

The Band

First Record Deal

The band had their mind set on making a record and began recording demotapes on a tape recorder in their practice room. A friend of theirs who owned a record store then distributed the tapes to her network of contacts in the music business.

One person who had heard of Disneyland After Dark was John Rosing, owner of the booking and management bureau Rock On. Rosing knew Stig from his ADS days and he sought out the band in early 1984. Rosing became their booker and got them several jobs. Later on, he took on full management, a job he handled until about a year before his untimely death from cancer in 1998.

Meanwhile, the band kept giving concerts, including one at Paramount Club in Roskilde. Present at that show were representatives from the Roskilde Festival, and that landed the band their first gig at the biggest Danish music festival. They opened the festival in 1984, which by the way was the first year that the festival opened Thursday and became a four-day event. However, being booked into this early time slot did not bother the band. "We're happy about it", Jesper said in an interview at the time, "People haven't gotten drunk yet and they have fresh ears".

Later the same year, Stig's friend Torleif came along for one of their concerts. Torleif had already been taking pictures of the band, but now he wanted to hear how the band sounded. When the band and entourage arrived at the club, it turned out there was no lights system. Torleif then agreed to make the best of a few colored light bulbs by unplugging and replugging the lights by turns during the show. From then on, Torleif became a regular "fifth member", doing lights and other odd jobs of the creative and visual kind.

In the spring of 1984, the owners of the small independent record label Irmgardz contacted the band. The band and the Irmgardz people hung out, and first there was talk of putting out a single. Then after the job at the Roskilde Festival, Irmgardz wanted to make an LP. Unfortunately, nothing came of all the talk, but on the other hand the band had known of Irmgardz's reputation for being unreliable and had not signed anything.

Luckily, the Irmgardz people were not the only ones interested. Frank Marstokk from the small record label Mega Records had received one of the Disneyland After Dark demotapes, and he was excited about the band's mix of country and punk. Marstokk wanted to talk to the band and went to meet them in "Løkkebo", the apartment that Stig, Jesper and Peter shared. He wanted the band to sign with Mega and give them the chance to record their music.

After talks between the band, John Rosing and Mega, it was decided that their first release would be a maxisingle. In that way, the record label would not have risked too much money if the band were to flop. The group might be a successful live act in Greater Copenhagen, but the record label was not so sure recording Disneyland After Dark was a safe bet. A record deal was drawn up, but was not signed until after the recording sessions in the spring of 1985. So now the guys had to really prove themselves.