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THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SAKIS...

Submitted by kappa MYSTA on Fri, 02/20/2009 - 00:34.



The phenomenal Sakis Rouvas is back in the contest, representing Greece with "This is our night" in Moscow. Who is Sakis really? What is happening with this guy? 18 years have passed since his first debut album in 1991 and he's still there, on the top... I though it would be interesting for you guys to get a different view on Sakis' personality. The ESCFans out there who don't speak the Greek language, especially the ones who love Sakis, those fans who haven't had the chance to follow the different faces of Sakis through his music journey. This could be considered as "inside information" coming from a place where it's all Greek to you...

Sakis Rouvas is known in Greece and Cyprus by his first name, simply Sakis. Just like Diana or Elton, Sakis is one of the people who managed to make his first name a "trade mark", a recognizable "code name". Saying Sakis everyone knows who you are talking about... That IS a great advantage!

When Sakis came out in the Greek music business back in 1991 with his first album, we all had heard about him, we all knew at least one of his songs... In the years that followed, not until recently, we hadn't heard much of Sakis talking. He was all about singing... In the early years, It was pretty hard to get an idea of who Sakis was as a personality, or even get a glimpse of the person he might be. I remember a TV-show that Sakis went on as a guest, with Giorgos Marinos as the host (Ciao ANTENNA, in the 90s), where Marinos didn't even let Sakis speak. He would do all the talking and Sakis would just smile and laugh (Marinos is such a brilliant show-man)... If you think about it, it was for more than 10 years that the fans had not got enough of Sakis speaking in public. He did give interviews from time to time, while promoting his albums, but they were usually limited to a few minutes and the questions posted were often not deep enough to let Sakis open up and show his personality. For years, we hadn't have the pleasure of seeing him unfold his personality.

On the other hand, Sakis didn't need to give long interviews. Sakis didn't need to spend all those "talking" hours on TV and Radio shows to promote his music. As if someone was protecting him from something, or even worse, it seemed like an effort to create a different image of who he really was. But despite of all these, Sakis was "selling" anyway. His shining star was enough. His music was always part of the hits and whenever or wherever he would perform, the place would be crowded. If Sakis' protected profile was an image-making effort of his manager or his recording company, well he sure did prove them wrong! Sakis not only had a voice, but he sure had a "strong" voice as well! These last couple of years, Sakis started revealing bit-by-bit what he is about.

In 2004 the public saw Sakis doing what he does best... He sang "Shake it" and danced while singing live, landing on a 3rd place after performing his jump on the ESC 2004 stage.

In 2006 we all enjoyed Sakis as the host of the Eurovision Song Contest in Athens, after Papparizou winning the ESC 2005. Not only did he host the show but was exquisitely good as a presenter! There we actually saw Sakis LIVE, in flesh and blood, before the eyes of millions of people around the world. We saw him react for the first time in a very clever and respectful way, when the occasion was raised. I am talking about that awkward moment, when Paul de Leeuw, an openly-gay, dutch television comedian, was asking Sakis for his phone number, after implying Sakis was gay too. That was a strange moment that could have made anyone furious. Sakis showed his well-balanced personality by remaining calm and politely replying where needed. That was not an easy situation!

Last year, Sakis was the presenter of the first X-factor show in Greece, which was completed in January 2009. There, not only did he prove to be a competent presenter, but also showed the most out of his personality. At times he was debating with the critics committee, disagreeing and expressing his own opinion. This was a shock to me, as up to that point I had never seen Sakis show his personality to that extent. In X-factor, Sakis was himself! He was real. We saw him asking questions that the public would ask, standing up to his opinion when he felt he had to. We saw him being overwhelmed, getting angry, expressing his happiness or his sadness. He was 'a rock to lean on' and 'a shoulder to cry on' when sometimes the participants needed just that... Sakis was simply a man on X-factor. I knew Sakis was a brilliant singer and a talented show-man, but after the X-factor he has earned my respect as well, not only because of his artistic talents but also of who he is as a person.

While researching and writing this text, I've seen so many interview on the internet, so many shows, so many moments of his. Most of these interviews took place after 2005 when he's been around since 1991. In these 18 years of music history, Sakis has turned himself into a successful singer, with lots of platinum and gold albums, awards and shiny music moments. He's already starred in a film (Alter Ego), and a new one is coming up in May 2009 (Duess). He is a father of a young girl and a still evolving artist, a star still rising.

A lot of people think that Sakis is all about the looks, the sexy body and the appealing eyes. Some think that this is all he is. Some say he only appeals to a target group of young girls and gay people. Well, my mom likes Sakis as well, and I bet lots of moms do. Various respectful and huge Greek artists have given him their songs; their support; their love expressed in public. But what am I saying here? If you listen to him singing Elvis or Queen, I bet you will like him too.

Good Luck Sakis!

Let's have the ESC 2010 in Athens again! :)

by **Kappa Mysta**
Moderator

LISTEN TO SAKIS SINGING:

"Ain't no Sunsjine"

"Blue suede shoe"

"We will Rock You"

"We are the champions"

SOURCES:

Official Website of Sakis

Official Channel of Sakis on YouTube

Sakis Wikipedia Page

Paul de Leeuw Wikipedia Page

The Netherlands voiting - ESC 2006