

Nina Hagen - In Ekstasy (1985)



1 *Universal Radio* 2 *Gods Of Aquarius* 3 *Russian Reggae* 4 *My Way* 5 *1985 Ekstasy Drive* 6 *Prima Nina In Ekstasy* 7 *Spirit In The Sky* 8 *Atomic Flash Deluxe* 9 *The Lord's Prayer* 10 *Gott In Himmel* 11 *Universal Radio (Dance Mix)* Bass, Keyboards, Drums, Arranged By – Karl Rucker Drums – Alex Laroque, Peter Krause Grand Piano – Balis Jouraitis Guitar – Billy Liesegang Keyboards – Roger Craig Keyboards, Arranged By [Horn Arrangements] – Michael McEboy Saxophone – Alan Guillard Trumpet – Eric Le Lane Vocals – Nina Hagen Vocals [Duetting] – Africa Bambaata, The Soul Sonic Force (tracks: 6), Shango (tracks: 6) Backing Vocals – Paul Eknes (tracks: 7)

This isn't the best Nina has ever done, and I'd give it something less than five stars, but closer to five than four, hence the rating. A bit too abrasive, a bit too reaching for the lowest apple. I expected more of Nina, but it is hard to follow up too outstanding albums (Nunsexmonkrock and Fearless), so a bit of a let down seems inevitable. Curiously, I find the German language version less compelling than the English - perhaps because I listened to the latter so often before hearing the former.

As always, singularly Nina, which is a good thing. There has never been an artist quite like Nina, and while she is an acquired taste, she should always be appreciated for her originality and amazing vocals. In a side note, a few years after this album came out, when Ken Griffey, jr. was at his peak (before he went to Cincinnati) he was in a commercial that used the opening to "The Lord's Prayer". I only saw it once, so I believe some advertising exec snuck it in before the higher ups realized who and what it was. I wonder if that was the end of his career? ---Forrest Phelps, amazon.com

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