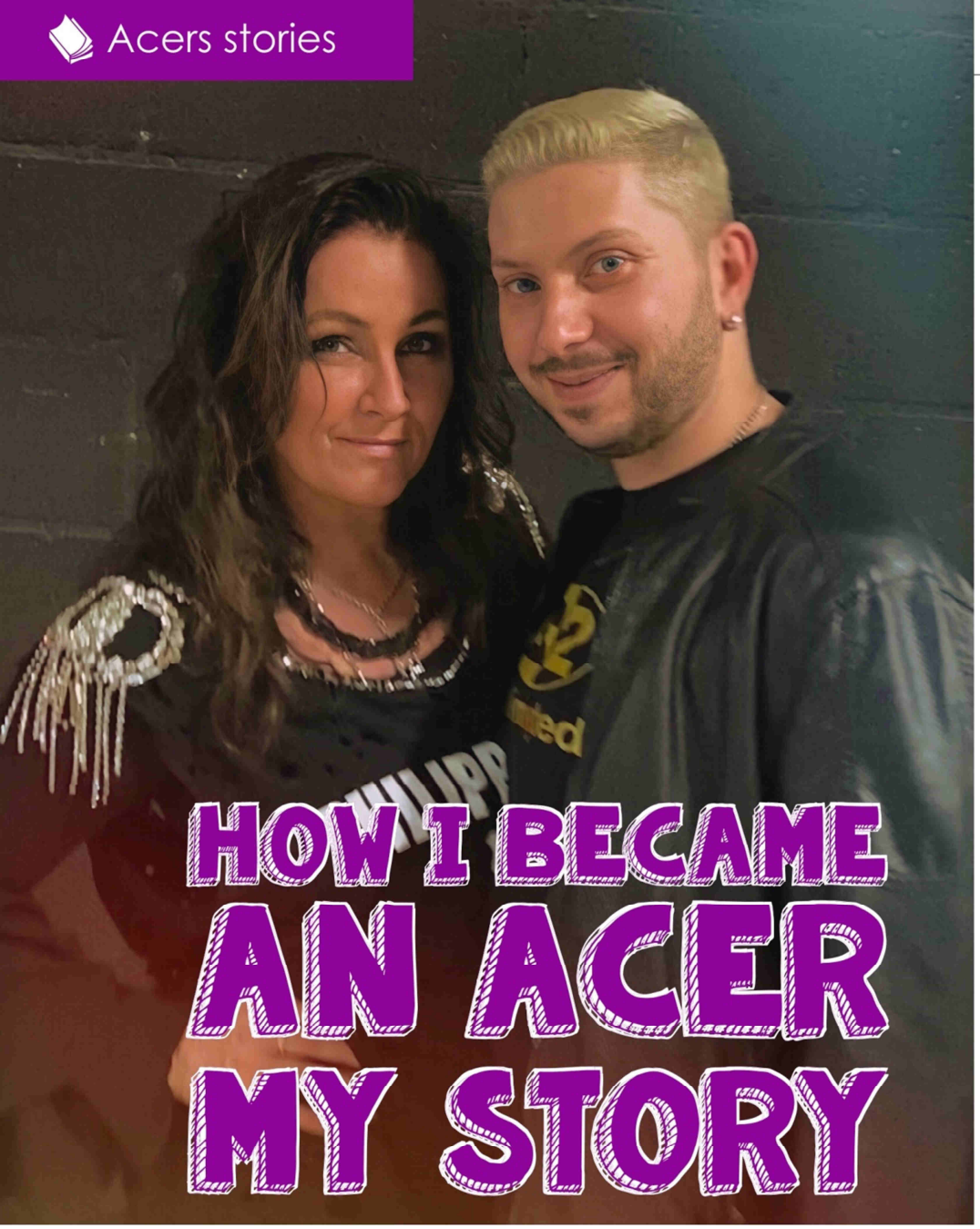
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At the beginning, we hear a synth flute that is identical to the one we hear in Que Sera's intro - except that it plays a different tune. And suddenly song becomes fast, up-tempo song also sung by Carling, however in the chorus we can clearly hear him with singing with Berggren. *Walk in the light, do it in the night, nothing gonna stop me tonight* says the lyrics. From time to time you even hear a violin - of course not real but from a synthesizer. The sound of the song is a bit stronger. Electric guitar and synthesizer drums play in the background. This time the track is in rock'n'roll style.

IMAGINATION

9

The very intro of the song gives the impression that your heart and mind feel both pleasure and relief at the same time. The synthesizer characteristic of the Ace of Base sound in a calm tone (similar to the intro of My Mind). There is also a light flute (sound similar to No Good Lover). Suddenly there are sounds of an oriental flute. You already feel that it will be something unique, like Angel of Love. Every now and then there are short male vocal samples. It is neither Carling's nor Berggren's voice. The composition of the song resembles the famous Enigma track Return To Innocence and was definitely inspired by this song. Probably Jonas wanted to try his hand and experimented with relaxing, chillout music while composing. He definitely should to release his own solo instrumental album.



HOW I BECAME AN ACER MY STORY

Before I begin, I would like to introduce myself; My name is Ivaylo Varbev, I was born in Bulgaria (Small but Beautiful Country Located between Turkey, Romania, Serbia and Greece on the Black Sea coast) At the age of 40 I am married with one childa.At the moment I live more than 8 years in London (United Kingdom) In short, this is me.

My Acer's Story Begins at the very beginning of 1992 when All that she wants was on top of every chart. I was only 10 years old, the truth is that until then I have no memory of another band or artist attracting my attention to such an extent that I feel so obsessed and have such great pleasure from listening to his music over and over again, without getting bored or tired. For the first time I heard All That She Wants in one of these public market We were with my parents there for shopping. At that time in Bulgaria this kind of open markets occupying a huge area and with many stalls each selling different things and this was the only option to buy everything from which you need at once. Anyway, in this market all that she wants was played from everywhere, in some parts of the market from the radio of other parts the owners listened to a audio cassette with the song. At that age I didn't know what was being sung in the song, but it didn't matter at the time because I was drawn to the melody and the beautiful voice I heard.

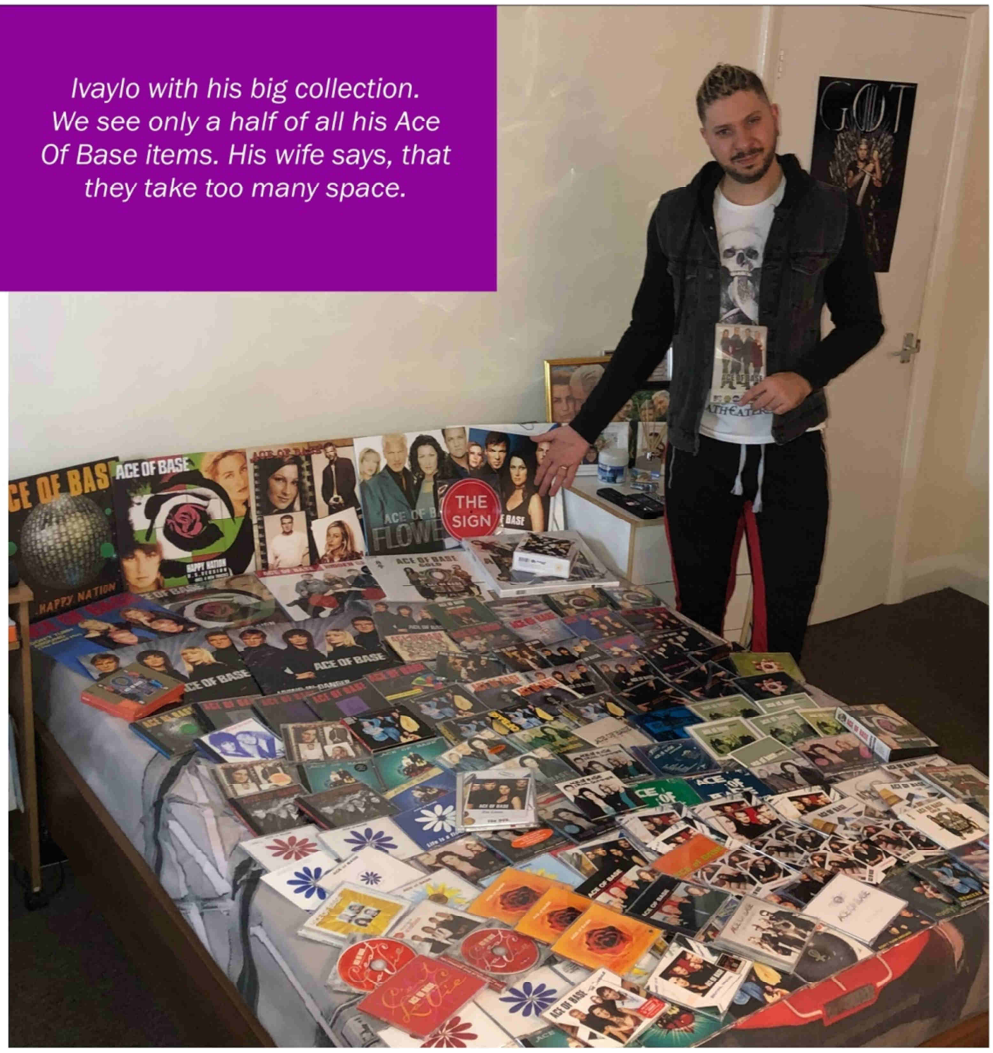
I immediately asked my mother to check the audio cassette stall to see if they were selling a tape that included the song. At the beginning my mother did not agree because We were not there to buy audio cassettes but some time passed due to dissatisfaction on my part and my mother agreed and we went to check. At that time, pirated unlicensed copies of audio cassettes were quite popular and widespread in Bulgaria, however, this was the cheapest option to get home music. Without looking long, we almost immediately found a tape that collected all the hits for the moment, including All that she wants and of course We bought it. I remember it was like yesterday how I couldn't wait to go home and listen to her again and again, I fell asleep listening to the song and the first thing I did when I woke up was play it again.

A month later was my birthday on which I received my first pirated copy of the album Happy nation a gift from my mother who made me the happiest son. At that time, Happy nation was just as popular as the second hit from Ace of Base. When I listened to the album I was impressed by how different and unique each song sounds had nothing to do with what I had listened to until then. I remember and when I watched the video of all that she wants how much I liked Malin, she was the most beautiful woman after my mother I had ever seen, I was literally in love with her. At that time the most popular music channel was MTV, I was standing in front of the TV constantly waiting for AOB videos. I was constantly rummaging through magazines and newspapers to look for photos and articles written about my favorite band,then I discovered the German magazine Bravo and Popcorn which were imported to Bulgaria with these beautiful posters and articles,

later on Bulgarian publishers decided to start publishing a translated Bulgarian edition of both magazines which allowed me to even be able to read the articles. On MTV they announced a new video of AOB and a new album, this news for me was like a holiday. Then came “The Sign’’. This video was so dynamic and this song was so danceable. I loved it right away, I thought that the second album they were announcing was actually the first but improved with three new songs which did not disappoint me but made me love them more and more. And so I officially became Acer. I have so many good moments, stories related to AOB and being their fan that if I want to tell everything you will have to dedicate a lot of pages just for me. But I still want to share some of them with you.

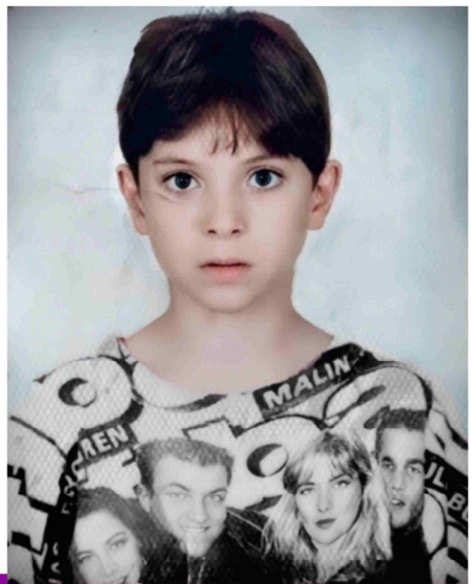
I have already told you that in Bulgaria at that time it was difficult to get music especially CD Singles and Ace Of Base had so many already realized. In this regard, it is time to say that being part of the Acer community is one of the best things I have ever chosen in my life. In this community I met so many beautiful and quality people who are ready to share and selflessly make happy people with not many opportunities. That's how I met Emil Markovski, also known as Acer Stan, who gave me a CD with over 100 demo versions and single remixes that I had never heard before. This is something I will not forget. Before I finish with stories, I would like to share with you my story for my first Ace concert, I share it with you because for me, apart from a dream come true, it was a real adventure.

My first live concert of the band was quite late in 2008 when they came for the first time to perform in Bulgaria at that time they were already only three. Which I am very sorry about because I never had the opportunity to see the four of them live. Anyway, the concert took place in one of the small Towns in Bulgaria Lovech at the time when it was announced that I was in Turkey on vacation, I had to cancel part of my vacation so I could attend the concert. But the event was something I would not miss for anything in the world. I say adventure because I didn't have time to organize anything, I just went home to Bulgaria and the same day I took the bus to Lovech, the concert was unique and no matter that I saw only three, I made my dream come true. Immediately after the concert my adventure began, as I said, I didn't have time to organize and check anything, so it turned out that there was no bus to take me home. I checked two hotels and they turned out to be fully booked And they have no free rooms So me and my friends I was traveling with just stayed on the street for the night but this didn't spoil my mood because I had just seen Jenny,Ulf and Jonas live. Anyway, later in the middle of the night, a taxi driver offered to take us deep in the mountains to a forest hunting hotel, and we took the risk and went with him, but we still managed to get a room And sleep for three hours. These are my memories of my first live Ace of Base concert.



Ivaylo with his big collection. We see only a half of all his Ace Of Base items. His wife says, that they take too many space.

In the end of my story, I would like to mention my greatest Acer Success, Of course, this is my meeting with one of the members of the band Jenny Berggren I would say that it was more than a dream come true, I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time talking to her, laughing and sharing stories and having dinner together.



11 years old Ivaylo with his favourite t-shirt



Part of Jurgen's collection

HOW I BECAME AN ACER

STORY OF JURGEN

It sounds very dramatic to say that I would not be alive if it weren't for Ace of Base, but it's not far from the truth. When I was feeling really down, a song like 'Beautiful Life' lifted me up. 'Beautiful Morning' helped me to change my perspective after my mother passed away. The list goes on.

I remember when I first read about the band in a Danish music mag in the early nineties. They looked like nice people, wearing their (self-made) raincoats. Sweden had been a fascinating holiday destination for my Dutch family and me, and when I read that this new group of musicians hailed from the second Swedish city of Gothenburg, I was willing to give them a go. Ace of Base's debut album 'Happy Nation' (In the US it was released with additional tracks as 'The Sign') became the first album I ever bought on CD. Initially, I wasn't too sure about the music and thought it sounded too electronic. Slowly, the girls' very Swedish way of singing and the infectious melodies started to win me over and soon I was playing the record so many times, my big brother and parents were probably getting rather fed up. Since then I bought all the singles and remixes I could get my hands on. In a time before Soundcloud and iTunes, one had to travel to get hold of specific releases, like 'Waiting for Magic', which I purchased at a Stockholm department store. I enlisted the help of friends and family to buy and send me 'Let Love Be Love' (a Danish Christmas album that included the song 'L'amour'), the singles 'Always Have, Always Will' and 'Cruel Summer', the latter featuring the French boy band Alliage.

Living in Sweden for a couple of years at the time when the band was still quite popular, I was able to watch documentaries about them. My knowledge of Swedish made it possible for me to understand what they were actually talking about. I also watched their performance of 'Beautiful Life' for the Swedish Royal Family on the Crown Princess of Sweden's birthday on live television. Unfortunately, I never got to attend the concert myself. However, I had the opportunity to enjoy an awesome gig at The Roxy in New York. Here in London, where I am currently living, I had the pleasure of meeting Jonas and Ulf with a few other fans at a hotel.

Often there is a lot about the song lyrics that I can relate to. This is also true of many of the unreleased songs, which Jonas and Ulf kindly shared with the fans. Linn said in a Swedish interview after the release of their second album 'The Bridge' that they didn't have a concept. Ulf mentioned in another interview which was held around the same time that they wanted to spread happiness. Well, they definitely succeeded in making me happier. Their tunes only made me even more interested in music, as well as singing. As I said before, they made me realize the world wasn't such a bad place after all. They instilled the conviction in me that one should enjoy life and that it's very precious ('Life is a Flower'). Thank you, Joker, Buddha, Jenny and Linn. 'Let Music Take the Lead' forever!

"Here in London, where I am currently living, I had the pleasure of meeting Jonas and Ulf..."



Jurgen lives in London. He collects articles and other gadgets



check our website:



aceofbase.cba.pl

HOW I BECAME AN ACER
THE HISTORY OF RON

How does one become obsessed with Ace of Base in his forties? It must have something to do with being single, possessing a knack for wasting huge amounts of time, and apparently retaining a desperate need for professional help. Well, that's only part of the story.

One night several years ago, I was struck by a random thought. Whatever happened to Ace of Base? Of course, I'm old enough to remember the band's megahits such as "The Sign" and "All That She Wants". However, I actually had not been much of a fan during the group's 90s heyday.

My quest to learn as much as possible about the band has taken me on a journey across a variety of platforms; Google, Youtube, Facebook, The AceBoards, Popjustice, Whatsapp, Instagram and Discord. I've badgered "Acers" in private messages. I've stood over masked prisoners in windowless rooms while shouting, "Why can't there be a reunion?!" For Alan's sake though, at least finish reading the article before you contact the police.

Malin "Linn" Berggren, the group's lead singer on its first two albums, immediately caught my attention. Her beautiful looks and contralto vocals brought a magnetism to every video & recording in which she was full a participant. I was blown away after viewing songs from the band's most successful period such as "All That She Wants," "Wheel of Fortune," "Happy Nation," "The Sign," "Don't Turn Around" and "Living in Danger." I know. I know. I'm only casually late to a 30-year-old party. During the nineties, I listened to a lot of 1960s music. Maybe in 2052, I'll tune in to all the great singles from 2022. .

Presumably due to the band's hectic schedule during its heyday, 'AOB' often used playback during "live" performances. On Youtube, it can be difficult to find shows in which the group's spontaneous voices can truly be heard. However, a 1993 concert in Riga, Latvia was filled with so much raw energy that I just can't stop watching it. Linn's stage presence was superb. Her rendition that night of "Dancer in a Daydream" clearly placed her wide range of talents on display.

Unfortunately, eventually Malin became uncomfortable in the spotlight. The reasons why this occurred are unclear, but the situation has spawned rampant speculation. On AOB's second album, 'The Bridge,' lead singer responsibilities were evenly divided between Linn and her sister Jenny. There are terrific songs I really enjoy on the record, such as, 'Beautiful Life,' 'Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry,' 'Lucky Love,' 'Strange Ways,' 'Perfect World,' 'My Déjà Vu,' 'Que Sera,' 'Edge of Heaven,' and 'Just 'n' Image.' Ok, Ron, what "Linn song" don't you like?

By the way, while some believe the 'NGSIS' video is campy, I'm enamored with it. Sometimes I can listen to it ten times in a row. As Malin points out in the song, "I'm not normal, I know it, I don't care." I have to emphatically disagree with her though when she sings, "I'm a loser, that is a fact for sure." Really? What the heck are the rest of us then?

Suddenly, Malin's face was blurred on the cover of the third album, 'Flowers.' Jenny took over on lead vocals and Linn's role was significantly reduced to being a backup singer and keyboardist.

There was one sensational performance, however, by Linn during this era. "Everytime it Rains" was made under controversial circumstances. The narrative repeated most often is that Clive Davis, who headed the Arista record label at the time, compelled Linn to sing 'ETIR'. Despite allegedly recording the song against her wishes, Malin delivered a masterpiece. And supposedly in only one take! However, the experience most likely accelerated her departure from the band.

In 1995, he wrote the album, Pride, for the Swedish Band, Yaki-Da. He and his AOB bandmate, Ulf 'Buddha' Ekberg, collaborated on the The Golden Ratio record in 2009. For this project, Linn and Jenny had been replaced by Clara Hagman and Julia Williamson. This period in AOB's history basically split the fanbase into two camps between the pro-Jenny faction and supporters of the Jonas/Ulf contingent. My feeling is that Clara and Julia could have worked out if the group had not been called Ace of Base. I also believe Jonas and Ulf should have only been producers on 'TGR' and not have performed with the girls onstage.

Despite the aforementioned trouble, Linn's voice can still clearly be heard on "Da Capo" and "Ordinary Day," which are two of my favorite tracks from the band's fourth album.

I truly wish Malin would return to

the stage, but right now it appears to be a "dreamer's dream" and as unlikely as seeing an Elvis Presley comeback. I hope that she is happy though in whatever she is doing. Of course, we all wish her the best.

I know what you're all thinking right now. "Ron, enough about Linn!" "Let go!" "This dude just won't stop." Ok, calm down. I hear you. Let's talk about Jenny.

The first thing that comes to my mind is that she absolutely loves being one of the "Aces," and that she thoroughly enjoys every minute of it. For example, she can be seen laughing her ass off in outtakes for 'Don't Turn Around.' Another illustration of these traits occurred during an 'ATSW' performance in 1993. Jenny and Linn are standing with their backs to one another and about to engage in the hand choreography that they usually engage in during the song. They mess up and Jenny bursts out laughing. Linn playfully waves off this "disaster" as if she were saying "whatever."

Jenny also sings lead vocals on "Waiting for Magic." It is one of my outright favorites in the AOB Catalog. I can listen to it repeatedly, anytime and anywhere. I've never been so excited to hear the story of Snow White. I LOVE the interlude which occurs around 2:30 into the song. I imagine myself dancing onstage at the '93 Riga show.

With Jenny on lead, I really enjoy songs such as, "Wave Wet Sand," "Experience Pearls," "Life Is a Flower," "Cruel Summer," (Yes, I'm aware it's a cover) "Adventures in Paradise," (another song I can binge-listen to) "Travel to Romantis," "Dr. Sun," "C'est la vie," "Don't Go Away," "Beautiful Morning" and "Change with the Light."

Jenny did a tremendous job carrying the torch as lead singer when Linn "stepped back" from her role as the band's frontwoman. In 2010, Jenny released her solo album, My Story. She's the only one of the original Aces who still regularly performs around the world. She's also showing no signs of slowing down.

Despite her upbeat demeanor, she has been no stranger to hardship. One night, while sleeping at her family's home in 1994, she was attacked at knifepoint by a crazed "fan." Fortunately, with the assistance of her parents, the intruder was neutralized.

On a different level, her 2009 departure from Ace of Base was also a very painful experience. Depending on the source of the information, Jenny either quit or was fired. Jonas 'Joker' Berggren, her brother and the band's founder, allowed her to be replaced. As far as a reunion is concerned, one thing is certain. The next time I attend one of her concerts, I'll be sure to ask.

Although there can be a tendency by some to focus on the singers, (who would that be?) the band would never have even come into existence without Jonas. He began writing songs at the age of seven. He has composed all of the band's hits including "The Sign," "All That She Wants" and "Beautiful Life." Considering English isn't his native language, that's pretty, pretty, pretty good.

As a youngster, Ulf learned to program in Basic and used this skill to begin an experimentation with electronic music. As a point of reference, when I was that age, I learned how to connect the various 'Voltron' and 'Transformers' action figures. Yet I haven't gone far in life. Go figure.

Ulf and Jonas became friends during the 1980s. After two members quit the predecessor band to Ace of Base, Tech-Noir, Jonas asked Ulf to join. Jonas felt that his new partner would bring a ton of energy to the stage. Hey, sometimes it really pays to be in the right place at the right time.

Ulf relishes being in the spotlight. If it were up to him, I believe that he'd perform onstage with Ace of Base for the rest of his life. I also think he's underrated as a songwriter. He's co-written several songs with producer John Ballard; including 'Que Sera,' 'Edge of Heaven' and 'Don't Go Away.' One of Ulf's other creations, 'Perfect World,' is loaded with poignant lyrics. The composition explains such a planet would be one in which "there's nothing to cry for (and) no one to die for."

Ulf has been the subject of controversy because of his behaviour as a teenager. He has apologized though for his actions on a number of occasions. How have fans reacted to this revelation? 55,000 Acers once attended an Ace of Base concert in Israel. In AOB's "The Home Video" documentary, 'Buddha' mentions that he reminisces about this show quite often.

The first rule of showbusiness is to leave the audience wanting more. And AOB fans are constantly starving for additional material. As part of the effort to satisfy this craving, a number of very talented Acers have remixed the band's songs. You recognize you're a true Acer when you're blasting the group's remixes in your car. It seems like there are hundreds of versions of AOB songs out there. It certainly can be a struggle to listen to all of them.

In recent years, Jonas and Ulf released Hidden Gems Volumes 1 & 2. They are compilations of previously unreleased recordings. This is the stuff fans live for.

"The All That She Wants: Classic Collection" 11 CD box set, which became available to the public in 2020, enabled me as a relatively new fan to thoroughly appreciate AOB's catalog. I've often driven miles out of way just so that I can continue listening to my favorite songs. What can I say? I lead a lonely life.



THE STORY OF JONAS LINELL'S PHOTOSHOOT FOR FLOWERS

One of the photo sessions, which was hailed by the vast majority of Acers, is the subject of our considerations today. Who made it? What happened during the session? Why is Linn's image so blurry? Who is responsible for it? Let's find out the truth years later.

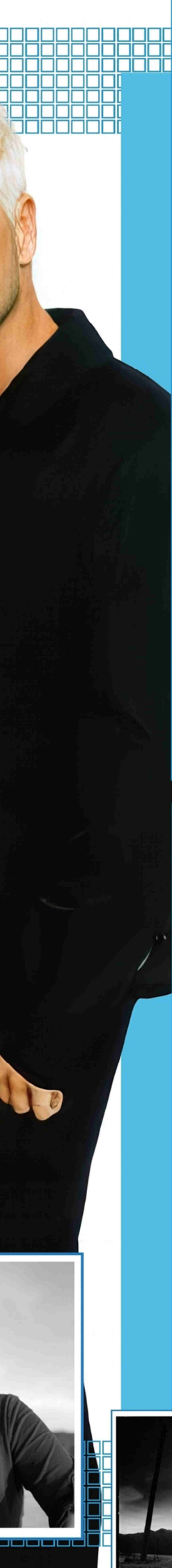
Written by Alan

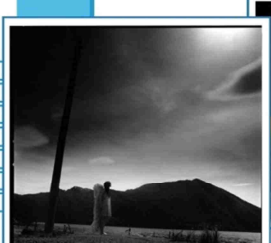


Jonas Linell - self portrait
and on the right some of his photos

At the turn of 1997 and 1998, Johan Fowelin made the first photo session known to us, which was to promote the upcoming album Flowers (Acers found as many as 17 shots from that photo session). The photos were in the style of the first (we learned about it secretly from rumours) video promoting the lead single from the album. The video was not finished, however unfortunately, the label decided that both the video and the session were too sad for the tone of the album, and it was time to resume work on the set and for the new video as well. Scenography was not appropriate for the positive message of the song (according to rumours, the music video was recorded in an office atmosphere - this is why the first promo photoshoot is so greyish). While the new video was directed by Andy Neumann, this time, the promo photoshoot was entrusted to Jonas Linell - a talented artist who was known in Sweden for his work. It was the guy who made one of the most iconic photo shoots for the cover of the Ace of Base's album. Unfortunately, unexpectedly on 28 October, 2021, he died at the age of 55. Today we remember his person and his work.

Jonas Linell was born 8 April 1966 in Bromma, Sweden. He was known mostly for his photography work as a photographer by profession. He has worked with many artists, although in the last period of his work he was associated with a Swedish pop-rock band. Fans, friends and family surprised by his death began placing condolences on their social media profiles. Qlara Hultman Linell (his wife) wrote: *"This morning I woke up with silence next to me. fell asleep and the most beautiful and loving person I've ever met is no more. We got seven years, one month and one week together. (...) I don't understand how life should go on now that nothing turns out the way we intended. I love you forever "*. The funeral took place on 26 November, 2021. Despite media attention, the cause of death was not officially announced. You can admire his work to this day, as Linell's photos are still online on his official website.



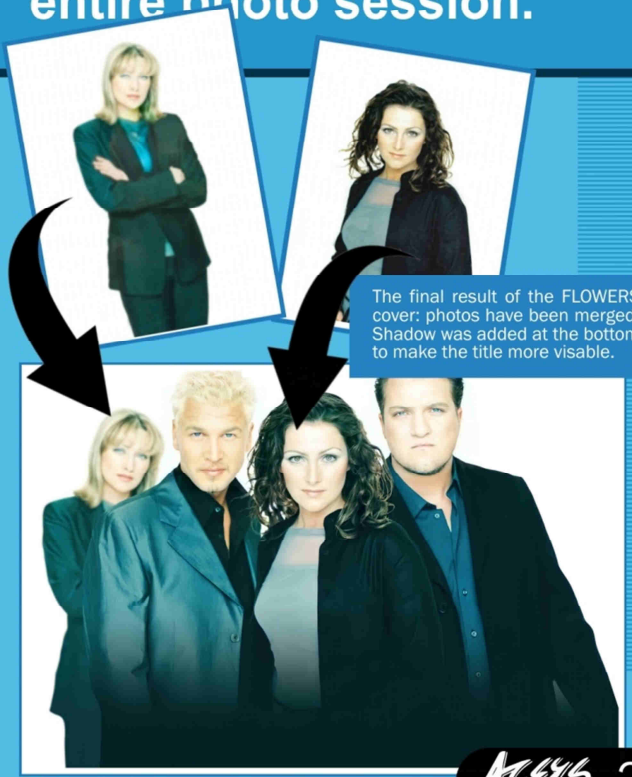




For many years, Acers had several dozen shots (of better or worse quality) from the photoshoot for the Flowers album. We obtained them from various sources - official and unofficial. Unfortunately, all of them were in poor resolution, and if there were any better ones, they were still not suitable for printing. Over the years I have tried to contact Jonas Linell to have those photos available to me. I was even willing to pay a lot of money to buy back all the shots from the Flower's photoshoot. Expecting the estimated prices, I figured if I couldn't do it, at least I would buy only Linn's photo. Before his death, I managed to buy the ones I wanted. However, what happened in these photos with Malin Berggren is even more interesting.

Malin Berggren was not present during the entire photo session. Only a few shots of her were taken. We know the basic ones: from the cover of Flowers, from the cover of the single Always Have, Always Will, from the sofa (where he is sitting completely in the background) and one alternative that has not been used on the cover (where she is looking at the ground).

"Malin Berggren was not present during the entire photo session."



The final result of the FLOWERS cover: photos have been merged. Shadow was added at the bottom to make the title more visable.

While the photos from the sofa and the AHAW single cover were taken by setting the appropriate focal length on the camera, which automatically blurred the background and focused on Jenny, the rest of the photos were taken differently. Linell took individual photos of each member of the band: close-up photos and body shots. Linn took only two solo takes, and the one we know from the album cover was selected. By the way: even if Linell managed to take only two shots of her, every Acer envies him that he had the opportunity to work with her face to face on the set. However, before it was placed on a folder, Linell was asked to blur her image. According to rumours, they wanted to highlight Jenny, who at that time was taking over the entire role of front woman. Unfortunately, it soon turned out, that the effect was completely opposite, as instead of distracting from Linn, the fans focused even more on her.

To this day, I remember the shock and consternation of the Acers who after seeing the blurry picture of Malin, asked what was going on and wrote up conspiracy theories on the internet. It was the beginning of a new era - back then nobody expected what would happen. During the previous The Bridge era, Linn continued to perform and was seen in music videos. Even though she had shared the scene with Jenny more since then, no one expected her to slide back into the shadows so rapidly. The picture showed clearly that something was wrong. Everyone around: Jonas, Ulf, Jenny and their manager assured us all the time that everything was ok and we were constantly under the illusion that they were telling the truth.

If we take a closer look at all the available photos from this photo shoot, we can see one interesting thing. One shot of Malin was literally pasted into the rest of the photos. This only inflamed our doubts even more. Looking at the different shots of Jenny, Ulf and Linn it is clear that her one and the same picture is always pasted and she is usually behind the others. Sometimes, by editing and graphic processing, she is flipped horizontally, but it is still the same photo. Some of the photos that were rejected at the selection stage, as potential booklet shots, had no longer even added Linn in the background, so only the trio is shown in the photo. Therefore, the full process of creating the cover was as follows: photos were taken of each Aces. When Ulf, Jenny and Jonas were combined in one photo, Linn was added in the background and a blur effect was applied. The same blurry photo was later placed inside of the booklet, moreover, it was covered with blue stripes covering part of the body. Fortunately, years later, using modern applications and the magic of Photoshop, I fully recreated this picture, that I was obsessed with.

Linn took only two solo takes, and the one we know from the album cover was selected. She wasn't standing in the back on the 2nd one.









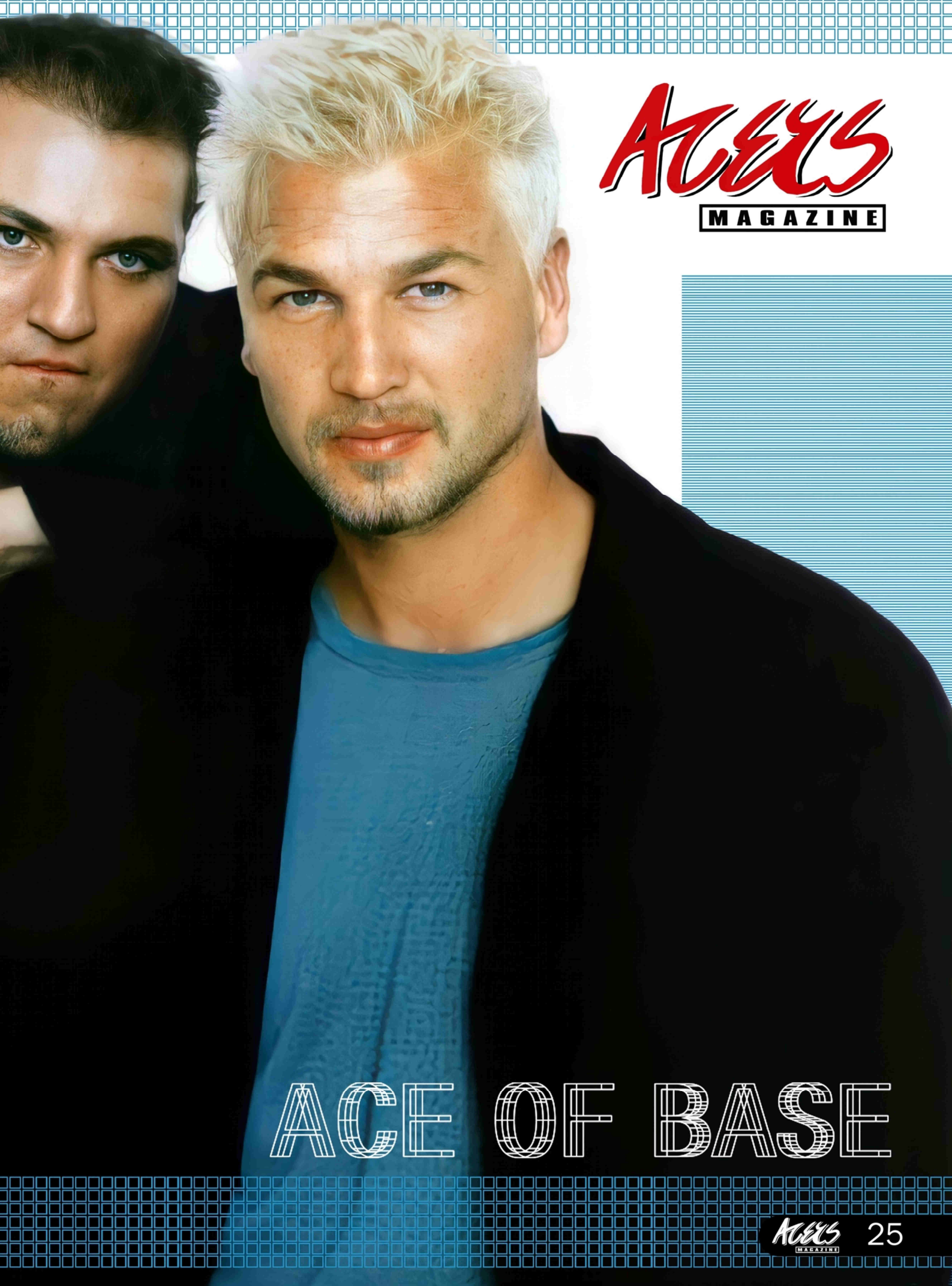


At the moment, I have managed to collect 40 unique photos from that photo session. I still don't fully understand what makes them unusual. Perhaps the combination of white, blue and black is a harmony that pleases the eye so much? Maybe it's this amazing influence of Linn, who mystically during this session, without saying anything, showed us what she really felt? Or maybe these are songs from that period or just the entire cover art that harmonizes with each other, tells us so nostalgically that this is for the best photo session? One thing is for sure, the Flowers picture is hanging on my wall and it is one of my favourite paintings. Jonas Linell built himself a monument harder than bronze: we admire his works to this day and they will stay with us forever. Rest in peace, thank you for your great work.



"Some of the photos that were rejected at the selection stage, as potential booklet shots, had no longer even added Linn in the background..."





ACES MAGAZINE

ACE OF BASE



SINGLES AND REMIXES REVIEW

NEVER GONNA SAY I'M SORRY

In late ’96, Ace of Base’s follow up album for their Guinness Book of Records winner debut album, The Bridge was released. While this album had more variety - if not maturity - in its selection of songs, Never Gonna Say I’m Sorry was a fresh take of an already winner formula.

- a review by Cout

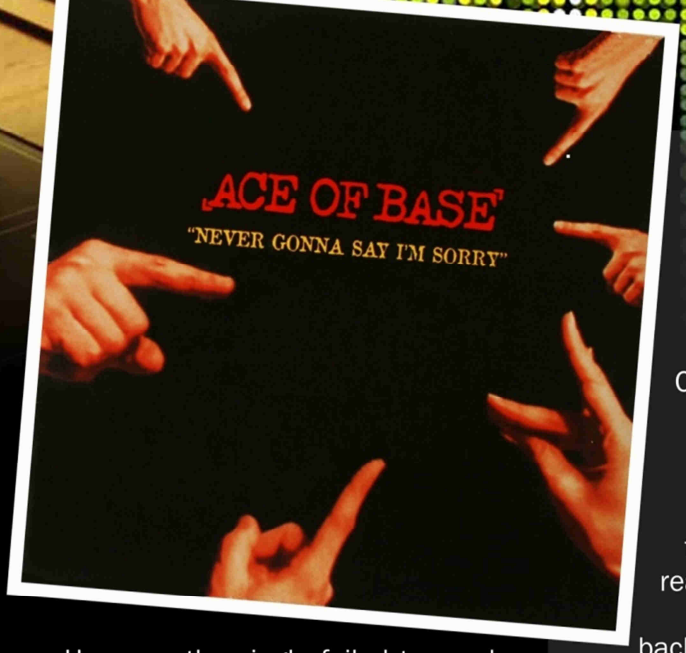
Explaining on the booklet notes, Jonas says: "We decided early on to do an "All That She Wants" arrangement and drums because it's always fun to have something old on a new record”. The similarity can be heard on the track’s demo, which features beats and bassline very similar to All That She Wants. However, the final version has much richer synth and background harmonies. It is a representation how Jonas – when teamed with legendary Swedish producers Denniz Pop and Max Martin – can take the track further.

The track tells about taking things not seriously, instead making fun of ourselves will make things much much better. Jonas explains “The song is about that you should never be sorry for the person you are, even though people make fun of you. Let them have that, who cares”. Malin told this on “The Interview CD” that it was one of her favourite tracks, saying that “I also like Never Gonna Say I’m Sorry that my brother wrote”.

The track has signature elements of a Denniz Pop + Max Martin production; a heavy but simple bass line with definitive beats completed with harmonic synths and subtle, easy to miss but completing background melodies. The synth sound comes from a low pass effect applied FM synthesizer preset (C3/M12 ESI) which is used multiple times both in Ace of Base songs (Just ‘N’ Image, Dr. Sun) and many other Max Martin songs.

Never Gonna Say I’m Sorry was released in March in Europe and July in United States as a single. It received appraisal from critics. Billboard Magazine wrote: “A wise single selection from the act’s current album, “The Bridge”. It takes this Swedish foursome right back where they began -chirping atop a glossy reggae/pop melody that instantly triggers memories of the breakthrough hit “All That She Wants”. It worked once and chances are good that it will work again” on July 1996.

"MALIN TOLD THIS ON THE INTERVIEW CD IT WAS HER FAVOURITE TRACK"



However, the single failed to reach the success of previous releases. A music video with two different versions were released. One with Aces' faces being distorted and one with not. Malin commented on the video on an MTV interview: "The video is very stupid because we are a little bit like clowns. We've been filming it like, you know, with mirrors that are [...] so stretched with our faces get stretched out in different directions.

The single has an xtended version, which presents further vocal takes (i.e. the "yeah I am" – which is also the take that was used on the demo, instead of "whoa") and chorus harmonies - which are also used back in the demo version. Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry has a "Rock Version", produced by Per Aldeheim who also plays the guitar. He is a Swedish guitarist, songwriter and producer who worked with Max Martin many times. Aldeheim, Max Martin and Peter Kahn, who provided the bass for the Rock Version, was in the same band back in 80's called "It's Alive".

Rating: 3/5

– due to mastering problems, the track lacks the dynamics and drags throughout the remix

The track had many remixes, one standing out more than the others: The Sweetbox mix. Jonas confirmed in 2021, that this was his favourite mix on an interview for El Chalan Radio Event: Ace of Base remixed. He said "when I heard [The Sweetbox Remix] [for the] first time, I really liked it. I think it was fun and new. I really liked when I heard the crowd murmuring in the background. We have a crowd at the same time that the music is progressing. I think it is actually a very good remix and [...] of course when they use those live claps in the live crowd, [...] it reminds you of a club or something. Malin commented on the mix as well on The Interview CD back in '96, she said "I like the remix of [Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry] as well that you haven't heart, you'll get it later". Billboard magazine also pointed to this mix on their review back in '96 by saying "For a refreshing change of formula, check out Geo's lively remix, which is rife with jangly funk guitars and a harder backbeat". Geo, aka Roberto "Geo" Rosan, is the producer from Sweetbox.

Rating: 4/5

– bringing a very different approach to the track and brings the necessary dynamics that lacked in the "Rock Version

For the dance clubs, after having worked on Beautiful Life and Lucky Love, Lenny Bertoldo was involved one more time. Bertoldo's two mixes "Lenny B's Club Mix and Lenny B's Organ-ic House Mix" was released as dance mixes on Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry singles. The Club Mix has a shorter "promo/radio only" version which featured the bridge of the song. However, a third version (usually referred as X-Mix) was also done by Lenny B. and was released only on Issue 35 of X-Mix Dance Series in 1996. The mix was separated into two parts as "Lenny Bertoldo's Total Reconstruction Part 1 and 2". This mix was later released to Acers on All That She Wants Collection under the title "Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry (Lenny B's Total Reconstruction)".

Rating: 4/5

Rating for Organ-ic Mix and Club and Total Reconstruction Versions):



Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry
The screen from the official video
Directed by Richard Heslop

WHAT IS YOUR CHOICE?



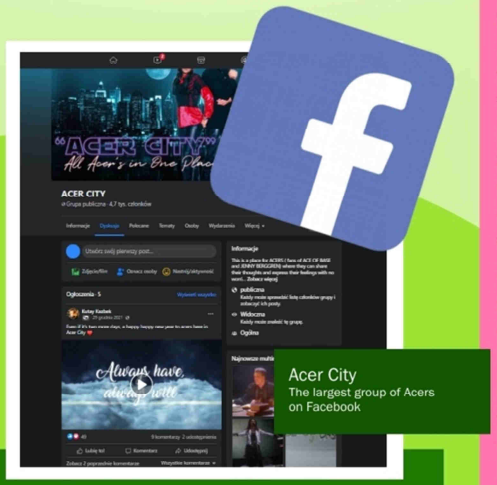
Acers community on the Internet in the 21st century.

The technological revolution, especially in the field of computer science, meant that the realities of communication via the Internet changed from decade to decade. Today, this progress is even more palpable and gives the impression that it is bringing about changes overnight. During the more than 20 years of Acers presence on the Internet, our community has changed the way we communicate. Today we will review which portals or applications are used by Acers the most.

- written by Alan

FACEBOOK GROUPS

The 2010-2020 decade was marked by the massive development of Facebook. It is true that people migrated to it from other platforms earlier, but it was in the previous decade that the most creation of various fan pages was observed. So on Facebook you can find a lot of different Acers groups: from global to local. At the same time, their emergence weakened the unrest on internet forums. At the moment, the largest group of Acers on Facebook is Acer City. Currently, this group has over 4,700 users. As a rule, Acers post different content there: from their remixes, to fan videos or reworked photos of band members. Unfortunately, where there are a lot of people, some problems arise there. Perhaps the thing that drives me furious the most is the language change - when I'm in an international group, I got used to the fact that we use the English language. It seems the Portuguese fans have the biggest problem with using English as they have discussions in Portuguese from time to time, which I don't understand. For example: you post a movie in English, read comments in English, and suddenly, unexpectedly, someone posts a comment in Portuguese. You're thinking: seriously? Fortunately, in the 21st century, we have a Google translator who can translate it for us,



Acer City
The largest group of Acers on Facebook

so a little patience and the obstacle has been overcome. There are many groups, let's mention such as: Ace Of Base Acer's World group (1926 users), ACES & ACERS (200 users), Linn and Jenny forever Acers (865 users), Linn Berggren memories forever (2200 users), Jenny Berggren, a Natural Superstar (444 users), ACE NATION Ace of Base Chile (981 users), Universe Ace of Base (2417 users) or Ace Of Base Lovers (1050 users). The convenience of using these groups is that, having an account on Facebook, we no longer have to create any separate account. We just join the group and enjoy its content. The downside is that everyone sees our name and sometimes our profile picture, so we're not anonymous.

WHATSAPP GROUPS

The previous decade brought us one more invention: WhatsApp. Initially, it was used for informal, quick chats by Acers outside of online forums. Over time, it made communication easier just before holding meetings with Jenny's fans. Therefore, many separate groups were created: European meeting, American meeting, Worldwide group chat etc. Over time, these groups evolved into internal national groups. The very big downside to using this app is that each user sees your real phone number, which cannot be hidden. Moreover, during these years, certain users with strong personalities sometimes claim the right to ask others what they can write about and what they should not. For example, try to write anything about Linn on Worldwide chat, wait for someone to comment that this is not a Linn-only chat. On the other hand, these people don't mind when someone talks over and over about Abba. The biggest downside is the chaos and the lack of returning to previous messages. Yes, you can always scroll the screen and refer to what it used to be, but good luck with your search when you have to skip over 200 messages about Abba. I stopped using this application because of too much chaos. I was tired of someone bringing up a topic and being ignored because everyone replied: "happy birthday X". In the next message, someone else starts a different topic, then everyone ignores it again and replies "happy birthday Y". It's very nice that they remember about birthdays, but it gets tiring over time. In short, I can sum up the Whatsapp chat like on the picture with mobile on the right. So if you like chaotic no-strings chats, spontaneous drama and a lot of fun, WhatsApp is for you.

"Try to write anything about Linn at Worldwide chat..."

DISCORD GROUP

This is the newest creation of our Acerian communication. Discord was originally designed for computer gamers. It has chat, video and voice channels. Part of our community migrated from WhatsApp to Discord last year after all the drama that swept through this platform. Discord is more convenient to use. Although it was for gamers, other communities adapted it to use. And so there is currently no YouTuber or a more serious influencer who would not use this form of communication and create his community there. Discord allows you to create rooms (similar to the forum, but without topics). As a result, there is less chaos there. If you want to write 200 messages about Abba, you post in the off-topic section. If you want to write about Linn because Jenniers mind it, you write in the Linn-only section. If you want to send greetings to someone, write in the "birthday-section". And if you want to talk about Ace of Base, please write in General discussion. There is also multimedia and other sections. This makes communication much easier and more pleasant. No spam and no one gets angry. What's more, we have a video chat together almost every Sunday. Initially, they were voice chats, but we've been talking on webcams for about a year now. Thanks to this, we became very close to each other. It is true that Discord has much fewer Acers than on WhatsApp, so there is no situation where over 1000 messages to read during one night.

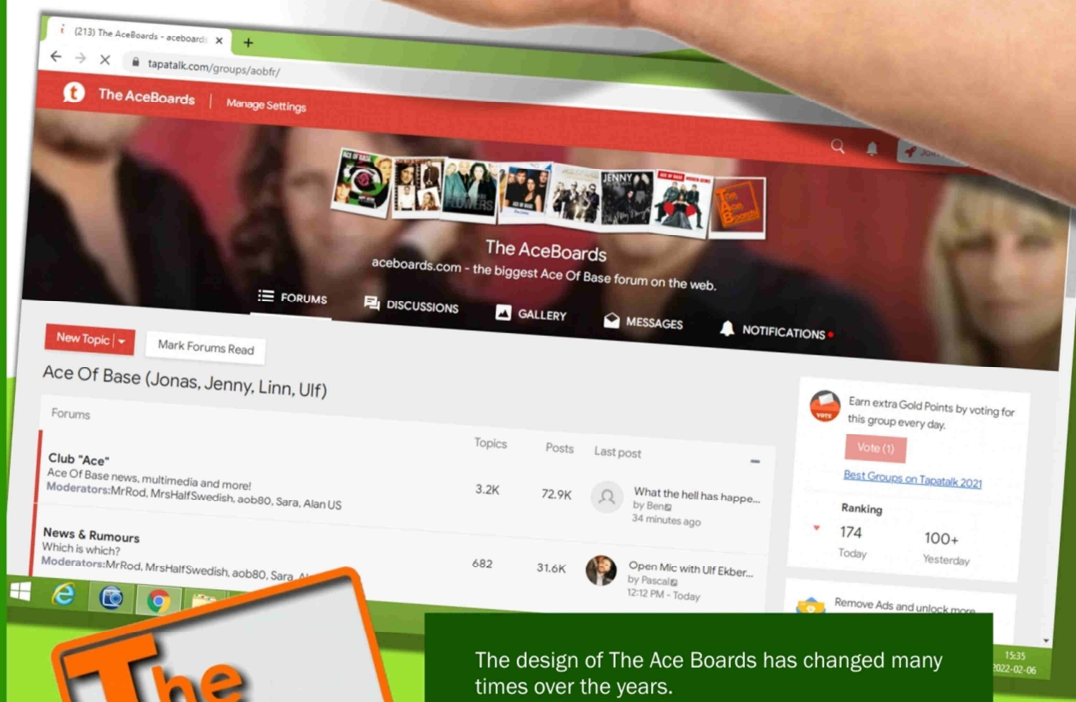


This is how typical WhatsApp chat looks like sometimes.

SUNDAY'S MEETINGS



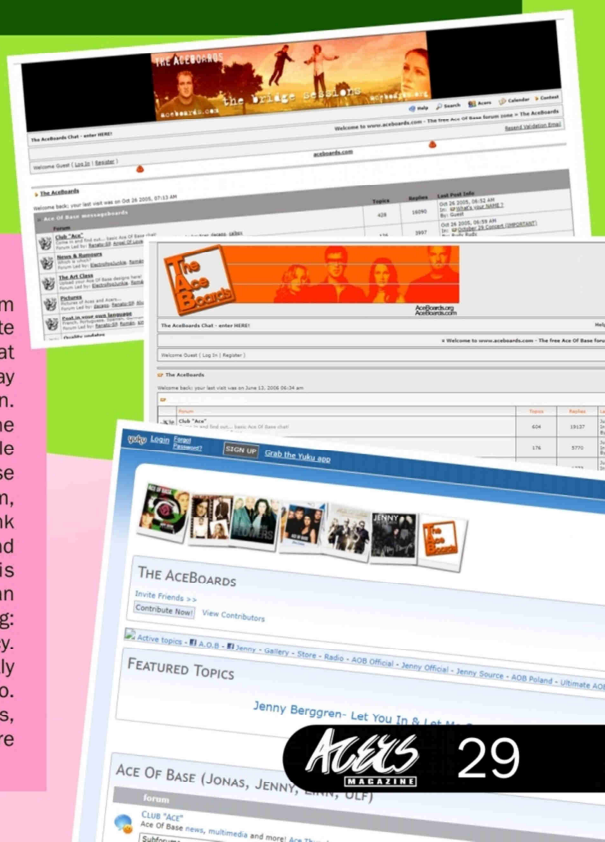
Almost regularly every Sunday in the evening we meet on webcams via Discord voice channel. Wanna join? Find us on Discord: **https://discord.gg/hb92WaNzb2**



The design of The Ace Boards has changed many times over the years.

THE ACE BOARDS

There is a separate article about this platform in this issue of the magazine, so I won't write too much about it here. It is a platform that works for Acers the longest described today and has a well-deserved place in its pantheon. It was opened for everybody in 2004. Imagine that in the 21st century there are still people who don't have a Facebook account, don't use WhatsApp or Discord. If you are one of them, the forum is for you! Maybe some of you think that today the forum is a thing of the past and that even in its mobile version it is inconvenient to use it. Well, maybe you can be right. But the forum cannot deny one thing: no other application has such transparency. Only on the forum you can conveniently browse and return to old topics from years ago. To this day, I really like to use The Ace Boards, even if there is not as much traffic as there was 2 decades ago.





Important

Ace of Base Websites

A light hearted look on important websites by Cout

Being established back in the 90's, Ace of Base's online presence has evolved just like the world wide web. During mid 90's – especially around 1994 and 1995, world wide web (aka the Web) became more accessible, which allowed both the bands and their fans to share information with the world.

Since then, many web resources has been created (and sadly discontinued). Today, we will be taking a look at some of the most notable websites currently available on the web.

www.aceofbasehub.com

ACE OF BASE HUB

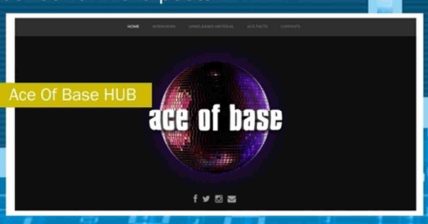
First "announced" that it was going to be online soon back in 2013, (which is an infamous phrase between acers), Ace of Base Hub welcomed their visitors with a gorgeous purple tinted disco ball (a subtle nod to Happy Nation cover – which was later explained as a globe) and a small music snippet called "dtna".

The website stayed dormant for a while and in late 2014, it started publishing content. It welcomed visitors with the 1995 interview of Ace of Base. This interview was released in 1995 by Mega Records as a promo CD, in which Aces answered 23 questions.

Then the website presented many unreleased "gems", such as the unreleased Douglas Carr track "Love of My Life" or instrumentals like "Whispers in Blindness" or "Exit Floors".

Today, the website still hosts the interview and many more unreleased important tracks, even with trivia information like the "Ace of Base Group of Companies", which was also referred in Life is a Flower singles.

There is also a facebook page for AOBHUB, which is followed by over 2500 people. This facebook account actively shares posts and promotes both official and fan material, ranging from rare photos, videos and tracks. Information about the now cancelled "The Bridge Remixed album" and many important tbt posts can be found in the posts.



aceofbaseisinyourmind.tumblr.com

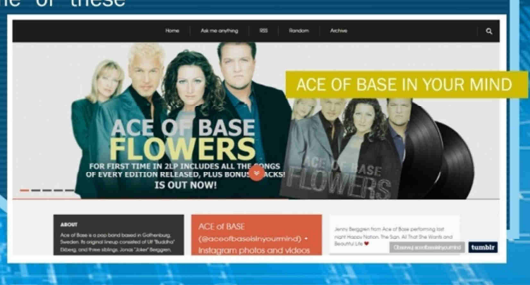
ACE OF BASE (IS IN YOUR MIND) - - THE TUMBLR ACCOUNT

Tumblr has always been the go-to--address for fans, who would like to share photos, videos or anything fan related and the account, run by Sebastian Isla, is one of the finest examples how professional a fan tumblr account can be.

First posted on October 4th, 2012, AOB Tumblr Account opened its online presence with "The Sign" photoshoot from 1993. Since then it has posted hundreds of Ace of Base, Jenny and even the largely disliked A-Base related material. The posts include -but not limited to- official acapellas, never before seen (or shared) photos (including different versions of official photoshoots), videos, interviews andconcert clips. Some of these gems are unreleased mixes (such as Wideboys mix of All That She Wants), behind the scenes and production information on official videos, rare interview clips, video clips from movies that used Ace of Base in their soundtracks and much more.

There is an extensive archive of magazine articles as well, for those who would like to delve into further information on Ace of Base's promotional stories.

The last post from AOB Tumblr page is from October 23rd, which directs the visitors to their still active Instagram page.



www.edge-of-heaven.com

EDGE OF HEAVEN

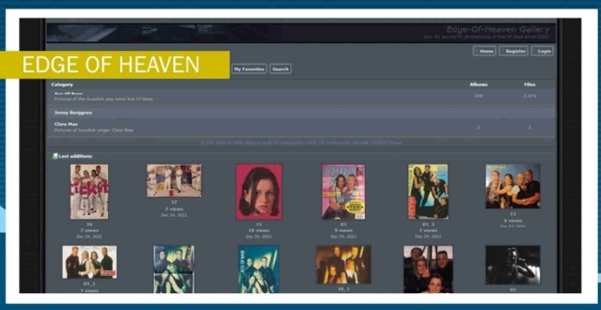
Edge of Heaven is the ultimate "heaven" for any photo related to Ace of Base. It is being run by Acer Mitchell Ooten.

This extensive gallery/photo archive collects a tremendous amount of photo material, archiving them in incredible detail. Each photo is categorized into Photoshoots, Videoshoots and Covers. Photoshoots are sorted by year and photographer. The photoshoots go back even to 1992, when Ace of Base just started their career.

Videoshoots have exclusive behind the scenes photos, set photo and high-quality captures. It features full colour photos from black and white/sepia/cyan coloured videos such as ATSW, LID and DTA.

The website has an extensive magazine/article scan archive. These scans are in high quality, allowing visitors to read the articles.

Cover section is under construction, but it will be complete soon. This website is the golden archive for any Acer/ /Visitor who are looking for photos that tell Ace of Base's story from beginning to present day.



aceofbasediscography.com

ACE OF BASE DISCOGRAPHY.COM

For visitors who are after the most precise and extensive information about the discography on Ace of Base (also Jenny Berggren and side projects), Ace of Base Discography. com is the ultimate destination.

Created and run by Ritchie Stubbs, AOBD.COM has each and every release from Ace of Base from their beginning to present day. Each release is categorized into release date, county, tracklisting and alternate versions as well as high quality cover scans. Visitors can easily find album and single releases, posters, compilations. The website also covers the exterior projects from Jonas (such as Yaki-Da, Meja, etc.), Ulf and Jenny herself.

Another important aspect of the website is the official music videos. Visitors can watch each and every music video which were remastered and enhanced by Kutay Kazbek in 2021. This video section hosts the alternative/different versions for music videos and officially released remix videos.

As a beautiful hidden gem, this website also hosts four radio shows on Ace of Base hosted by R. Stubbs himself. Featuring Jonas Berggren himself participating in two of them, these radio shows are an incredible source for people who would like to listen Acers (and Jonas) talking about Ace of Base's songs, demos, remixes and history.



aceofbase.cba.pl

ACE OF BASE HOUSE

Following the rich colour palette of Ace of Base's Gold release, Ace of Base House is one of the biggest websites that provide extensive materials and information to its visitors.

The website has a detailed Timeline Section, which tells the roots and beginnings of Ace of Base, even before Ace of Base was officially established. The Timeline tells about the milestones and important events, along with release dates.

A unique feature, Old Websites section, gives the visitors a chance to visit other Ace of Base related websites. Each website is listed in detail, with a description.

Discography section presents the discography collection from the website owner and runner Alan Kardyka as well as a link to another extensive Discography ..... collection created by Ritchie (explained on its own section). The biggest feature Ace of Base House offer is the tremendous amount of multimedia material. Acer TV section presents many Acer meetings, which have always been one of the most important events amongst Acers. There are exclusive videos from the fans where they perform Ace of Base songs, talk about their experiences and important events they have witnessed.

The acoustic corner features Ace of Base songs played by acoustic instruments such as harp and piano. Each album trackncan be listened on the "Audio Section" and there even is an exclusive book written by Claes Cornelius, who worked very closely with Ace of Base.



jennyberggren.net

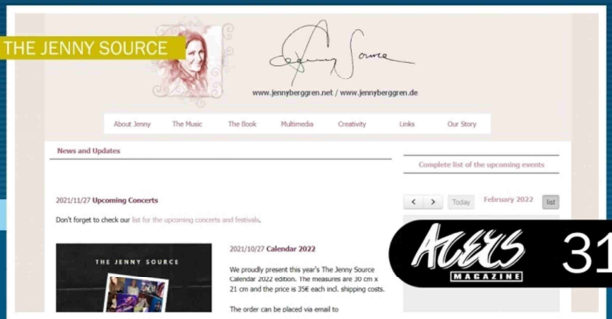
THE JENNY SOURCE

Even though Ace of Base is not as active as earlier, Jenny Berggren is still going strong as a solo artist navigating strongly in her career. The Jenny Source has been a vital and central source of information on her, offering a widespread and extensive treasure of material.

Each and every aspect of Jenny's career can be accessed on the website, her music (concerts, solo album releases, performances, her autobiography book "Vinna Hela Världen", her photos and even messages from Jenny herself.

Run by three incredibly talented Acers, Anja Mummhardt, Jessi Dieckow and Sara West, The Jenny Source team follows Jenny with each of her steps and makes sure that Acers and people who enjoy Jenny's music gets the latest updates and news.

The Jenny Source hosts a complete catalogue of Jenny's music, both with Ace of Base and her solo acts, while presenting video material both on the website and the highly active Instagram and YouTube accounts.





ACE OF BASE
BIOGRAPHY

The dream of every fan is to have an official biography of their favourite band. It has never been created. That's why I made my own.

written by Alan

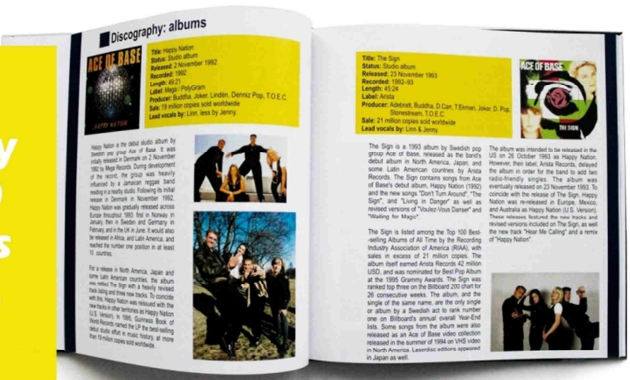
It was very spontaneous. It all started when I went to a store one day to buy a magazine. I was standing in front of a shelf in a store looking for a certain cover. Suddenly, my attention was drawn to a shelf with several books with biographies of various artists. Most interestingly, most of these artists are some little-known artists that nobody cares about. Then I thought to myself: hey, they have their official biography and Ace Of Base not yet ?! I know, I will print my own, unofficial. And so it all started.

I went home, ran Corel and Photoshop, and started editing photos. The biggest problem I had with the text: I'm not an English native speaker, so there were concerns that I would make a lot of language mistakes. That is why I copied the vast majority of the text from Wikipedia. Most of the high-resolution photos come from Mitchell's website and some from my own. Kutay also helped me with a few photos that were rescaled. Then I had to work on them in Photoshop, because the algorithm of modern photo applications still does not cope well with certain details. The greatest fun for me was designing pages about the places the band visited while filming.

When everything was ready, it's time to print. Thanks to the contacts I gained during my student days, I have the opportunity to print certain things in a professional printing house. That's why I used this opportunity to implement my project. And here came a little problem. Since such a print shop has many commercial orders, I could not abuse their courtesy. Therefore, in order to allow other Acers to get a copy of such an album, I had to figure out a way to know a certain number of printing in advance. The only option was the pre-sale system. As I did not want to invest my own money in excess quantity, nor did I want to earn



The biography album has 60 colorful pages in hardcover.



money on this unofficial productions, I wrote on my website that by the appointed day, acers can report: who wants to order a copy. The sum covered the production costs - so everyone paid for himself. Lots of people ordered the album. At one point, I realized that if the number of Acers was greater than I expected, I would not be able to handle the shipment - after all, I still work and have my own, personal life. Fortunately, the shipment was successful, and just before Christmas, every Acer who had ordered the album earlier received a gift.

The album has a hard cover. You want to know what's inside? First of all, we are greeted by a high--resolution color photo on glossy chalkboard on the first page. The next 10 pages contain the band's biography from the beginning to the present day, interspersed with various photos from that period. Then I placed a few pages which are all high resolution photos. We always had few of them, and the booklets in the official albums are too small to please the eye. The next 10 pages are information about the albums: release date, sales quantity information, release history, critical reception, etc. Here again I put a few pictures on the whole page as a cut-out before the next pages with the text. Two pages contain a discography: all albums and their singles, and a promo that were released during the band's activities until 2003. On the next 6 pages I put my favourite section - on the road with the band: videos. The idea of this section was to cover all the places where Ace of Base shot their official videos. I was able to get to some of the information, so it is more detailed and others only selective. Thanks to this, we can see what these places look like today and what they looked like in the music video. The album also describes the history of these places - some of them are objects worth visiting during a visit to a given country. The last part consists of the photos themselves, which as before - in high resolution - are placed on the entire page. I chose 19 photos, 16 of which had not been published anywhere before. The biography album has 60 pages in its entirety.

The book has been published on glossy, chalky paper. It was limited edition. Released in December 2021 before x-mas.

If only Playground or someone from the label were interested in this project, I would be very happy to help release it officially. Unfortunately, there is silence at the moment - so from late Acers are doomed to publishing own, unofficial projects. Anyway, after the success of this unofficial album and the very positive feedback from Acers, I decided about the next projects, which you can read about in the next issues.

At one point, I realized that I may not be able to handle the shipment

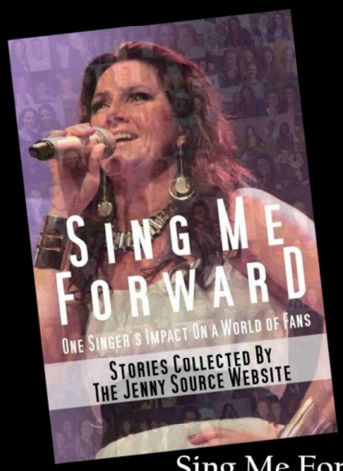


CHECK ALSO:



Jenny BERGGREN autobiography available now in stores!

95 SEK
9 EUR



$18.95

Sing Me Forward
One Singer's Impact On a World of Fans
Book made by fans for fans
Available on Amazon

Other Ace Of Base HOUSE merchandise:



aceofbase.cba.pl

Singles of the... collection

The most rare items in collection

Written by Andreas

I never had the intention of becoming a “collector”.

Back in 1993, I didn’t even expect to fall in love with any kind of music, musician or band. And suddenly, there was AoB. After seeing them live in June of 1993, I knew that I wanted to have everything related to the band. Not knowing how much there really was to come over the years.

Of course, I started with buying their regular releases the day they were available in the stores. But this did not include any vinyl or tape release, I was happy with just having their CD releases. If only I knew how hard and expensive it would become later to retrieve their old vinyls and tapes!

And still, I did not feel like a collector.

In 1994 I was an apprentice in a record store. I was asked to get the new releases and imports sorted for sale. Imports? What are these I wondered. Sometimes releases from all over the world are available in German stores – I guess the objective is to promote artists in countries, where they are yet unknown. And in between those imports I got to hold it in my hand: Waiting for Magic (Total Remix). I could not believe my eyes. I hid the CD under the counter, so no-one would be able to buy it. The next day I was able to pay for the CD and it was mine! Even with a discount.

THIS WAS IT!

This was the moment that I realized “there must be more out there”. I had no idea I would learn about promotional CDs, different CD / Vinyl / Tape editions or similar. These things came to me much later and the real fun of collection actually started in the mid 2000s. On ebay there was so much stuff to find, but also in some second hand record stores.



Picture taken for anniversary of Happy Nation album release. This is the most liked and commented picture in the official Ace of Base photo album "Acers and Collections" on Facebook



Most of the time, I found the different releases by coincidence. I never had the intention of desperately searching for a certain item or similar. I was lucky "finding" many of the very rare items.

THE RANKING

I was asked for a ranking of the 10 most "hard-to-find" items. And that's good question, but hard to answer. Some releases are known for being rare (not many pressings on the market), others are just hard to get (pressings from certain countries/ exaggerated prices). And there are releases which just seem to having got lost over the years. Maybe non-fans still have them in their CD rack and don't even know how much money they could make by selling these treasures...

From my personal point of view and considering "most wanted items" from other fans, this is my ranking for both official and unofficial releases:

LEAST HARD TO GET

1) Lucky Love Brazil

2) Life is a flower & Cruel Summer South Africa,

3) LIAF Australia

4) Aced! The unreleased Mixes

5) Flowers Saudi Arabia



MOST HARD TO GET

1) Hidden Gems, Vinyl Test Pressing (only 5 existing copies)

2) Waiting for Magic, Scandinavian 2-Track CD Single (seems to exist, but no-one owns it?)

3) Happy Nation The Video, Asian Video CD

4) Donnie, Asian Promo CD

5) Angel Eyes + Flowers, Asian Promo CD

6) Hallo Hallo + Singles of the 90's, Asian Promo Folder CD

7) Tokyo Girl, French Promo CD / Hallo Hallo XTM Remixes CD

8) Wheel of fortune 2009, Acetate CD / Da Capo Promo Folder CD

9) Unspeakable Remixes, Scandinavian CD

10) The interview CD

Now in 2022, I decided to end my fan era. This means that I will not continue to add further releases to my collection and I have stepped back from any AoB related forum. These (almost) 30 years have been a blast for me with beautiful memories. And before anyone asks: No, I'm not going to sell this collection. I will not stop loving AoB's music at all, I'm just not that kind of a fan anymore. The story you just read is my goodbye to the community. I'm grateful for the friendships I was able to obtain thanks to this community. And who knows... I might come back – if they come back ;)

All the best to you fellow Acers, carry on smiling and enjoy your collections to the fullest! No matter how big or small your collection might be.

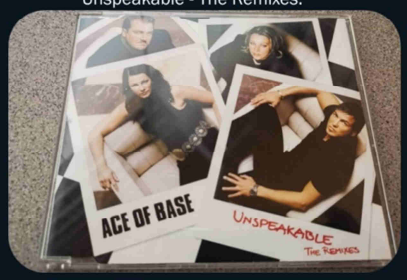
Tokyo Girl - French Promo CD:



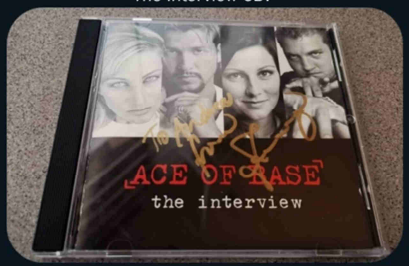
Angel Eyes from Asian Flowers Promo CD:



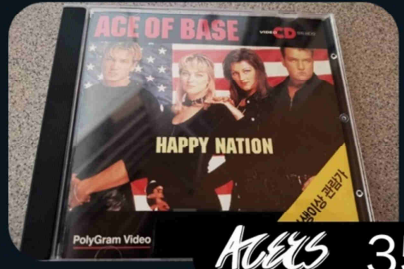
Unspeakable - The Remixes:



The Interview CD:



Happy Nation - Korean Video CD:



ULF EKBERG

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

BY RAYMOND VAN DER VELDT



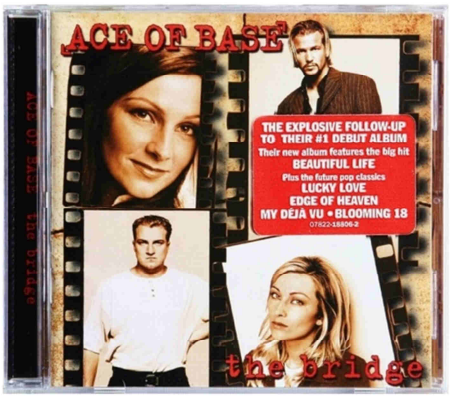
Raymond: What are Your best memories in your career with Ace of Base?

Ulf Ekberg: One comes from personal memories, there are two things that really sticks out. On one day I was looking to text tv (I don't know if Sweden still have it), but MTV has text tv with different charts from different countries. and when I saw Wheel of Fortune at number 7 in may 1992. That was a fantastic moment for me, I remember it as it happened yesterday.

A bigger moment was when we simultaneously became number one with both, The Sign single and the album in the USA. That was a very big moment in my life. But another moment which I can distill one: it happened one time, it happened still very often, but maybe not once a month but maybe every second month these days. But during those days it happened definitely every day and several times a day where people either wrote letters that we read or actually met us and told us stories what some songs have meant to them. So a lot of people have fall in love with All That She Wants and The Sign, and they are still together 30 years later and they are thanking us for that they actually met because they played the music all the time to remember why they met, these are thousands and thousands of people that I know about.

But also a lot of people that actually had a very tough times in their lives, people that had seriously thought about committing suicide and hurting himself or hurting other people, doing bad things that actually Beautiful Life and and some also Life Is A Flower, but especially Beautiful Life, made them think otherwise and got them think differently to their situation and made them, changed them completely from being suicidal to actually be happy people. So the songs have had so much impact, so many people around the world from definitely a very personal level and I think that's probably the strongest impression and memory I have from the phenomenal Ace of Base and the songs we wrote.

Ray: We know that on the Bridge CD album in USA there was red sticker with note that BL, LL, EOH, MDV and B18 will be the singles. We know NGSiS was choosen? Which singles You would pick up at that time?



Edge of Heaven was supposed to be the fouth single but wasn't released because they expected this album to sell more than the first album and when it didn't, they don't want to spend more money on new videos and singles. That's how the record companies works and still works.

In Scandinavia and France they released My Deja Vu as promotional single, but the Americans didn't wanna release it because they had so huge expectations on the album and the sales of the album, we sold at that time around 20+ million album of Happy Nation (The Sign) and they expected us to sell even more of The Bridge and when they failed (the sales) and we didnt match their expectations, not even close, God knows how they can have such high expectations on any album because it was the most selling debut album ever. But anyway, that's how it works in America. So they were quite brutal and saying three singles are enough and they didn't keep their promises towards us. We were quite disappointed that they didn't released more singles.

Ray: If you had the chance to choose the singles for The Bridge, what it would be?

Ulf: I would definitely choose Edge of Heaven as fourth single, the extra habit, because I think it's a little different style and I still think it's a beautiful song.

Ray: I remember a newsletter from Mega Records in 1998 with release info about Adventures in Paradise, track from the third album Flowers. Was it supposed to be a single?

Ulf: Yes, Mega Records wanted Adventures in Paradise as single but they couldn't convince Universal in Europe and Arista Records in America to release it as a single. So unfortunately it's because we did work for two different music groups, Arista belonged to Sony and Universal was always Sony's biggest competitor. And Mega Records only had distribution in the Nordics. And we were very much focusing on Europe, Asia and America in that time. So this was a dream from Mega Records but it was not agreed by either Univatsal or Arista. They didn't think it was a single.

"Mega Records wanted Adventures in Paradise as single but they couldn't convince Universal in Europe..."

Ray: Where the name Mr. Ace is coming from?

Ulf: We called ourselves Ace of Base and Mr. Ace was part of the rap in the original version of All That She Wants, "You can face Mr. Ace for the very first time...And I'm Mr. Ace and running my base".. thank God we cut out, it was a word that rhymes when we wrote the song, the demo of it.

Ray: are there still some unreleased songs produced or written by you?

Ulf: Yes, there is. But they are somewhere and I don't have access to them. They were in the Tuff Studios in Gothenburg on different DAT tapes and I used to know where they are. Well, I probably have 30/ /40 songs but I dont't know where they are really. It never made it to the end production, but some of there songs were pretty good song. So yeah there is, but I don't know where they are. It's like the hidden gem.

Ray: And what about the container boxes you had?

Ulf: I had two container boxes, one in Gothenburg and one in Marbella. The one in Gothenburg had water leakage and then a burglary. So most of the material there, I had probably around 10000 paperclips from around the world and I had all my stage clothes there, a lot of prices and a lot of things like that completety disappeared. Everything was destroyed, and the things that wasn't destroyed was later stolen, we lost that. But I took the container box from Marbella back to Stockholm, so I have 70 boxes unopened in a warehouse now in Sweden. I have to go there for one week and just see what I have in all these boxes. I don't even know. We are currently going through all the video material, we have, if I include also the material we did with The Golden Ratio, about 100 hours of film material from 1992 untill 2011. And I have digitalized everything and so I'm going through all the material. So that's something positive.

I bought a very expensive camera, so we had very good quality and I filmed a lot of things behind the scenes, a lot of discussion and a lot of things when we're traveling, on stage and just a lot of interesting unreleased material there. Maybe we will do something with that.

Ray: Why you didn't release a single for the Hidden Gems albums?

That would be only fort he hardcore fans, the thing is with the singles, you have to do videos, you have to do a lot of things to promote it. You have to introduce about the song, and the songs are not really ready. It's a demo. Denniz PoP's favourite song was Moogoperator, and that was never been released either. It needs a lot of work to make it a single.

I think we had a lot of good songs on The Golden Ratio that was never released because Universal Germany completely screwed up that whole release. Unfortunately they promised a lot of things which they didn't deliver anything up. They didn't even send the master tapes to Canada which was incredible. So Canada couldn't even release it because it never got the master tapes.

Ray's note: Not only that, it was already leaked before the release because one guy from Universal sent it to a 'friend', an Ace of Base fan in Germany. And what about the promoton of All For You, it was sent one day before summer holidays! It's the whole framework and they put the budget 90% in printed media and traditional TV and 10% on digital media. It should bet he other way around. 90% digitial and 10% traditional. So I mean they did everything they could to not make it happen, we had a lot of ideas, collaborations with other partners including the biggest publisher in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, also in Spain and quite big in England to release it together with a magazine and they guaranteed a milion copies and Universal said no to it. They didn't understand, they were on a different planet and just a bad timing. They had at that time only two people working with digital media, in 2010, not 2000 but 2010! I brought in 20 people on my own team for the digital release but they couldn't even speak because they didn't understand anything we said because they were so far away from knowing what the internet was. But now 12 years later they understand, but in that time not at all.

Ray: What was the point of putting blurred photos of Linn on the Flowers album?

Ulf: Here it's very obvious, at this stage when we're releasing the Flowers album, that Linn wants to take a step back and not being in the front anymore, either in videos, on covers, in interviews or even vocally. This is the first step when she's taking steps back. And it's very obvious in this picture (showed him the Flowers album) that she had taken a step back. And you can see that throughout the video, all the photo sessions we did on that promotion tour, and when we were touring as well. We did performances, different award shows around the world were Linn started to play keyboard instead of singing and which was also a step backwards, and the synthesizer always had to be in the back. It was fully her decision, she was working really hard on the first two albums, she was also working hard on this album but we promised her that , she never liked to be in the front, she never liked to be in the spotlight. And it's very hard when you become one of the biggest bands in the world and she's kind of considered to be the lead singer and not have the spotlight on her. And of course in America, they were completely crazy about her, quite crazy everywhere in the world, but the record company boss Clive Davis, he just wanted her to have her in the front of everything. And that was not very popular amongst us because we knew that Linn didn't want to be in the front and this was the first stage of facing out Linn from the band, because she wanted to be faded out.

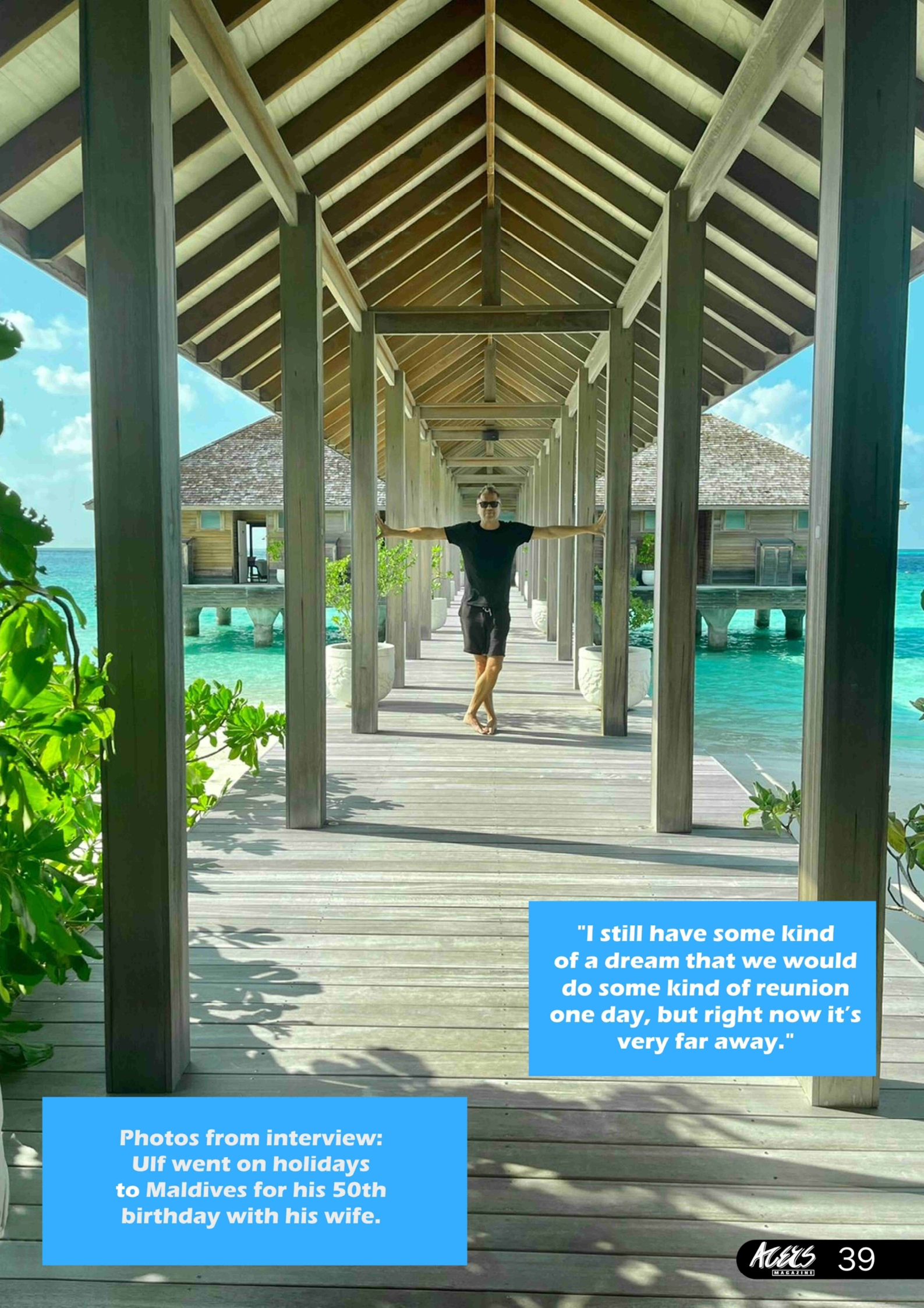
Ray: Do you still believe in a reunion?

Ulf: Less now then I believed three years ago but I still haven't given up the idea. Still a dream of mine to actually do a World Tour with the band, but we are very far away of doing that right now. You can never say never but I don't see it coming in the near future. That's for sure.

Ray: Is it possible to have some anniversary release like ABBA did now in the future?

I did work on it for three years and it seems we are very far away from that. I'm very interesed to look at the new hologram technologies because then a lot of things might be able to happen, but it's difficult. There's a lot of aniversaries right? We have the anniversary of the first single release in Denmark, next year we have the 30th anniversary that we hit Europe and Asia, and in 2024 we have the 30th anniversary where we hit the US and became number one on the Billboard with the album and single of The Sign. So we do have now three years of 30 years anniversaries, maybe a nice angel will come down and speak to us all and things will change.

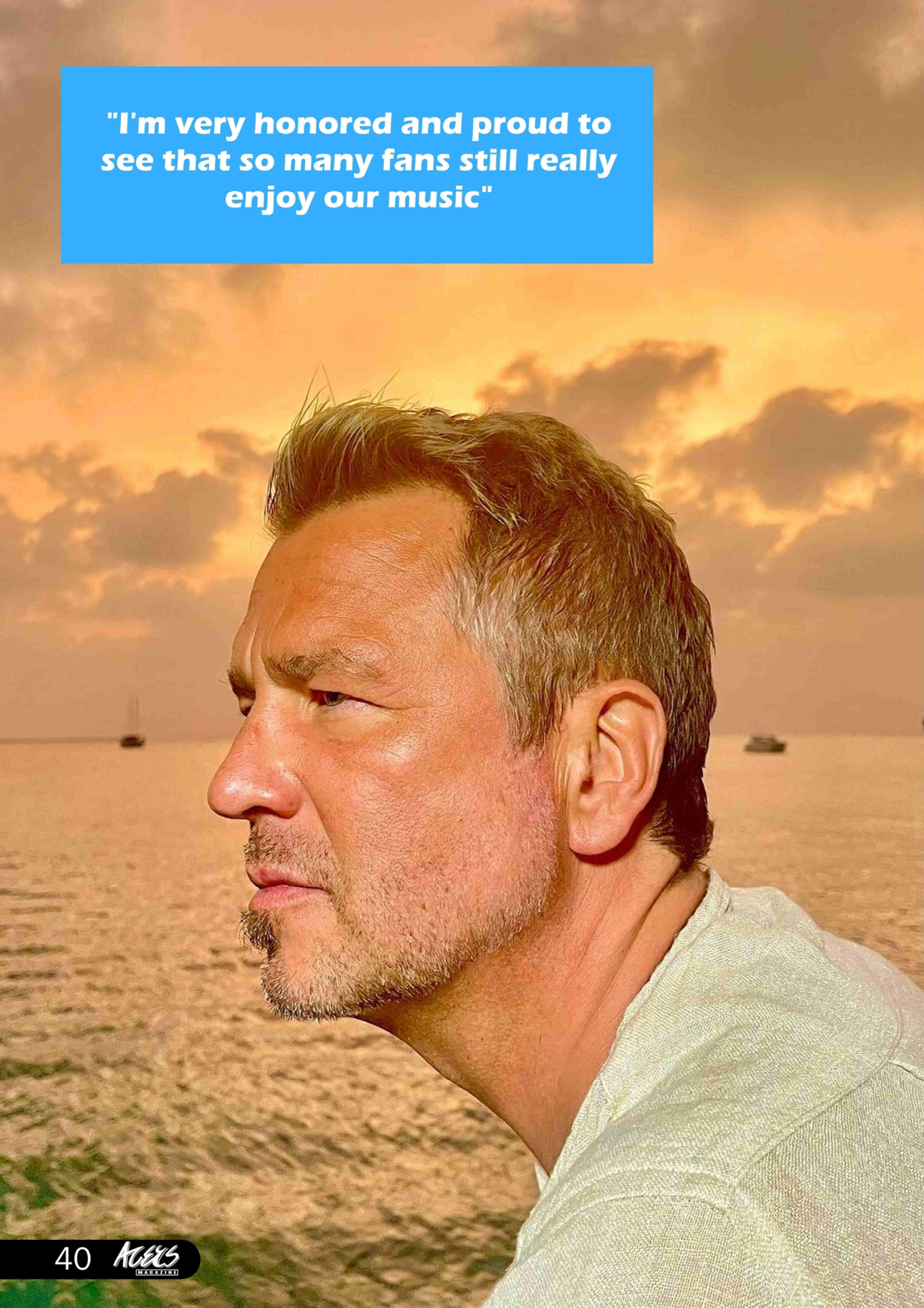
But I still have some kind of a dream that we would do some kind of reunion one day, but right now it's very far away. And I mean, anniversary release like ABBA, two new songs, for us to going into the



"I still have some kind of a dream that we would do some kind of reunion one day, but right now it's very far away."

Photos from interview: Ulf went on holidays to Maldives for his 50th birthday with his wife.

"I'm very honored and proud to see that so many fans still really enjoy our music"



studio again it's probably even further away than a reunion concert tour. If we would start discussing reunion, then of course a couple of new songs will be quite natural there, but that's so far away. And so unrealistic at the moment, I wouldn't say it's impossible but I think it's far from possible at the moment as it stands today unfortunately.

Ray: There were never any official statements. What is your attitude towards the LGBT community?

Ulf: I think we have actually done a statement because I remember I did a video about LGBT community where I really praised the community fort heir incredible support and how strong and how much they meant to us over the years and world. It doesn't really matter what country it is, they always belong to the hardcore Acers, they are always been a very important part of our fangroup. But the attitude is we're very proud to have them in our community and I think they are very great, very loyal people and we don't really divide people in different groups, we have a very strong fan base but definitely LGBT group. They always stand out a little bit when we meet them, so they're very strong. They have a lot of good ideas and they've been as I said very, very loyal to us.

Ray: You wanted to say something to the fans?

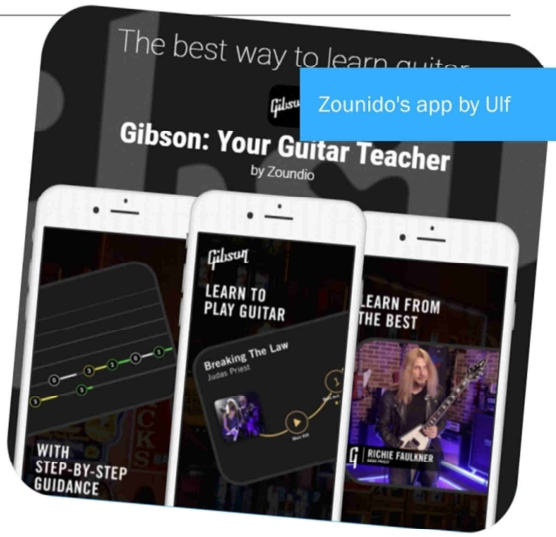
Ulf: Well I must say that I'm very proud to see, because I have everything digitalized, I can follow every digital charts list and every radiostation, how much the songs are played and of course all the streaming services. And a lot of radiostations get requests fort he song. I'm very honored and proud to see that so many fans still really enjoy our music and I really do get greetings almost everyday on the streets in different countries so that people are very glad that what we have done and obviously we have meant a lot to the fans but the fans have meant probably even more to us. And I think the sad part is that I really want to go out and see the fans. I want to go out touring and show them and give them something back to them. But I just can't do it by myself. It's because it's practical impossible. I hope one day we can go out on tour and really meet the fans and give them a really good show. But at the moment as it stand it's pretty far away from happening right now unfortunately and that makes me sad. But let's see, there might be something happening over this year, next year that would be positive for the fans to enjoy some new material, not music wise, well some mixes of couse of these songs that they will enjoy. But also there will be probably be a few documentaries, not this year but next year, that's more materials about the band. So that's something to look forward to.

Ray: What are you doing these days?

Ulf: I'm mainly focused on one of my companies, tech companies that I founded 8 years ago and it's a tech company within the music industry called Zoundio. We developed an app where you can learn how to play guitar much faster than in any other environment, including having a teacher. We have started working with Gibson, now actually the app is called Gibson: Your Guitar Teacher and we're now doing a big luanch globally together with Gibson with that app and we're working with a lot of their ambassadors like Slash and other big rock bands. It's a fantastic product and we have really helped a lot of people learning how to play and this has been taking a lot of my time in the past years, but now finally we have release dit and we get very good feedback and good media so forth.

It's a very fun stage now when you move from being a startup to actually proper company. So i've been spending a lot of time on that, but what actually I've been doing also the last six months is to do fresh mixes of some of our hits, we have started with All That She Wants, The Sign and that

"...they (LGBT) are always been a very important part of our fangroup..."



Zounido's app by Ulf

we are doing it in conjunction with Dolby and Apple. So I'm sitting down in a new format called Dolby Atmos and where you are basically stripped down the whole mix of the song and actually bring it back to the original stage. Basically what you do is you get the 48 tracks back and you have to bring back the original sound.

"I hope one day we can go out on tour and really meet the fans and give them a really good show. But at the moment as it stand it's pretty far away from happening right now unfortunately and that makes me sad."

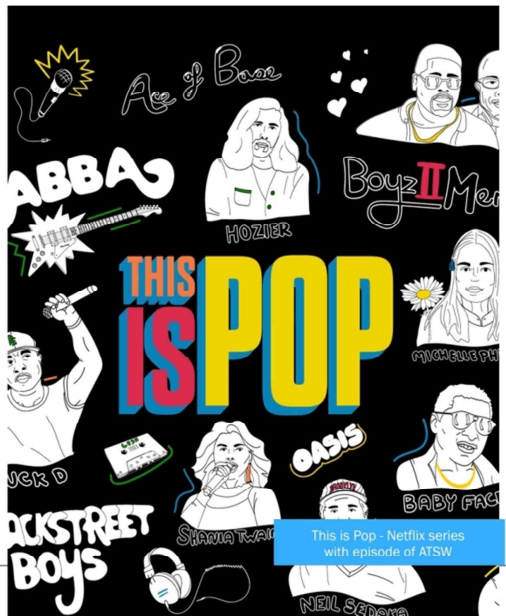
And as the Ace of Base story always have, it's always some error somewhere. It's quite a lot of tracks that is missing. I think is something that happened in the movement between record companies and where the masters and the tapes has been. So we had to really create a few quite a lot of tracks actually to make it sound as the original, which it actually does now. But that's taking time and we started last year working with the Dolby

Atmos expert. We don't have many of those in Sweden. We have one or two so far but this is going to be the new Dolby format, everything from movies to music will be recorded in Dolby Atmos and with all that it is basically a way of getting much closer to the song. You can compare it to Dolby Surround in iMax movies probably where you sit inside the movie. I really have sounds above and below and so forth. And to recreate some of these big hits with all this new technology it's been very exciting and it has been bringing back a lot of great memories from the time when we actually did the mixing of these songs 30 years ago.

"We also had The Story of the Hit song, where we did one episode just about All That She Wants, and then we had a Canadian/US one on Netflix called This Is Pop. It did one episode called the Stockholm Syndrom in a series of episodes."

It's very interesting you place instruments below, above voices and around and begind and you can just use normal headphones and you get this new feeling but you have to do a proper full new mix out of it. I will going to the studio later on today to finalize a few small things. And then next week we are mastering the versions and then we can release it with Apple, and I mean on all platforms like Spotify, TIDAL etc. and we will use also Dolby Atmos. We are very early on and Apple is very excited to work with me on this. So let's see, it's a fun project. We always love technology and it's nice to be one of the first bands doing this. That's exciting. We also have been approached by several different production companies for more and more in depth documentary about the music phenomenon which really started with us here in Sweden. There's been a few documentaries, one Swedish called The Swedish Pop Wonder, SVT in Sweden did this together with BBC. We also had The Story of the Hit song, where we did one episode just about All That She Wants, and then we had a Canadian/ /US one on Netflix called This Is Pop. It did one episode called the Stockholm Syndrom in a series of episodes.

We were very featured in that too and that's just the last few years, that came out last year. But now I think this one is gonna be more focused on us which is great because I don't think we've really ever had a good documentary. The last one we did was too boring, I was not happy about that. Let's see what's going on and what's happening with that project, but that's probably happening this year and releasing next year. That's a little bit what's going on in my world when it comes to what I do today. I'm keeping myself very busy with these things and also on my more philanthropic side. I'm very focused on finding ways of saving the amazon Forest in Brazil and in Colombia, actually going to Colombia next Thursday and then Brazil again, been spending a lot of time in Brazil to find creative ways of stopping devastation of the forest and that's been very close to my heart and I have spent a lot of time in the last few years on this project, that's probably the most important things I'm doing, trying to help the environment.

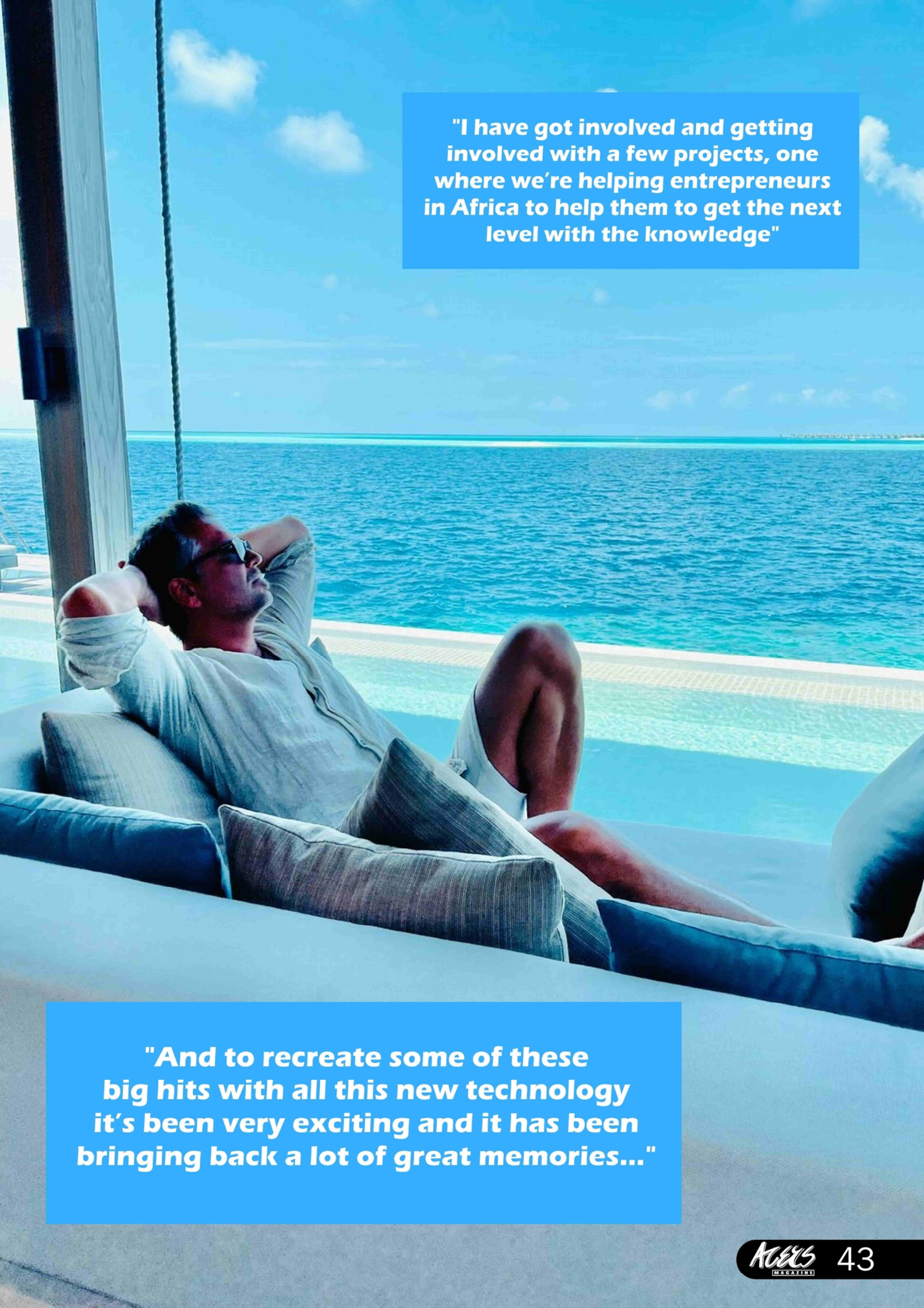


This is Pop - Netflix series with episode of ATSW



Photo above: Ulf during his work in the studio mixing the songs in Dolby Atmos.

I have got involved and getting involved with a few projects, one where we're helping entrepreneurs in Africa to help them get to the next level with the knowledge we have here in Sweden and getting involved with another project where we also to try help refugees around the world to get an education within entrepreneurship and especially within tech to try to help them to get a new life and so far what we've done had actually amazing results. So that's probably something I will put more time to this year and especially 2023 and where some of these projects are more up and runing, but it's still in the beginning. I spend quite some time on that too. After South America I go to Africa, so Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa and we're opening up an office in South Africa now for entrepreneurs and then a few other places around in Africa. So it's a project that we will hoping have up and running well at least one year ago but because of COVID has been delayed but now we can finally finish of the phase one on all these projects.



"I have got involved and getting involved with a few projects, one where we're helping entrepreneurs in Africa to help them to get the next level with the knowledge"

"And to recreate some of these big hits with all this new technology it's been very exciting and it has been bringing back a lot of great memories..."

ACE of BASE

ALL THAT SHE WANTS THE CLASSIC COLLECTION

In 2020, we celebrated thirty years since the formation of Ace Of Base. To coincide with this landmark anniversary, we were treated with a brand new boxset called All That She Wants - The Classic Collection. The 11 disc collection is the most comprehensive release of the band's career. I was extremely fortunate to have a little bit of input into it, so here's the story of how it came together.

Written by Ben

Back in July 2019, an online pal of mine and fellow music lover called Anthony sent me a message on Twitter, saying that there was someone who was looking for help with a special project and that I was the first person he thought of. A few weeks ater, I received an email from Tom Parker. He explained that he had worked on a number of back-catalogue re-issue projects and that he was now looking to put together an Ace Of Base collection for Demon Music Group, who specialise in legacy artists.

Tom considered himself a fan of the group, so he already knew the catalogue pretty well - but was looking for someone to provide further advice, an insight into the fan community, information on unreleased material, and really just to make sure that he wasn't missing anything. I was so thrilled to be asked, because despite the rise of downloads and streaming, I'm still a big fan of physical formats and regularly buy re-issues of retro artists. So it was exciting to know that my favourite band was finally going to get the "super deluxe" treatment.



In the UK, there's still a market for physical releases, and you can find bricks-and-mortar record stores in most town centres. Unfortunately though, it had been several years since I'd seen anything by AoB on the high street. The band's licencing deal with Polydor had expired years earlier, so all of their albums were out of print. It was quite sad to always see a gap on the shelves in between AC/DC and Bryan Adams!

Back in 2016, I had sent an email to Demon, suggesting that they look at putting out some sort of AoB release in the UK, even if it was just a budget compilation. They responded, saying that my suggestion would be passed on to the label managers for consideration. Whether my email actually got them on some sort of list, I've no idea! But whatever, it was finally happening.

Demon had already prepared a new AoB best of as part of their Gold series, which would follow on from recent releases by the likes of Five Star and Belinda Carlisle. Ace Of Base Gold would re-package Playground's 2008 Greatest Hits, together with 2015's Hidden Gems, all for the bargain price of £6.00! On release in October 2019, it went on to become the band's first entry on the official UK charts in 20 years, entering at an impressive #11 on the Physical Albums Chart.

But that wasn't all - next on the agenda would be a boxset that would include deluxe versions of all of the albums, including some of the best remixes commissioned over the years, as well as more demos and alternative versions of songs from the archives. Tom described it as a "bijou time capsule experience", with each album placed in a mini-gatefold, and new artwork based on the original designs.

This sounded like the sort of release that Acers had dreamed of for many years - and best of all, I knew that it would be of a high standard because Tom already had a very good reputation amongst music collectors for the huge amount of effort he puts into every one of his releases. He'd previously worked on projects for artists such as Bananarama, Shakespears Sister, M People and Steps, with great track listings, beautiful artwork and a lot of attention to detail. Speaking to Tom, it was clear that he was passionate about putting together really special releases with all the material that fans would like to see. A refreshing change from the "will this do" attitude of most re-issues you see these days.

We made sure that we had compiled a full list of absolutely everything that we knew existed. So that was every single remix, including ones that had only been available on promo vinyl for instance, as well as all of the demo tracks that had been released by Jonas or Claes over the years, and some of the more "mythical" ones that we just knew the title of! Tom then worked with Playground, Jonas and some other industry contacts to find masters of as many of the tracks as possible, and I helped by ripping CDs of some of the more obscure tracks.

A few months later, we invited a few other fans to help provide more content. Rodrigo Navarrete and Mike Ross were brought in as they had previously worked with Playground on a potential remix album for The Bridge, which had never come to fruition, and Rod had also released exclusive demo material through his website The Ace Of Base Hub, in coordination with Claes and the label.

In addition, Ritchie Stubbs was asked to help provide additional audio and visual material, as he probably has the biggest AoB collection in the world! Fred Bronson, the well-known music journalist and long-time writer for Billboard magazine, was asked to write the liner notes, and he came up with a really interesting take on the Ace Of Base story, based on an interview he'd done with Ulf a few years earlier.

The final track listing was put together by Tom, with final approval given by the band members. With regards to how the bonus tracks were chosen, priority was given to those that had not been released on CD before, and then with consideration to whether they had already been included on Gold, and of course the song or remix on its own merits.

As the 195-track boxset went online for pre-order, it exceeded expectations by selling out very quickly, prompting Demon to request another batch to be printed. It was great to see it receive such a warm reception from Acers and record collectors alike, with the magazine Classic Pop describing it as "lavish", saying that it would cement the band's legacy.

It was finally released in July 2020, alongside a set of four coloured vinyl editions of the band's studio albums. If you haven't yet picked up a copy, both the CD and vinyl collections are still available to purchase from Amazon. But there's more to come - get ready for Record Store Day 2022, as on April 23, a special 12" picture disc of the single All That She Wants will be released, complete with a special "double-groove ACE side".

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOXSET:

Couldn't Care Less / Wish You Were Mine

Two of the tracks which were co-written and produced by the band in the late 2000s with Jenny's husband Jakob. They were intended for the Redefined album, which ultimately was never finished.

Peepshow / Sunshine

Previously unreleased Tech Noir-era tracks, as performed live in Gothenburg in August 1990, just two days after Ulf joined the band. These, as well as two other cover tracks, were recorded "off the deck" straight on to a DAT tape and are an interesting part of Ace history.

Edge Of Heaven [Remixes]

Three unheard remixes were found in the archives, which seemingly confirms our previous suspicions that this was at one point being considered as a single from The Bridge - possibly as an alternative option to Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry in the USA.

Always Have, Always Will [Matt Pop Remix]

A smash hit in the UK at Christmas 1998, this was an unexpected choice of single by London Records. But unfortunately they never commissioned any remixes. After 22 years, we finally got our first official remix of this song, by popular Dutch producer Matt Pop, who has previously worked on tracks for ABBA, Kylie Minigue and Steps. And what a great mix!



Stranger To Love

Always one of the fans' favourite unreleased demos, it was a big surprise that it wasn't selected for the first Hidden Gems album. We'd already had slightly dodgy rips of both the version intended for The Bridge and the one for Flowers, but now finally we have them both in high quality! Originally just 15 tracks, this new version of the album contains an incredible 46 tracks that never made the cut of any of the group's studio albums.

Never Gonna Say I'm Sorry [Singlewave Remix]
Beautiful Life [Mike Ross Definitive Club Mix]

After having gained recognition in the community as two of the most talented Acer remixers, it was great to see Rod and Mike finally get their work out there on an official release, and that it went on to spark a series of digital singles which I hope will continue.

C'est La Vie (Always 21) [UK Remixes]
Everytime It Rains [US Remixes]
Cecilia [In Da Nite Remix]

Remix lovers were particularly pleased to see a number of official remixes that were previously only available on promotional 12" vinyl, now finally released in clean digital versions. The Sleazesisters Mix of C'est La Vie is a personal favourite!

The Ace Queen

Who keeps the Acer spirit alive

Written by Valentin

It is a well known fact that in the early Ace of Base years, 1992-1994, the era of the Happy Nation/ The Sign album, Jenny had a "second part role" in the band since Linn was singing most of the songs. Respectively, the spotlight was focused on her sister Malin. In fact, Jenny appeared as an equal lead vocalist of the band in The Bridge album, which was released in 1995. Since then, she has also been writing songs and performing solo. She composed several songs for the band's The Bridge album, including "Ravine", a song about an attack that occurred the night of 27 April 1994. Jenny also composed "Wave We Sand" and "Experience Pearls". She then continued to compose songs for the band's albums, and her compositions have been included on each successive album.

In 1998, when the Flowers/Cruel Summer album was released, the fans were very surprised to see that Linn had stepped back and relinquished lead vocal duties to Jenny. Jenny was forced into a more prominent vocal role. The same year in the documentary Ace of Base The Story, Linn says: "Jenny wants to try what I have done and I want to try what she has done". Ulf says: "I saw Jenny, I have never seen before, when she took the step to the front. She was incredibly strong, she did it so well and I was so impressed." Jenny had been taking singing lessons every day to prepare herself for the album and to gather more confidence. In the documentary she says: "I have been very muchbstruggling to get my confidence back in singing because it was all broken and so painful. But now it is not painful. It is more like, wow, let's wait till you see what I have got." And she really did a great job not only with the singing of most of the songs on the album but promoting it all over the world together with Ulf and Jonas. The european album's lead single "Life Is a Flower" was released in mainland Europe in April 1998, and became the most-played track on European radio of the year.

The fourth studio album, Da Capo, was released on September 30, 2002, in Europe, and in Japan. Only Jenny and Ulf went on a promotional tour of Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Germany, Poland and Austria. Jonas chose to forego promotional activities because "it was better to be two then" and led to "less questions" about Linn's lack of participation. Linn attended only one performance in Germany, which was her last public appearance. The next two years were inactive for the band but Jenny performed solo live performances in several Christian shows with her husband Jakob Petrén and released an album as a vocalist with the Swedish group Arose. At the end of 2005, the group reunited, without Linn, for several live performances at the Night of the Proms in Belgium.

On November 15, 2007, Ace of Base reunited as a trio to perform their first full-length concert since 1996 in Yekaterinburg, Russia. They embarked on a world tour called Ace Of Base - Redefined!, which continued throughout 2008 and 2009. The set list included several new versions of their greatest hits. There were many brilliant live performances by Jenny and manymeetings with Acers. Jenny confirmed Linn's permanent departure from the group, saying 'She hasn't been a part of Ace of Base for several years" in Se & Hør Magazine.

While touring, the group performed a brand new song



Jenny on the stage. Velodrom, Berlin 2014

called "Sparks From A Fire". The band teamed up with Jenny's husband Jakob to record material for a new studio album, which would consist of seven new songs and seven remakes of old hits. However, this album was not released.

In August 2009, in an interview with Digital Spy, Ulf mentioned adding another singer to the group alongside Jenny, explaining: "We're just deciding now whether to add a fourth member to the group again or to bring it out under a new name. At the moment we think it would be stronger with two female singers, so it's a little technical problem to solve." During this time, Ulf and Jonas began recording songs with another two female singers. In a later interview with Aftonbladet, Jenny claimed "They didn't want to be with me", and that she was not allowed to participate in songwriting. Jonas and Ulf then said in an interview with Scandipop that Jenny wasn't happy with plans to introduce a new member, and while she never formally quit the group, they felt that they had no choice but to proceed without her. The same year, Jenny announced via Twitter that she was working on new songs for a solo album.

In late 2009, Jenny published her autobiography Vinna hela världen. The first edition of the book sold out in Sweden and a second edition had to be pressed. An English version was to be called To Win the World and was planned to be available in 2011, but a release has yet to surface.

On New Year's Day 2010, Jenny released her solo song, "Free Me", as a free download to her fans via her new website. In May 2010, she released her first solo single, "Here I Am". The single reached number 14 on the Swedish singles charts.On 15 September 2010 she released her second single, "Gotta Go". Her debut album, My Story, was released on 13 October 2010.

Jenny Berggren was revealed on 3 February 2011 to be a wildcard for the Danish national final for the Eurovision Song Contest 2011 with her entry "Let Your Heart Be Mine". At the national final on 26 February 2011, she performed "Let Your Heart Be Mine". After the first round of voting, she failed to place in the top four and did not advance further in the competition, even though the song was very good and Jenny's performance was stunning.

In November 2012, Jenny was quoted as saying, "The rest of the band are doing other things. ...We're just wishing each other luck at this stage. I have a dream that we'll get back together, so I don't want to bang anyone on the head". After that Jenny began touring as "Jenny from Ace of Base" alongside popular Eurodance acts from the decade.

In 2015 Jenny participated in the TV4 show Så mycket bättre. One of the very good and memorable songs of hers was the song "Come", a cover version of the Swedish hit song "Om" originally written and performed by Niklas Strömstedt.

In 2016, Jenny stated: "We won't re-form ..... We're finished working together but we're not finished being family together. We have a lot of fun plans in the future but no musical plans." Ever since, Jenny has been touring all around the world together with other artists and bands from the 90's. There are many videos on the internet of the Meets and Greets with the Acers.

In an interview for the instagram group BG Fan Ace of Base and the facebook group Acer City, during a Meet and Greet in Kaunas, Lithuania in December 2021, Jenny answered questions asked by Acers. She greets all Acers from the facebook group Acer City. During the interview Jenny sings the Bulgarian folklore song "Nazad, Nazad, Mome Kalino", which she had to learn for 10 minutes before a concert in Lovech, Bulgaria back in 2008. She says that she loves that song and she often sings it to herself especially when doing some home stuff.

The Ace Queen forever

Why the Ace Queen? Because as long as there are Acers we need our Queen and we crown her because she deserves it. Why does she "keep the Acer spirit alive"? Seriously, do I still need to answer that?

Thank You Jenny

Thank you Jenny for being such an amazing, positive, compassionate, smiling, caring and down to earth person who is always very nice to the fans! Thank you for getting through all your struggles in order to deliver all the brilliant songs to us! Thank you for your music! You are an example, how a shy girl with a lack of confidence transformed into a very confident and strong natural superstar, our Ace Queen Jenny.

50th Anniversary

In May 2022 Jenny turns 50 years old. Let's celebrate her birthday together! If You want to join to the surprise gift for Jenny, please record video with wishes for her and send it to Ace of Base House fanpage via Facebook. Let's make a video with all Acers together!

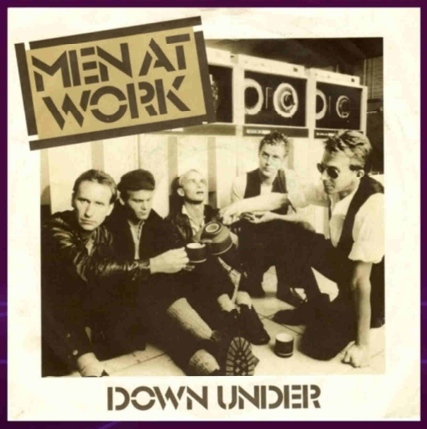
"I saw Jenny, I have never seen before, when she took the step to the front. She was incredibly strong, she did it so well and I was so impressed."

BACK TO THE 16 SONGS THAT INSPIRED THE CLASSIC ACE SOUND!

When Jonas Berggren invited Ulf Ekberg to join his band in 1990, the two friends brought a number of musical influences to the table, with the aim of creating their own signature sound. Here are 16 tracks that definitely, probably or just possibly, helped them on the way - from the synth-pop and Italo disco of their youth, to the early house and techno tracks that were in the charts at the time.

Written by Ben

Men At Work



Down Under (1981)
This Australian band mixed new-wave pop with a cod-reggae sound and scored a global hit with this in the early 80s, which Jonas cited as one of his favourite songs of all time in an 1995 interview.

The Human League



Don't You Want Me (1981)
Another one of Jonas' favourites, this synth-pop classic from Sheffield's finest was covered by Tech Noir at some of their gigs, with a live version of it emerging on the 2020 All That She Wants boxset.

Scotch



Disco Band (1983)
As Tech Noir member Niklas Tränk said in Our Story, Jonas was a true "Italo disco freak". This was evidently one of his favourite bands because they regularly performed a medley of their songs, including this one, at their gigs. You can also find the Scotch-Medley on the boxset!

Depeche Mode



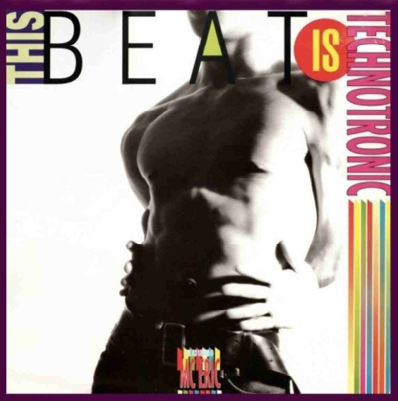
Strangelove (1987)
According to one biography, Jonas and Ulf's early friendship grew from a mutual love of Depeche Mode. The synth-pop pioneers were clearly an influence on Joker and Buddha, with this song in particular sounding quite familiar, don't you think?

The KLF



What Time Is Love? (1990)
Claes Cornelius has often remarked that one of the main reasons AoB sent their demos to Mega Records was because they held the Scandinavian licence for this British group. You can't fail to hear their influence in tracks such as Fashion Party and Voulez-Vous Danser.

Technotronic



This Beat Is Technotronic (1990)
As well as the German group Snap!, this Belgian house act is often cited as an early influence on AoB. Linn borrowed the rap from this 1990 single for Sunshine, the very first reggae-inspired song the band recorded.

Kraftwerk



Computer Love (1981)
Widely considered the godfathers of electronic music, Ulf bought his first Kraftwerk album when he was 8 years old - and they were a huge influence on him. He once said "they showed the world that you could combine music with technology.. and that was exactly what I wanted to do".

P.Lion



Happy Children (1984)
Another one of Jonas' favourite Italo disco records, this was a hit across Europe in 1984 for Pietro Paolo Pelandi. You can hear Tech Noir's take on the track in the aforementioned Scotch-Medley.

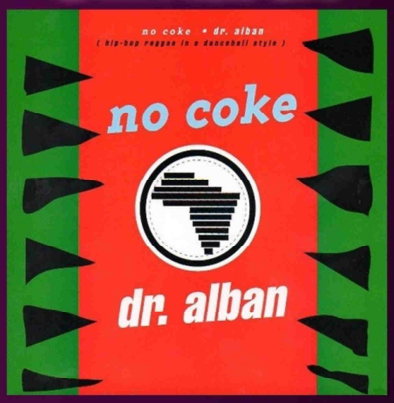
Kayo



Another Mother (1990)
On hearing this single in a record store one day, Jonas and Ulf looked at each other and knew that this was the sound they were looking for. After finding out it was produced by Denniz PoP, they sent a demo tape to his SweMix studios.. and well, you know the rest of the story!

80s

Dr. Alban



No Coke (1990)
AKA Jonas' nemesis - he couldn't understand why record labels would sign him but not AoB! He was fond of this record though, another one of Denniz's early hits that convinced him he was the man they needed to work with.

Yazoo



Don't Go (1982)
The brainchild of former Depeche Mode member Vince Clarke, Yazoo were another of Jonas' favourites in his teenage years. This timeless classic combines synths with a pop melody and a soulful vocal performance from Alison Moyet.

Righeira



Vamos a la playa (1983)
This summer hit from Turin lacked credibility but it's damn catchy. Despite the beach-themed lyrics though, the song is actually about an atomic bomb explosion! Another of Tech Noir's favourite cover songs, this was performed in early gigs as a medley with Don't You Want Me.

ABBA



The Day Before You Came (1982)
In spite of - or perhaps because of - all the endless comparisons, AoB have rarely mentioned ABBA themselves in interviews. The Swedes are famous for being particularly adept at melancholic pop... and wouldn't this song just fit very nicely on The Bridge?

Beats International



Dub Be Good To Me (1990)
A cover of the SOS Band's Just Be Good To Me from 1983, this updated version shot to number 1 in the UK in 1990, and was one of the first examples of house music fused with reggae. A top 10 hit also in Sweden, it can't have failed to have made an impression on our Aces.

Bonus Article



Animotion

Obsession (1984)
There's no real evidence for this one, but it's fun to speculate! A fellow Acer once compared the demo versions of Hear Me Calling to this global hit by a Los Angeles synth-pop group. Can you hear it too?

Saint Etienne



Only Love Can Break Your Heart (1991)
Not a band that I've ever heard the band reference before, but this record could almost have been the blueprint for All That She Wants. If not Jonas or Ulf, perhaps it was a source of inspiration to Denniz PoP?

Check out the full playlist on Spotify:
https://tinyurl.com/aob80s



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