

# An afternoon with a fan

On October 4th 2008, I spent a nice afternoon with **Martin Vink**, a hardcore fan of **LUV'** who has an impressive collection of unique items.

## An Afternoon With **Martin**

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José Hoebee & Martin Vink at the latest "Meet'n Greet" day on September 28th 2008

What makes life so interesting is when you meet nice persons. That's what has happened to me recently. I made the acquaintance of **Martin Vink** (a big **Luv'** fan) at the latest **José Hoebee's "meet 'n greet" day** on September 28th in Best. We immediately felt that we had a lot in common. **Martin** was accompanied by his friend, **Frank**. He asked questions about my origin, how I became a fan of **Luv'** and **José....**

He said that "**Luv'** had been part of his life for 30 years". He told me nice stories about the group. He also introduced me to one his best friend and a faithful fan: **Arnold**. When I saw **Martin** and **Arnold** side by side, one picture of them posted on the **Luvclub** came to my mind. I remembered that the boys posed besides **Patty Brard**. I asked them about it. **Martin** answered that indeed they attended a live performance of **Patty** in May. At that time, they expected to see a **Luv'** show but because **José** suffered from slipped discs, **Luv'** had to cancel it. Instead of it, **Patty** had sung solo.

Moreover, **Martin** told me a moving story about **Patty**. In late 1993, the TV diva went bankrupt and auctioned her possessions. **Martin** and other fans bought the tea service of **Priscilla (Brard's daughter)** and give it to the **Luv'** singer in 1999 on a TV show on **Veronica**.

**Martin** and me had a connection. To my great surprise, he invited me to his house near Roosendaal (in the south of the Netherlands). I accepted. It was the first time that a real **Luv'** fan accepted to let me discover his world. Of course, I'd been in touch with some fans before but these were only email contacts. Internet is a fantastic invention but "real" conversations with human beings are better.

Five days later, on October 4th, I met **Martin** in his house. I spent the whole afternoon with him talking about our favourite artists. **Martin** took me to his attic bedroom to show me his impressive collection. WOW!!! It was like **Ali Baba's** cave. A real goldmine. There were a profusion of records, articles from **Luv's** heyday to recent times, pictures that I'd never seen, videos, merchandising goods, etc....It was impossible to see everything. I would need a whole week to see all these items!!!!

I appreciated the hospitality of **Martin** and **Frank** (his friend). They were nice to me. Bedankt jongens (Thank you boys)!!!!

Because I'd never watched "**Back In Luv**" (the reality TV show about **Luv's** comeback aired in Holland and Belgium in 2006), **Martin** kindly proposed me to watch the first episode of this programme. **Back In Luv'** had never been broadcast in France and on internet. That's why it had been impossible for me to watch it. Of course, I had written articles (based on the news alerts and the fans comments) about the docusoap on my former weblog. But I had no opinion about it. Now it's different because of **Martin**!!! I liked the TV show and appreciated the humour of the **Luv'** ladies (especially **Marga Scheide**, I didn't know she could make such ironic remarks!). I remembered one sequence of **Back In Luv'** when you could see **Luv's** gold and platina records in **Marga's** house. One of the gold discs hung on the wall was made by **Martin**, **Arnold** and other fans to reward the achievement of 50 000 sales of "**All You Need Is Luv**" (the group's last studio album). **Martin** told me he had made it in addition to the gold record **Luv'** had received from their label. I was surprised that **All You Need Is Luv'** sold well and I always thought it had been a flop. Actually, It never entered the charts. In 1994, this album was only available in the **Kruitvat** shops (a chain of drugstores) which weren't included in the list of stores compiled for the record charts. That's why you'll never see the gold disc of **All You Need Is Luv'** on the database of **NVPI** (the Dutch Recording Association which gives the official certifications). What a pity that this album wasn't better packaged (the design of the cover with **Luv'** in **Harley Davidsson** outfits is horrible!!!!) and wasn't better distributed!!! It could have been a real mainstream success if **Luv'** had signed a deal with a major company. They could have made real music videos. Anyway, though some mistakes, **All You Need Is Luv's** performance was respectable (though I hate the **medley** (with re-recorded hits) on it. I prefer the **Megamix '93** and **Luv' Hitpack**...

Another sequence was weird: **José's** eyelid reduction!!! I know that the singer wrote about it in her column. But I 'd never seen the images. I don't think it was necessary to show **José** during this plastic surgery operation. I prefer to see it as I'm watching the "**Nip/Tuck**" TV series (when I know it's fictional). But this is Dutch TV and everything has been "Endemolised" in the Netherlands. The TV producers and the tabloid press think you have to show everything (plastic surgery, sex tapes, celebrities spare tyres as their lying on the beach....). This point of view has even contaminated France. I prefer glamour and mystery to vulgarity. Well, let's go back to my story!!!

**Martin** had put all of his items in big plastic boxes. I asked him a lot of questions about **Luv'**. He showed dozens of autographed photos. One of them was special as

you could see the trio in 1996 backstage in **Ahoy**. **Martin** explained that he attended one of the last group's performances before the reunion in 2005-2006. I was surprised about it because I thought that **Luv'** disbanded in 1994.

Then, he showed other videos (including the one in 1999 when he gave **Patty** the tea service of **Priscilla**). It was a moving moment. The diva cried!!! **Patty** said that **Martin** had "the biggest **Luv'** collection" (I guess she's right as I can testify that this is true!!!).

**Martin** is not only interested in **Luv'**. He also loves **Nederpop**, **Dolly Dots**, **BZN**, **Frans Bauer**, etc....I saw items about these artists. I told **Martin** that he could open a museum with all his stuff. His attic is like a subsidiary of "**Beeld en Geluid**" (the repository of Dutch radio and television audiovisual archives)!!!!

I was impressed by his collection and congratulated him on this. As far as I'm concerned, I'm not a real collector. I don't need all the record pressings on eBay. I'm satisfied with the CDs (**Luv' Gold**, **Completely In Luv'**, **25 Jaar Na Waldolala**, **All You Need Is Luv'**....) and a couple of DVDs. The only things I'm looking for are the videos of **Luv'** performing "**Ooh, Yes I Do**" on French TV. I know they exist!!!

Time went so fast and unfortunately I had to leave **Martin**. I had to go back to Eindhoven because the next day I went back home by plane.

I don't regret the nice afternoon we had together. Hopefully I'll see him when I go back to the Netherlands. **Martin** and **Frank** are also welcome to France if they want to go there!!!

