

Nina Hagen – The Very Best Of (1990)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Tv Glotzer (White Punks On Dope)*
02. *Superboy*
03. *African Reggae*
04. *Universelles Radio*
05. *Unbeschreiblich Weiblich*
06. *Smack Jack*
07. *Auf'm Bahnhof Zoo*
08. *Dread Love*
09. *Auf'm Rummel*
10. *New York/N.Y.*
11. *Wir Leben Noch (Lucky Number)*
12. *The Change*
13. *My Way*
14. *Heiss*
15. *Gott Im Himmel (Spirit In The Sky)*
16. *Zarah (Ich Weiss, Es Wird Einmal Ein Wunder Geschehen)*

Catharina Hagen, 11 March 1955, East Berlin, Germany. After her parents divorced in 1957, Hagen was raised in a suburb in the eastern bloc by her actress mother and her stepfather, dissident poet and songwriter Wolf Biermann. In 1964, she joined the Thalmann-Pioneers, a Communist youth organization and, four years later, the Freie Deutsche Jugend - from which she was excluded for her hand in a demonstration (instigated by Biermann) against the participation of East German militia in the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. On failing a 1972 entrance test for a Berlin-Schönweide drama college, she sang a mixture of blues and soul with a Polish outfit for several months prior to enrolment at the Studio Für Unterhaltungsmusik (Studio For Popular Music) where she was an outstanding student. For a few years, she toured East Germany as featured vocalist with the Alfons-Wonneberg-Orchester before fronting Automobil and then Fritzens Dampferband (Fred's Steamboat Band) but when Biermann was

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expelled from Soviet territory in 1976, she followed him to West Germany where her worth as an entertainer was sufficiently known for a recording contract to be offered. Her imagination captured by punk, she flew to London where she and Ari-Up of the Slits collaborated on a number of songs. On returning to Germany, she formed the Nina Hagen Band with former members of Lok Kreuzberg - Bernhard Potschka (guitar) and Manfred Praeker (bass) - plus Herwig Mitteregger (drums) and Reinhold Heil (keyboards). Released in 1979, 'African Reggae' was enough of a 'turntable hit' to bring Hagen a cult following - particularly in Australia - that grew steadily during the 80s. She relocated to New York to pursue a solo career, recording her first English language album, the quasi-religious Nunsexmonkrock. 1984's Fearless was produced by Giorgio Moroder and included the disco hit 'New York New York'.

During the late 80s Hagen's career faltered outside her native Germany, with a number of ill-advised recordings on the Phonogram Records label. One oddity was the Punk Wedding EP, a four song 'celebration' of Hagen's 1987 marriage. Relocating to Paris in 1989 she overhauled her image with the help of designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, and returned to her musical roots with a series snappy, punk-influenced albums. Already a veteran of German underground film and cable television, Hagen popped up on UK television in 1998 as the host of a weekly science fiction show on the Sci-Fi Channel. Hagen's long-standing interest in India was reflected on the following year's Om Namah Shivay!, half of the profits from which went towards charitable causes. ---oldies.com

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