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Jessica: interview of Patty's greatest fan



Jessica & Patty Brard

Jessica van Riel is a young and hardcore fan of **Patty Brard**. She has often met her idol and has been in charge of the fan site of the "enfant terrible" of **Luv'** since 2007 with the agreement of the diva herself.

Jessica has accepted to answer my questions about her passion, her site, her impressions and opinion on her favourite singer and TV host. She represents a new generation of fans: those who were born long after the **Shownieuws** presenter had started her career.

Ralph: How old are you? Do you study? Do you have a job?

Jessica: I'm 20 years old. I have a degree in **Foodservice management** but this education was a wrong choice. Now, I have a job at **Albert Heijn** (a Dutch supermarket) and I really enjoy it.

Ralph: When you were younger and you were not a **Patty** and **Luv'** fan yet, did you know the ladies? Have you already watched **Patty** on TV?

Jessica: I first saw **Patty** as she hosted **Brard Gaat Extreem** and **Big Brother**. I had her CD "**Ik Ga Extreem**" but I didn't know her well at that time. I've really known her since "**Patty's Posse**" (her succesful TV docusoap in 2003) and after the first broadcast, I found her immediately cool. After a couple of episodes, I became one of her fans. Because I was a fan, I was looking for everything she did before. Then I

discovered **Luv'** and that's how I also admired **Marga** and **José** that I first met at the Fanclub day in 2006.

R: What are your first **Patty** and **Luv'** memories?

J: **Luv'** at the Fanclub day and **Patty** at the **Televizier Awards Gala** in 2005. I really wanted to meet her but I lived in Brabant and I was at school so it was difficult to do it. I was so happy to see her for the very first time.

R: What do your parents and your friends think about your passion?

J: When I told a friend that I was a fan of **Patty**, she said: "No, you don't really mean it". She didn't like her because of the particular way she spoke on TV. Then I replied: "you should meet **Patty!**". And her opinion about her changed after she'd seen her. She appreciated her a lot. She thought: "Mmm, is she really so sympathetic?" and yes, that's what she found out.

R: How many times have you met **Patty** and **Luv'**? Which **Luv'/Patty** live performances did you enjoy?

J: I met **Patty** 32 times including 10 times with **Luv'**. I really loved the performances in **Utrecht** (I went backstage and **Patty** brought me back home after this concert), at the **Efteling** (the biggest theme park in the Netherlands) and **Lelystad** because **Patty** regularly looked at me and she waved at me.

R: I imagine that everytime you met **Patty** it was a unique moment. Which occasion was the best or the most surprising?

J: There were several special moments. The first one in **Utrecht** because she brought me back home and the second one when I went to **Shownieuws** with my friend. We were waiting for **Patty** after the show and suddenly we were allowed to go backstage. We didn't expect it! Another great moment happened when I went to **Shownieuws** on my own. She didn't expect me and she was brought downstairs because she

tought someone was waiting for her with presents. She supposed it was someone of sponsoring but it was me! And she was really nice to me.

R: When and why did you start your fansite fansite? How did **Patty** give you her agreement? Was it easy?

J: I started my fansite on June 28th 2007. When I was in **Patty's** car, we had a talk and then she said it would be nice if I started a fansite. That's how it happened. It was easy due to the fact I knew the clubs.nl site (a web hosting service which provides fanclub sites like the **All You Need Is Luv'** site and the official **José** fansite).

R: What are your favourite songs of **Patty**, **Luv'**, **José** and **Marga**?

J: **Patty: Woman In Love, Ik Ga Extreem, Roses and You Stole A Little Piece Of My Heart. José: I Can Hear Music, Casualty, Hey Now Watcha Gonna Do. Marga: One, Two, Three...Bananas. Marga's Luv': Jungle Jive, Welcome To My Party Luv': My Guy, Get Ready, Dandy, U.O.Me, Trojan Horse**

R: Are there songs you don't like?

J: Yes, the tracks I don't like are **Ann-Maria, Flash, Cloud nr 9, Hang On.**

I don't appreciate **Louis je t'adore** at all.

R: **Patty** has presented a lot of TV programmes for many years. Which one do you prefer?

J: **Patty's Posse** is my favourite show of **Patty**. It's from the moment that this docusoap was broadcast that I really knew her.

R: Through your fansite, you've been in touch with young **Patty** and **Luv'** fans. You know that the majority of the singers admirers are over 30. Do you think that a new generation of fans exists because of your site or other initiatives on internet?

J: I don't think it's because of my site that young fans are interested in **Luv'**. If there are people who want to become **Patty's** fans, they can have a look on internet and then they may be linked to **Luv'** and may be fans of them. That's what happened to me and might occur to young fans (less than 30).

R: Is there another way of being a **Patty** or **Luv'** fan if you're less than 30 or older?

J: Yes, I think there are differences between old and young fans. People who knew **Luv'** from the past have other experiences and can realize how popular they used to be. They also remember how it felt like when the Lps and singles came out. We, the young fans, have heard the stories of their glory and have watched the pictures from the past, though we were not born.

R: A string of polls and surveys about the "most irritating Dutch celebrities" has been published. **Patty** always reached the Top 3 of these studies. What do you think about it?

J: I think it's a pity. I don't agree with it. Many people have a bad image of her because she is a big mouth. She may seem vulgar. But when you meet her for real and talk to her, she's so nice and friendly. She is definitely not a irritating celebrity. I don't think she's unpretty on TV but instead she's cool.

R: Don't you think it's a good thing that she has publicity and keeps the medias attention (even for bad reasons)?

J: No, I don't think so. Publicity is ok as long as it's positive.

R: Is there a "love/hate" relationship between the diva and the public (I mean people who are not fans)?

J: I don't consider it as a "love/hate" relationship.

R: When will you meet Patty again?

J: I'll go to **Shownieuws** in June to wait for Patty. But I don't know when yet. One way or another I'll see her when she'll host her programme.

R: According to you, what is the reason why Patty has the most successful solo career in comparison with **José** and **Marga**?

J: I think she has chosen her fate whereas José stopped her solo career to raise her son. **Patty** has always been active and **Marga** had a shop and retired from show business. **Patty** wanted to host a programme on TV. I don't know if this is the reason of her success. All these things happened before the time I became fan.

R: You know I'm French. Do you know French artists? Do you listen to them?

J: I know a couple of them: **Alizée**, **Kim Kay** (she's Belgian and sings in French)...

R: How will you develop your fan site?

J: Hopefully I'll get more and more members and visitors. That's why the forum is active. Everytime I meet **Patty** or **Luv'**, I ask for infos (news, future projects...). After a meeting, I post photos on my site.