

HISTORY

With their hits DSCHINGHIS KHAN – MOSKAU – HADSCHI HALEF OMAR – ROCKING SON OF DSCHINGHIS KHAN – PISTOLERO - MEXIKO and many more, the German-speaking pop group Dschinghis Khan conquered the world till this day as:

MUSICAL CONQUERORS



All began in 1979:

Ralph Siegel, and Dr. Bernd Meinunger had a vision which should become reality at the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST 1979 – A SONG FOR ISRAEL.

The vision was called – DSCHINGHIS KHAN.

The artists Wolfgang Heichel, Steve Bender, Edina Pop, Henriette Strobel, Laszlo Mandoki and the talented dancer Louis Hendrik Potgieter became the pop group DSCHINGHIS KHAN.

Within 6 weeks only – thus under immense pressure of time and with extreme financial effort the first single record production Dschinghis Khan and Sahara was recorded in the Siegel studios. The hip costume designer, Mark Manó, created the exotic costumes. The internationally acclaimed makeup artist, Heidi Moser, created the distinctive makeups. The professional television choreographer, Hannes Winkler, developed the show for stage dancing and the Dschinghis – Khan - artists worked every day in the studio and rehearsed continuously until the show was perfect.

On March 17th , 1979 the premiere took place at the Rudi-Sedlmayr-Halle in Munich. The pop group Dschinghis Khan participated at the German pre selection for the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST – A SONG FOR ISRAEL with the correspondent title DSCHINGIS KHAN. Dschinghis Khan had only three minutes time to show the German television viewers and the members of jury that they had the best song to represent Germany in Israel. For the counting method the organization had chosen a special procedure. 600 television viewers, that were previously contacted were allowed to vote by phone and computers of an independent institute summed up all the results.

The first votes that were made late at night at the Rudi-Sedlmayer-Halle in Munich, on that memorable March 17th , 1979 already proved that Ralph Siegel had the right vision. Almost everything was decided after only one minute. Second and third place changed several times, but the winner was: DSCHINGHIS KHAN.

So the newcomer DSCHINGHIS KHAN won first place and was selected to represent Germany in Israel at the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

The press, the radio stations and the members of the jury had different opinions about sending Dschingis Khan to Israel. On one hand Dschingis Khan was praised and on the other hand Dschinghis Khan was damned as a Mongolian bunch of violence glorifying people. The protest went so far that several radio stations refused to play the song Dschinghis Khan.

Even the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn became active concerning the German presentation of the “wild Mongolian group” Dschinghis Khan. The performance of Dschingis Khan was stylized to a Pop-Song political issue. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn was worried and asked the former German Ambassador in Israel, H.E. Klaus Schütz, about Israel’s reaction to the subject “Dschinghis Khan”. H.E. Ambassador Klaus Schütz calmed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bonn by quoting the Israeli Embassy assistant, Dan Ashbel, who constituted: “I don’t understand all the excitement. The song of the Germans is very good, the Germans shouldn’t make mountains out of a molehills !!!”

So highest diplomatic levels were involved in that Inner-German controversy about the Mongolian leader, Dschinghis Khan. To emphasize his certificate of innocuousness the Ambassador, Klaus Schütz, held a culinary reception in Jerusalem for the pop group Dschinghis Khan; the only one, that a diplomatic mission ever gave on occasion of the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.



On March 25th, 1979, the pop group Dschinghis Khan met at 12:30 at the airport in Munich to depart for Athens/Tel Aviv. At the stopover in Athens the custom officers already welcomed the pop group with the words: Dsching – Dsching – Dschinghis Khan – fantastic! In Tel Aviv the German pop group was also welcomed with open arms. Everywhere Dschinghis Khan heard the phrase: “We love you! You are fantastic!” Dschinghis Kahn was pleased by the overwhelming sympathy and popularity in Israel and by all participating artists of the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

Then it happened. The 24th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST was broadcasted from Jerusalem around the entire world. 500 million people watched this musical event on TV.

On March 31st, 1979 the pop group Dschinghis Khan presented the hit DSCHINGHIS KHAN in Israel at the Binyanei Ha’Ouma Congress Hall and reached 4th place for Germany. From that day on the musical triumphal procession of Dschinghis Khan was unstoppable. Dschinghis Khan conquered the charts worldwide and it was raining gold and platinum records all around the world. Already on July 16th , 1979, Dschinghis Khan received their first gold record for 800.000 sold copies in Germany.

All in all Dschinghis Khan produced more than 100 songs and published several albums. In the year 1981 Steve Bender left the group before the album “Wir sitzen alle im selben Boot” was published. Dschinghis Khan had further great hits and hit the charts with the songs “Pistolero” and “Loreley”. The pop group Dschinghis Khan played an outstanding role in the German and European music business in the years 1982 and 1983. In the year 1986 the phenomenon Dschinghis Khan was definitely over. The mentors, Ralph Siegel and Dr. Bernd Meinunger, had nothing to oppose the upcoming so called “Deutsche Welle”.

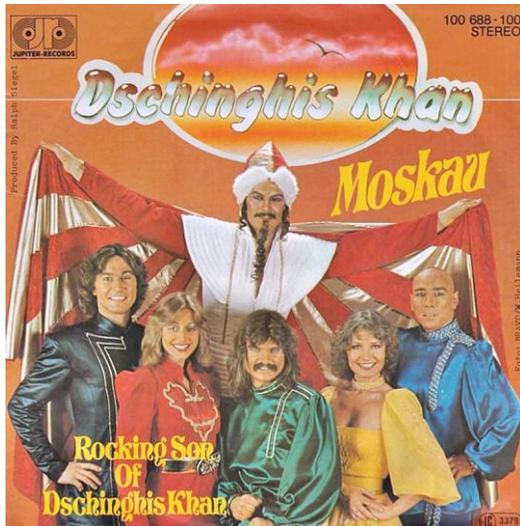


By the middle of the 90ies, the so called "Schlager-Revival" caused a great stir in the domestic German music scene, that caused a constant reminder of the genre classics of the 70ies and 80ies, the hits of Dschinghis Khan, like MOSKAU – DSCHINGHIS KHAN - HADSCHI HALEF OMAR – ROCKING SON OF DSCHINGHIS KHAN – ROM and many more finally succeeded to gain CULT STATUS. In the year 1994 the dancer Louis Hendrik Potgieter died in South Africa.

Apart from Germany, gold and platinum records came from, all in all, 20 countries amongst them Japan, Australia, Korea, The Netherlands, Belgium, Israel, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Norway and Finland. Dschinghis Khan received double platinum from Australia. Also the former states of the USSR and Asia are till this day great enthusiasts of the music of Dschinghis Khan. Till this present day Dschinghis Khan is the only German-speaking pop group which reached 2 x No. 1 of the musical charts in Israel, 3 x No. 1 of the musical charts in Japan and 2 x No. 1 of the musical charts in Australia. All in their German versions. No other German artist has ever achieved anything comparable till this day.

Furthermore Dschinghis Khan reached No. 1 of the musical charts in Brazil, Denmark, Portugal and Belgium. On their second visit to Israel from October 25th to November 3rd , 1979, the German pop group Dschinghis Khan was selected as the most favoured foreign pop group of the year. They were awarded the Israeli Oscar and the Israeli-Egypt Peace Medal in a celebratory ceremony. Already two weeks after the EUROVISION SONG CONTEST Dschinghis Khan hit number 1 in the Israeli charts. This is to be especially noted as the Israeli radio stations never aired a song in German language since the existence of Israeli radio, not mentioning entering the charts. Since 1979 till this day the group Dschinghis Khan is known to the highest extent in the entire Asiatic region. It was already estimated in the year 1981, that approximately 15 million music cassettes had been delivered to the black market in the region of Singapore and Hong Kong in an "unbelievable" copy quality.

Dschinghis Khan was a glamorous showcase for the sound "Made in Munich".



On June 14th, 1979 Dschinghis Khan presented the legendary world hit MOSKAU for the first time. During the times of the “Iron Curtain”, on the occasion of the Olympic Games which took place in Russia in 1980, the pop group Dschinghis Khan made a homage to Russia with the song MOSKAU.

The song MOSKAU reached CULT STATUS in the entire world and is one of the most favoured and well known German sung hits in Russia and worldwide. At that time the pop group Dschinghis Khan selected the Olympic colours for their costumes. Even today Dschinghis Khan are frenetically celebrated when they perform their hit MOSKAU in Russia. It is impossible to imagine Russian radio and TV-Shows and stages without the song MOSKAU.

Wolfgang Heichel, the KHAN from DSCHINGHIS KHAN, felt extremely honoured, as he received a video from Russian fans where the Red Army Choir was singing the song MOSKAU in German at a New Years TV-Show on Russian Television.

In the year 2005 STEVE BENDER was the driving force behind the reunion of Dschinghis Khan. Steve Bender contacted Wolfgang Heichel, the boss of Dschinghis Khan, to inspire him with his idea of a reunion in Russia. A Russian radio station had contacted Steve Bender to organize a jubilee show with Dschinghis Khan. Wolfgang Heichel was very sceptical. As not to say “NO” he proposed to Steve Bender to stage a spectacular show with horses, camels, sedans, pyrotechnics, tigers, elephants, bears, Bolshoi Ballet and a children’s choir. In private Wolfgang Heichel hoped that the case was over, but he was mistaken. Steve Bender called Wolfgang Heichel within one week and said: “Dear Wolfgang, apart of the tigers, the bears and the elephants all your wishes will be fulfilled”.



This was the starting signal for Wolfgang Heichel to get involved with the reunion and the sensational comeback of Dschinghis Khan. Edina Pop and Henriette Strobel were contacted and they likewise were surprised and enthused by this idea. Wolfgang Heichel suggested to reassemble the Dschinghis Khan show by participation of young dancers and a crew of Bolshoi Ballet dancers from Moscow. Stefan Track came to the band to replace the unforgettable Louis Hendrik Potgieter, who died unfortunately 1994. He was also the choreographer of the re-union show. Then everything happened like in 1979. Everything had to happen at once. The costumes for Edina Pop and Henriette Strobel were made in a hurry. Through the cooperation with Bolshoi Theatre the sensational costumes of the magnificent and diversified fund at the Bolshoi Theatre were available for Wolfgang Heichel, Steve Bender, the dancers and all 72 participants.

The advertising for the one time Dschinghis Khan Reunion Show was posted in all of Moscow. The radio station Retro FM announced the great event continuously, and pre-sales of tickets began. Nothing happened. What next?

Quickly the Russian organizer decided to fly the pop group Dschinghis Khan into Moscow one week prior to the show, to present Dschinghis Khan in several radio interviews and TV Reports.

What happened next was unbelievable. Dschinghis Khan flew to Moscow. On arrival at the airport the pop group Dschinghis Khan was welcomed by big Russian TV stations with live broadcasting and afterwards a great press conference took place. Within a few hours after the official arrival of Dschinghis Khan the tickets of the Olympiski Stadium in Moscow, with a capacity of 30.000, were completely sold out.

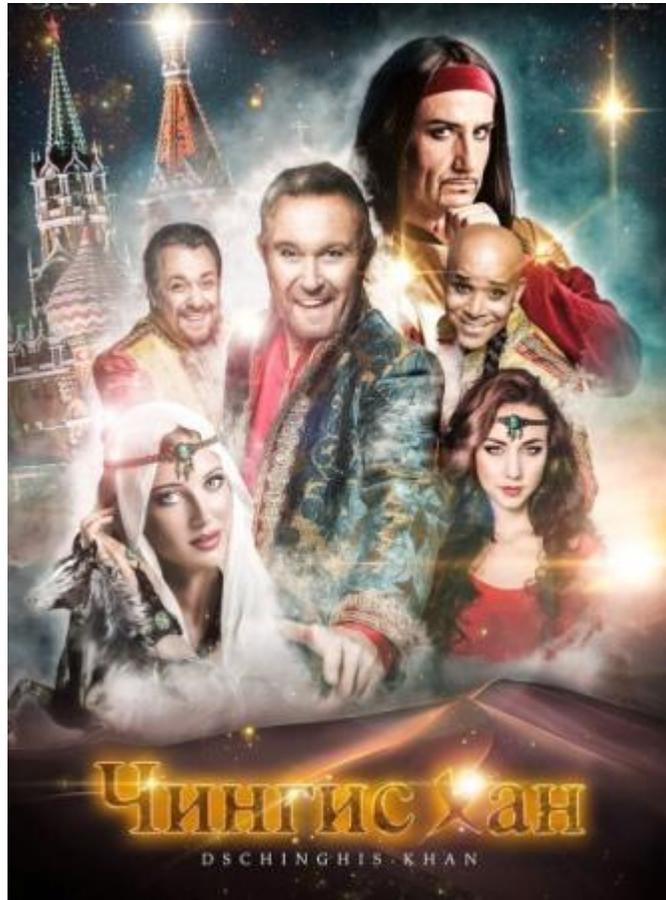
Due to the fact that Dschinghis Khan had to interrupt their rehearsals in Germany to fly earlier to Moscow, a dance studio of the Bolshoi Theatre was provided in Moscow. Dschinghis Khan and 72 participants now rehearsed locally until the sensational show was perfected.

At the legendary RETRO-FM opening show of the Dschinghis Khan reunion, with horses, camels, sedan chair carriers, impressing pyrotechnics, children's choir and Bolshoi Ballet, on December 17th, 2005 at the Olympiski Stadium in Moscow, which was broadcasted worldwide by Russian television via satellite in 54 Russian speaking countries, Dschinghis Khan celebrated a sensational comeback in front of an audience of 30.000 people and 100 million TV-viewers. To broadcast the show in all detail the TV-Station used 15 cameras. The organizer of the legendary reunion show of Dschinghis Khan sold more than 500.000 DVD copies, and the show was viewed on the internet more than 16 million times.

Since then it is impossible to imagine Russian radio-/ TV-stations and stages without the songs of Dschinghis Khan "Dschinghis Khan" and "Moscow" and many more. The popularity of Wolfgang Heichel and Dschinghis Khan were unbroken in Russia. Invitations from Siberia and all the way up to the Black Sea followed. On July 15th, 2006 Dschinghis Khan performed an Open Air Concert in Mongolia on the occasion of the 800th centenary of the land of Dschinghis Khan. Here also the pop group performed an unforgettable concert together with wild riders, shamans, Mongolian drummers and a Mongolian children's choir in front of an audience of 40.000 people.

Steve Bender died in May, 2006 and Stefan Track left the band to start his solo project „Rocking Son of Dschinghis Khan“

Wolfgang Heichel and Stefan Track toured seperately since 2007 through the world.



In 2018 Dschinghis Khan open a new chapter in their career. A sensation in pop history!

Two generations are united again. Dschinghis Khan with the sound of the eighties and the ROCKING SON OF DSCHINGHIS KHAN with the sound of today. Wolfgang Heichel and Stefan Track will be reunited on stage again and will be found at the retro legends of the eighties as also in current pop shows.

Dschinghis Khan, an audio-visual adventure with expressive choreographies and colourful costumes, will thrill the audiences around the world and will take them into a world of imagination and memorable moments.

Alongside their performances, DSCHINGHIS KHAN are working on a new album and on the new tour for the 40th anniversary of the band which will be celebrated in 2019.

