

## The Bintangs - Blues On The Ceiling (1969)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Smokestack Lightning* (Chester Burnett) - 2:13 02. *Louisiana* (Muddy Waters) - 4:10 03. *Fighting A Losing Battle* (Sonny Terry, Brownie McGhee) - 3:52 04. *Three Hundred Pounds Of Joy* (Willie Dixon) - 3:07 05. *Still A Fool* (Muddy Waters) - 6:26 06. *Little By Little* (Nanker Phelge, Phil Spector) - 2:27 07. *Blues With A Feeling* (Walter Jacobs) - 4:32 08. *St. Louis Blues* (William Christopher Handy) - 6:14 09. *My Babe* (Willie Dixon) - 4:20 10. *Blues On The Ceiling* (Fred Neil) - 4:10 11. *It's All Over Now* (Bobby Womack, Shirley Womack) - 3:17 - Gus Pleines - guitar, vocals - Jan Wijte - harmonica, flute, guitar - Frank Kraaijeveld - bass, vocals - Aad Hooft – drums

In '61 brothers Frank and Arthy Kraaijeveld started the Bintangs in Beverwijk, mostly known because of its smelly and smoking steelworks. Initially they were playing Indo-Rock, at that time in the Netherlands a popular form of music styled by expatriates from Indonesia. Bintang means 'Star' in the Malaysian language and is also the name of a well-know beer brand in Indonesia, hinting at the star in the logo of Heineken, its owner in the 'colonial' days of Dutch East India. The Bintangs soon switched to a raw R&B style, strongly influenced by artists like Bo Diddley and Howlin' Wolf, comparable to the music of British bands like The Pretty Things and The Rolling Stones. The similarities in their repertoire and in the voices of Bintangs vocalist Gus Pleines and Rolling Stones singer Mick Jagger earned the band the nickname 'The Dutch Rolling Stones'...

Early 1966 the Bintangs released their first single *You Can't Judge A Book By Looking At The Cover*, a Bo Diddley song. A series of modestly successful singles followed. All extremely collectable these days for fans of Dutch Garage Rock a.k.a. Nederbeat. The first Bintangs album *Blues On The Ceiling* got released in 1969. That record was well received. ---  
[soundcloud.com](https://soundcloud.com)

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The Bintangs from Beverwijk were originally named Rocket Dynes and Black Phantoms. They didn't only become known for their rough, smoky Hoogoven-born sound, but also for the great number of changes in their line-up. In the 1960s, especially in the province of Noord-Holland, they had a firm following, which, in the cities of Beverwijk and Haarlem, manifested itself in posters plastered on many walls and even a gigantic gas tank with their name painted on it. Although only one original member remains in the band now (Frank Kraayeveld, b, v) and they have split up a few times along the way, the Bintangs (Indonesian for "stars") are one of the (if not the) longest-lasting bands in the Netherlands.

Key members throughout the years were - apart from Frank Kraayeveld - his younger brother Arti (g, v and principal songwriter) and Mick Jagger-soundalike Guus (or Gus) Pleines (v, h). After just two hits, Arti and Frank left The Bintangs in late 1970 and formed Kraayeveld (later renamed Circus Kraayeveld). In 1974, Gus Pleines joined Kraayeveld from the then-defunct Bintangs, but in 1975 they changed their name to Bintangs again. Arti had already left Kraayeveld in June 1973 (replaced by younger brother René Kraayeveld) and formed Carlsberg. Gus Pleines was the lead singer between 1968-1983 and 1989-2004. He died in 2007. The band officially split up in 1985 with Frank forming The Frank Kraayeveld Band. They regrouped in 1989 and continue to this day. --- alexgitlin.com

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