

December - 12 - 2010

"The Great 88" - the AFN-Berlin Story, is accredited (Berlinale 2011)

Dear ladies and gentleman,

the film titled „The Great 88,“ tells the story of AFN-Berlin and the staff, in particular the DJs and the music (R & B and Jazz) in context with the cold war situation of West Berlin. In this spirit, the DJs and the music as they were presented on AFN between 1976 and 1984 plays a central role in the film. Since then, the DJs have been raised to legends, which represent a state of mind and took the music scene in Berlin beyond the limits of imagination.



As a foundation, the film conveys the unique situation of the city of Berlin, and of AFN in its historical relationship to the Western sector of the city, and also the duty that was assigned to AFN. At the same time, the role of all the Western allies is illustrated (keyword: guarantors of peace and freedom). West Berlin entered into extraordinary situation in the era of the Cold War. AFN also took on extraordinary status in the region as it was also being heard in East Germany and East Berlin. The special feeling and atmosphere that AFN brought to the East German youth forged a music scene and a desire for freedom that was existed in the AFN DJ personalities and the music itself. At the same time the West Berlin youth were living the same dream. Friday belonged to Jim McAuley. On Thursday it was AFN disco. The AFN broadcasts and the DJs were part of everyday life for teenagers in Berlin. But AFN also stood for great music and the highest standards of excellence. AFN was actually a channel of culture, par excellence. It was inconceivable that it would

have ever been otherwise. And despite everything, it was always special. Thirty years later the era of this special feeling sent out by AFN and its DJs, for just a moment, became real again.

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This was a magical moment for all the West Berliners, who lived the dream of freedom and for all the East Berliners, who were never allowed or able to live the dream. And both these rivers fused to re-ignite the Old-school style of R & B and jazz, and fuelled the rise of the DJs who first played this music. A story of a special city, special music and fantastic radio personalities. Personalities that gave birth to an unforgettable spirit, that captured the imagination and connected people across borders. And the DJs did all of this in addition to their regular duties in a frontier city: West Berlin.

www.great88.de

Best regards

Soul-Jazz.de music publisher
Dr. Nikolaus Andre

Text: Dr. Nikolaus Andre

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