

Charles McThorn: You're very multi-talented, singer, dancer, even acrobat (strange pictures singing "The Sound of Goodbye" head under heels), model, and even ran your own firm called Concert Building. That was afore the all-changing "The Sound of Goodbye". How do you think the success of this record changed business for you?

Elles de Graaf: Thank you! They type of business didn't change really, just the format. As far as my power reaches, I try to combined these carreers, as it's all part of entertaining. Dancing and singing are very connected for me. Doing strange acrobatic things, was a spur of the moment thing. I like to do things what people didn't do before, he he.

The business I ran, I stopped for many reasons, the most important reason was travelling. At the time when "The Sound of Goodbye" was hitting big in the U.S. I had to leave my company in somebody elses hands.

Now when I have Trance-bookings around the world I have to carefully organise them, because of my dancing/singing work contracts, wich provide daily (and 6 days a week) work for me. It's not always easy, but my business in general shifted more to the Trance world. And because of that the events are bigger, he he. I've been with many big artists on big stages in the past (in background) but now it's mine! (figure of speech) Well... of course I have to share it with Armin! lol The Trance-fans appriciate our hard work so much. It's a blessing!

CMT: The first time that you met AvB you didn't really know who he was (he even was not that act he is nowadays). "The Sound of Goodbye" turned into a massive hit and the follow up "Dust.wav" also. Another track "Icarus" (later released as System F feat. Armin van Buuren "Exhale") got dropped. Some guys think that Armin was afraid, because the thing would have turned too commercial. How did you feel about that?

EdG: True the first time I met Armin, I didn't really know who he was. I was into rap and hiphop at that time, lol.

By the time we did "Dust.wav" there were already problems with the collab. Yeh things got too commercial for Armin, but that was not the only reason.

I was not bothered by it at that time, just wondering why things were not moving. Most decisions are made my the producers and in this case Armin too for this collab, so i'm always the last one to hear it. I had a great change to show myself to the world with "The Sound of Goodbye" and for me that experience will stay positive, although things were running strange afterwards. Things happen for a reason. You see years later who have thought "The Sound of Goodbye" would even return and WITH Armin the first one to be proud of it!!

CMT: Couple of weeks ago I noticed the latest Robbie Rivera tune "To the sun". sounds really strange, if you're known to the lyrics sung by a powerful female voice. Aren't you a little sad about that, for it's the second time this vocals of

yours got dropped or replaced? (note: our listeners know about "Icarus")

EdG: I just heard about it now, thank you for the update! Ha ha, you see, I'm always the last one to find out. I'm sure there is reasons for that, why that happened.

In the end it's a business and people often forget about that. Of course a business with passion, but I'd like to stay true to MY side of the tranceworld. You have to understand that I came into this Trance world due to Raz Nitzan and Adrian Broekhuysen, it has been their project from the start. I am respecting that until this very day and still with a smile on my face. They make the final calls.

CMT: You don't seem to like travelling, you seem to love it. Last year you have toured Armin's world tour, Malta and Russia with Bobina. What are your plans about touring 2010 and will there be a date in Germany?

EdG: Yeah travelling teaches me a lot about the world and about people. Short trips to foreign places are awesome. But longer trips are even more interesting, cause you get to meet the real people and to know the real stories about 'why people' live and think like that.

For 2010 there is some options, working out dates first, heard Taiwan, Dubai and China making a move for bookings. Of course Malta and Russia are on the list like every year!! Yay!

Germany I don't know yet. Would be nice to return to Germany where I did so many "The Sound of Goodbye" performances around 2002 and shot the "Mind of the Wonderful" clip in Berlin. Hopes up!

CMT: What will be next about Elles de Graaf?

EdG: I only plan about 1 month ahead, so thats a hard question! ha ha.

I'm moving to Macau, China soon to work for an amazing well known company within the City of Dreams! For now I focus on that, still working hard to get the crowd love Trance music in that funny 'mini last Vegas', ha ha.

In the meantime, everytime I stay or pass by Holland we dive into the studio and Raz has something new (or redo an old song) for me in mind.

Hopes up for nice chemistry, to make the songs come further then demos and the good DJ's to take our songs to the next level! The world!

(interview by Charles McThorn, 2009)

With kind permission of **radio sunshine live** (www.sunshine-live.de)