

Detlef Malinkewitz

“Feeling Good” (published on 10.08.2018)

In 1996, a new version of the Elvis Presley song “In The Ghetto” shot to the top of the German charts, rapidly becoming a track known by everyone in the country. The voice was that of Detlef Malinkewitz, who had by this time already introduced himself to a wide audience as a gala singer. His version of the Elvis Presley track sent on to become a world hit, released in 46 countries. In Germany, the track achieved gold status, with almost 500,000 singles sold, held its own in the top ten charts for weeks and was awarded the R.SH gold prize for the most successful cover hit of the year. More than 12 million copies were sold and Detlef Malinkewitz attained international fame. Now, around 20 years later, he is once more hitting the boards that still mean the world to him with his album “Feeling Good”.

The boy from Baesweiler: Detlef Malinkewitz lives and breathes two passions – music and football. He even had good chances of pursuing a career in professional league football. As a teen, he achieved first place in a nationwide competition, together with Bruno Labbadia – who would later play internationally – and travelled to the football academy of the world-famous Brazilian football star Pelé in New York. There, he trained under Pelé’s guidance, alongside the German international players of “Wembley 1966” – Uwe Seeler, Helmut Haller and Co – learning the tricks of the trade from the very best.

Back in his home town of Baesweiler however, his love of music, which would make him a celebrated star by the age of 30, came out on top.

Yet it was at that point, after his enormous musical success, that Detlef Malinkewitz decided to take an unusual path: he studied communication studies, political science and philosophy, completing his degree studies with honours as the top of his year, wrote a thesis and got his PhD in Philosophy. After that, he wrote as a freelance journalist, lectured at the RWTH University of Aachen and worked as a consultant for the mayor of a large German city.

Music-making was, however, still very much in his thoughts. After a spontaneous performance at an event, it became clear to him: *“I just want to do what gave me the greatest joy in life again – to stand on a stage and sing.”*

The 52-year-old singer now took his stage come-back and all the preparations for the new album “Feeling Good” into his own hands. *“For over six months, I searched for the right songs for this album. For songs with brilliant melodies and fantastic grooves that haven’t lost any of their fascination right up to the present and that also, by their very nature, allow me to bring in my vocal strengths. I finally decided on these 11 tracks and had adaptations written to give all these songs a new, a special, note.”*

After the adaptations had been written, the journey continued at the world-famous Wisseloord Studios in Hilversum in the Netherlands. Taking part were 25 of Europe’s best musicians, the legendary mixing and recording engineer Ronald Prent, as well as the four-time Grammy Award winner Darcy Proper, all of whom have given the album its final brilliant touches. *“I’m all for quality. Anything I produce should also be really good”* was Detlef Malinkewitz’s guiding motto throughout the production process.

The album's extensive orchestration makes it clear that the album "Feeling Good" is not a pure pop, rock, blues or jazz album, but rather a crossover of all these genres with inspiring song arrangements.

His creative choice of songs has given Detlef Malinkewitz the freedom to present the entire range of his multi-faceted voice in his interpretations: he has thereby managed to create a wide range of vocal tones and to showcase his trademark - the dynamics of his voice, in a well-rounded combination with gentle nuances.

The title track "Feeling Good", the song "Everlasting Love" – in which Detlef Malinkewitz takes up a socio-politically relevant topic in the music video, thus giving this summery song a remarkable "depth" – as well as the track "A Whiter Shade Of Pale", a new interpretation that captivates the listener with its unusual musical arrangement, are all vivid examples of the (musical) intention which the artist is pursuing in his album.

Detlef Malinkewitz has created the album "Feeling Good" with passion, energy and expertise. The title not only represents the whole feel of the album, but also an attitude to life: *"At a certain point in my life, I simply decided to just feel good and to face all life's problems with a different attitude. That's exactly what the album's title is meant to express."*

*Birds flyin' high / you know how I feel / sun in the sky / you know how I feel / breeze
driftin' on by / you know how I feel / it's a new dawn / it's a new day / it's a new life /
for me /*

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and I'm feeling good ...