



8 | EKSTRA BLADET

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Mamma Mia for et mylder

➔ **Premiere:** De kendte væltede ind for at se ABBA-musical i Tivoli



Anne-Marie Madsen
Foto: Gregers Thycho

Det myldrede i aften med kendte og ukendte til premieren på den danske version af musicalen "Mamma Mia" i Tivolis Koncertsal i København.

Som aftenens store overraskelse dukkede te af de rigtige ABBA-medlemmer op: Björn Ulvæus og Agnetha Fältskog. De har tidligere

været gift, men lod til i dag at være de bedste venner.

Men også fire friske svenskere havde valgt at troppe op udklædt som den populære 70'er-popgruppe. Med glamour-look og med plattedans under støvlerne forsøgte de at senopfriske deres minder. Ekstra Bladet spurgte derfor de fremmødte om deres yndlings-ABBA-nummer.

mæk...



Photos by Ursula Esser & Helga van de Kar



When I flew to sunny Copenhagen for the Danish premiere of *Mamma Mia!*, I had already started to get withdrawal symptoms; after all, my last *MM!* experience had been the international tour's visit to Leipzig in the summer. Once we had landed, I immediately saw posters and buses with the *Mamma Mia!* logo - the city was in a real *Mamma Mia!* frenzy.

About 90 minutes before the show started, we went to the concert hall Koncertsalen which is situated inside the Tivoli amusement park. The entire Tivoli park was decorated with pumpkins for Halloween, it all looked really nice, and I certainly had never seen so many pumpkins before. A red carpet was rolled out in front of the hall, but there were not many people waiting, and we were among the first to enter the foyer, where we saw a *Mamma Mia!* wall for the press photographers.

We decided to wait next to the wall and, after a while, Danish VIPs started to arrive and posed for the press. However, apart from the *Eurovision* winners The Olsen Brothers and Princess Marie and Prince Joachim (Crown Prince Frederik and his wife, Princess Mary, arrived after the audience has taken their seats), I did not recognize anyone. Then, as the show was about to start, Benny's wife Mona appeared, and we kept waiting for Björn as we knew he would come. Suddenly there was a flurry of flashes going off and exclamations of joy and surprise when Björn arrived, arm in arm with a blond woman. At first, I thought, "Lena looks really different today," but then I realized it was not Lena - Björn came walking down the stairs with Agnetha! I just could not believe it. Agnetha looked absolutely breathtaking in her black dress; she was beaming, laughing and waving at her audience. I was so excited that my whole body was shaking. She went right past me and incidentally touched my arm. I nearly fainted. I guess, I will never wash that sweater again... Oh, Björn looked very good too, of course.

The first thing I noticed inside was that there was no curtain, and so you could see the tavern right from the beginning, and it seemed a little simpler than that in other productions I had seen. Some of the characters' names were changed to sound more Danish - Donna was changed to Donna Svendsen, Rosie to Bibi, Sam to Stig, Harry to Henrik, Sky to Frej, Ali to Louise and Lisa to Rikke. The songs sounded quite cute in Danish, and all cast members were very good singers. The audience seemed to like it immediately, and there was a lot of spontaneous applause. As Agnetha and Björn were sitting a few rows behind me, I unfortunately could not see their reactions.

The second act included all the highlights for me. First, Donna (Nicoline Siff Møller) performed *En Vinder Vinder Alt* [The Winner Takes It All] which was really fantastic, then Bibi (Pernille Schrøder) and Bill (Peter Oliver Hansen) performed *Take A Chance On Me* - they sang and played along wonderfully. In *Jeg Har En Drøm* [I Have A Dream], the moon did not look as realistic as it usually does but rather only faded in and out. In fact, I laughed out loud when I saw it as, to me, it looked like a pumpkin with a face. I wonder if this was an intentional allusion to Halloween as the Tivoli park was so full of pumpkins. During the encore, Mona and her granddaughter went up to the stage and they were singing and dancing with the crowd.

It was beautiful to see Björn and Agnetha coming onto the stage after the show. They waved, received lots of flowers but sadly did not address the audience. Who knows when we will get to see them together on a stage again?

At the afterparty, Björn did give a speech though in which he said that he had seen many productions of *Mamma Mia!* all over the world, but in Copenhagen he could feel the real *MM!* spirit because the production was excellent. Agnetha clearly enjoyed herself a lot, looked very happy and stayed till late.