

INTERVIEW

Jos Theuns: he will follow **José!!!!**

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José & Jos at the latest "meet 'n greet" day (September 28th 2008)

Jos Theuns is more than a fan of **José Hoebee**. He is the administrator of the singer's official fan site, in association with **Peter Boonstra** (founder of the club). He's now a friend of **Luv's** lead vocalist and knows a lot about her. He often updates the website by posting unique pictures and audio files. I had the chance to see him at **José's** latest "meet 'n greet" afternoon in September. I wish I could have talked to him during this event but he was so busy. Fortunately, there's internet. He always replies to my emails. Because he's part of **José's** world, I've decided to ask him questions. That's how this interview has been possible.



José & Jos on December 5th 1981 (their first meeting)

Ralph: When and how did you become a **José** fan?

Jos: Everything started when **Luv'** appeared on the TV show "**Het is weer zo laat (Waldolala)**" (1) on **VPRO**. Then I saw **José** in 1981 at the **Hitkrant Zomerspelen** (2). The **Luv'** girls walked next to me but I didn't dare to say anything. Then it was quiet around **José** when **Luv'** disbanded and she went later to the USA with **Will** (3) to marry him. I sent a stuffed animal for their wedding and I got a nice letter from her. That's how everything started.

I heard in late 1981 that she was about to perform her solo debut single on "**Los-Vast**" (a radio programme on **NCRV**). That's when I really talked to her for the first time. It was immediately good.

Ralph: What are your favourite **José** songs? How did her music change and influence your life?

Jos: My favourite songs are *Secret Love*, *The Good Times*, *Hey now watcha gonna do*, *Time goes by* and *Don't Give Up* with **Piet Souer**, *Mother of the hearts* (from **Luv**'s fourth LP), *Vriendschap* (from the **Herrinerig** LP with **Bonnie St. Claire**). Immediately when **José** went solo, I collected everything and there's always a moment of the day when I think of her.

Ralph: Are their tracks you like the least?

Jos: Actually there are no songs that I like the least, well maybe *I Can Hear Music*.

Ralph: **José** is a part of **Luv**'. What do you think about her career in the group?

Jos: **José** was and is the lead singer. So she deserved to stay in the middle during performances but blonde **Marga** had to be in this place. She did a great job and still does it.

Ralph: You are now a friend of **José** and **Will**. How did it happen? When did you first meet **José**? What are the reasons of her confidence in you?

Jos: I first met **José** when she performed on the show **Los-Vast** in the **NCRV** building (see first question). It was really great, she was so friendly and a normal person. She won my affections. I've never been intrusive and that's what she appreciates. When she performed somewhere, she always wanted to know if I was among the audience and she often said it to the public. After the show, I was often allowed to go backstage to meet her and I talked to **Will** and her convivially. I think it's the reason of our special relationship.

Ralph: You saw many of **José**'s performances but which of the concerts were the best according to you?

Jos: All the shows were great. It was always exciting to see what she would wear when she appeared on stage. She always started her performance with *Secret Love*. Sometimes she sang with a real band and of course it was special.

Ralph: Which of the fan club meetings was the best according to you?

Jos: Last year's meeting was the best (4).

Ralph: Now it's quiet around **Luv**' even if an official farewell isn't planned. Do you know if the ladies carry on?

Jos: I've no idea. I'm not really informed about it because most of their performances are private and late in the evening. I'm too old to stay for three hours in a disco. A big concert hall is too impersonal.

Ralph: **José** wants to relaunch her solo career. Does it mean that she will record new material and that she will perform again?

Jos: **José** wants to go solo again and it's good news for me. She's expected to do something in Belgium. I don't think that she'll record new songs.

Ralph: What was your reaction during **Patty** and **José's** conflict?

Jos: I won't say a word about it except this: **unforgivable**

Ralph: According to you what is the greatest moment in **José's** career?

Jos: When she hit the number one spot on her own (5). It was her moment and she's still proud of it.

Ralph: You've been busy with the official **José** club with **Peter** for a couple of years. How did it happen? What are the next plans for the club?

Jos: I've been the club's administrator for almost one year. **Peter** asked me to do it as he's very busy. I'm not working unfortunately so I have time and I do it willingly. Actually there are no plans for 2009. There'll be a time when all the photos are shown. But I will carry on. Somehow I'll find out something new.

Ralph: You know a lot of anecdotes about **José**. Can you tell me a special story about her?

Jos: On May 15th 1982 I went to Oldeberkoop in Friesland (in the north of the Netherlands). **José** was there to sing *I will follow him* live for the first time on the radio show **Los-Vast**. Every artist had to perform live on this programme. **José's** mother warned me not to disturb her because she was very nervous. So I entered the hall and enjoyed the show very much. After that, I saw her sitting behind the building. She asked me how she had been. I answered she had been great. **José** told me she couldn't close her eyes and said: "my legs were tremblings but bit by bit I felt better".

José was suffering from the fact that it was told that the **Luv'** girls couldn't really sing. She added: "Well, I've show them what I can do" and she was very happy about it. Then she talked about a nice dress she had bought to perform on TV (it was the one she wore on the single cover).

Ralph: Apart from **José**, which Dutch and foreign artists do you like?

Jos: **BZN, Abba, Bee Gees.**

Ralph: If you could determine it: with whom would you like to see **José** sing a duet?

Jos: **Albert West** or **Guus Meeuwis.**

Ralph: According to you why did it take so long to release a **José** CD compilation?

Jos: I don't know maybe a question of money. I'm grateful for what **Willem van Schijndel** (6) did.

Ralph: Why does **José** (who's very talented) have no chance to score a new hit? Is it because she has stopped her career for a long moment to devote time to her family? Except the 1993 comeback with **Luv'**, between 1989 (when she stopped) and 2003 (when she started again), a lot of things happened (internet, downloads, digital music, new styles, new bands...).

Jos: Back then she chose to raise her child on her own and that was a good thing for her. Just before that, she had made very good records but they were no hits. I don't know why. By the way, I think that some artists are too much aired on the radio.

Ralph: **José** is the only **Luv'** member who has so much attention from her public. Why?

Jos: Because **José** wants it. She wants to give her public something in return. That's the way she is.

Ralph: **José** took part in talent shows in the 1970's before **Luv'**. Today these shows are broadcast on TV (**Popstars**, **X Factor**, **Pop Idols**....). What's your opinion on these competitions? What are the differences between the talent shows **José** did and the current ones?

Jos: I never watch these programmes and nothing acceptable comes out of it.

Ralph: What do you think about the two other **Luv'** ladies (**Patty** and **Marga**)?

Jos: **Marga** is nice. **Patty**? See above

Ralph: Will **Peter** and you organise another "meet'n greet" afternoon?

Jos: I think so as **José** was satisfied with it and everyone thought it was a success

Ralph: You know that I am French. Do you listen to French singing artists?

Jos: I used to listen to **Françoise Hardy**, **Adamo** and **Gilbert Becaud**.

Ralph: Do you like contemporary artists?

Jos: **Belle Perez** is good and I appreciate **Katie Melua** but except them no-one else.

BIG THANKS to **Jos** for making this interview possible and for your incredible pictures and audio files on **José's** site!!!

For more infos:

<http://muziek.clubs.nl/josehoebee>

Notes:

* (1): **Het is weer zo laat (Waldolala)** is a TV series which was **Luv's** breakthrough in early 1978 in Holland as they performed the opening theme.

* (2): **Hitkrant zomerspelen** is a summer multi-sport event with Dutch celebrities which was organized by teen magazine **Hitkrant** at the theme park Efteling. **Luv'** participated in August 1981 in this competition after their break-up five months earlier.

* (3): Record producer **Will Hoebee** married **José** in **David Soul's** mansion in October 1981 in Los Angeles.

* (4): **José's** latest fan club afternoon was held on September 28th 2008 in Best, North Brabant.

* (5): **José** scored a Dutch and Belgian **#1 hit single** (***I Will Follow Him***) in 1982. That's when she reached her peak as a solo artist.

* (6): **Willem van Schijndel** runs an independant label (**WVS Music**) that released **José's** only CD compilation in September 2005.