

25th Anniversary of *Cassandra*

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25 years ago, on July 7th 1984, the single "*Cassandra*", released by **Philips Records** and performed by **José Hoebee** and **Bonnie St Claire**, entered the Dutch charts. It later peaked at **#24** on the **Top 40** and **#19** on the **Nationale Hitparade** (currently **Singles Top 100**).

After **Luv's** break-up in 1981, **José** was the former member of the girl group who enjoyed the most successful solo career. She scored two big chart toppers in Holland and Belgium (the #1 song "*I Will Follow Him*" and "*Secret Love*" in 1982) as well as a couple of moderate hit records ("*The Good Times*", "*I Can Hear Music*" and "*Time Goes By*"). In early 1984, she experienced a new phase of her career thanks to the popular duet single "*So Long, Marianne*" with **Ron Brandsteder** (see article posted on February 18th 2009).

Soon after, **José** recorded with **Bonnie St Claire** (her best friend in showbiz) a Dutch cover version of "*Cassandra*" (this track was originally performed by **ABBA** and was the B-side of their single "*The Day Before You Came*" in 1982). **Will Hoebee** (**José's** husband), then a highly demanded record producer, supervised the recording of this duet. **Benny Neyman** (a famous artist from **Will's** roster) wrote the Dutch text of this song.

The two singers (credited as "**Bonnie & José**" on their recording) knew each others for years as they had the same management (**Interlinde** runned by **Pim ter Linde**) in the late 1970's and early 1980's. After *Cassandra's* respectable success on the charts, the ladies decided to continue their professional relationship. In 1985, they were involved in the **ABBAcadra** project (a TV musical for children based on songs of **ABBA**). **Bonnie** played the role of **Sleeping Beauty** and **José** had the role of **Snow White**. Then, they recorded a whole LP (entitled **Herinnering**) with **ABBA** standards. This opus contained the Top 40 hit "*Zoals Vrienden Doen*" (*The Way Old Friends Do*).

These tributes to the Fab Four from Sweden happened long before the **ABBA Gold** compilation and the musical **Mamma Mia!** became monster hits.

Sources:

* **Top 40 Hitdossier 1956-2005** (9e editie) by **Johan van Slooten**, publ: Gottmer
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* Dutch Charts: <http://www.dutchcharts.nl/>