

## LICE

**Anna Adrichem:** vibes • percussion • backing vocals • lead vocals on »Frog«

**Jelle Amersfoort:** guitar • lead vocals • backing vocals  
percussion on »Spirits Awake« and »Statue«

**Symeon Charalabides:** electric guitar • ambulance solo on »Skateboard Boy«

**François Drouin:** lead vocals on »Bilbao Boa«

**Franck Ducourant:** guitar • lead vocals • backing vocals

**Maarten Eijkhout:** bass • market salesman on »Dapper Street«

**Robert Geerling:** Drums • percussion • electronic sound effects

**Stefan »Tenno« Kaiser:** keyboards • backing vocals

**Dennis Versteeg:** lead vocals • backing vocals • ocarina flute on »Radio Shoes«  
percussion on »Typist Of Candy« • frog squeezing on »Frog« • announcements

### Special Guests:

**Michiel Peters • Martin Bakker • Henk Hofstede**

## NITS

(in order of appearance):

**Henk Hofstede:** lead vocals • guitar • keyboards (Nits 1974 - now)

**Martin Bakker:** guitar • vocals (Nits 1992 - 96)

**Joke Geraets:** bass • vocals (Nits 1986 - 89)

**Peter Meuris:** drums (Nits 1992 - 96)

**Michiel Peters:** lead vocals • guitar (Nits 1974 - 85)

**Alex Roelofs:** bass (Nits 1974 - 81)

**Rob Kloet:** drums (Nits 1974 - now)

*Uninvited Guest: Tenno*

# GREATEST INC

INTERNATIONAL NITS CONVENTION  
**LIVE UTRECHT**  
**19 NOVEMBER 2000**

## Notes From The Singer

We arrived in time at *Stairway to Heaven* to help out with setting up. All organizers and LICE members were there in time and things started to go quickly. Unfortunately the waiting for the LICE soundcheck took longer and longer. I guess it was worth it in the end, because I heard we sounded clear to the audience, but it was a bit frustrating that we had to wait that long. Final preparations were made (sticking labels on wine bottles, installing the ticket tables, etc) and just after 11:00 the doors went open and the group of fans waiting outside could come in.

Finally LICE could soundcheck and we played »Bilbao Boa« 1.5 times (and already received our first applause!). Sound was good, so we were ready to play. Luckily, Adrian could also do a soundcheck for his performance.

Not just more and more fans kept coming, also one by one Nits members and former Nits members arrived. The first one was **Petra Lugtenburg** and during the day everyone came (except **Robert Jan Stips**, who we knew was not coming because he had some things that were impossible to cancel). So there were: **Henk Hofstede**, **Rob Kloet**, **Michiel Peters**, **Alex Roelofs**, **Petra Lugtenburg**, **Joke Geraets**, **Peter Meuris**, **Martin Bakker**, **Laetita van Krieken**, **Arwen Linneman** and **Leona Philippo**. Of course both the Telman brothers, **Tom**

and **Paul**, were also there. Unfortunately the roadies were all unable to be there.

For us fans it was great to see all of them together (I had a card signed by everyone). I loved seeing some former Nits for the first time, after hearing so much of the great music they made. For the band also it was very nice I think. They had a sort of reunion and I saw several of them together in varying groups throughout the day.

At around 13:00 most people had arrived and the »stage« part of **Greatest Nits INC** began. **Wilco** welcomed us all and introduced **Adrian** and **Deena** from the UK. They had made a string quartet version of »Giant Normal Dwarf« for LPN2 (»List members Play Nits«) and they performed it live. Adrian recited the words to the song over the very nice backing music, while Deena whispered backing vocals. It was a very visual performance with Adrian sitting on a barstool lighting up a cigarette and showing his favorite book (James Joyce - Ulysses). Deena acted out the lyrics with hand signals. The song is rather short, so their performance was over quick, but it received a big applause and I think everyone loved it. I know I did!

There was a break after this (I believe some more videos were shown) and some time later it was time for **LICE!** **Wilco** introduced us and we were ready to begin. After our last rehearsal we were

confident that it could work out fine and luckily everything worked. We didn't make too many mistakes and I think our enthusiasm was clear to everyone.

Our first song was »**Bilbao Boa**«, sung by **François**. It's a fun song to play. I had a lot of fun doing the backing vocals. It went very well and gave us confidence for the rest of our set.

I had the role of talking to the audience which I enjoyed a lot. It was my first time ever on stage (I do sometimes give a lecture in scientific conferences or at our university though, but that is totally uncomparable with this). The next song it was time for me to sing. It was »**Radio Shoes**«. I also played an ocarina flute in it. The flute is quite old and simple and actually broken... It's impossible to play it in tune, but I think the effect worked well! »Radio Shoes« is a strange song with strange lyrics and I'm glad I sang them right! **Robert's** drumming in this one was very cool! The third song was »**Erom On**«, sung by **Jelle**. I think everyone could see and hear that Jelle has experience in performing! This was another great one to do. My job was singing along with the loud parts, which was very cool. I love the bassline of this song and **Maarten** delivered it greatly. The fourth song was »**Tender Trap**«, very nicely sung by **Franck**. It was also the first song in which **Anna** had some prominent vibes parts. I only needed



to do a couple of backing vocals in this one. The fifth one was »**Fishes**«, again sung by **Franck**. This song is so catchy! I only had to stand around in this one and listen to my fellow LICE members play it! I haven't mentioned **Tenzo** yet, but now it's time to say that he's a fantastic keyboard player!

After I introduced everyone our last song was »**26A (Clouds in the Sky)**«. A very beautiful song, but also quite scary to sing... We split it up in three parts. First **Franck**, then me and for the loud part **Jelle**. **Anna** led the chorus parts where **Jelle**, **Tenzo**, **Franck** and me harmonized with her. After a promise to come back later we exited the stage very happy that everything worked out fine.



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Songs composed by Hofstede / Stips / Kloet  
 except: »Spirits Awake« • »Statue« • »Bild am Sonntag« • »The Infant King«: Michiel Peters  
 »Four Ankles«: Henk Hofstede / Michiel Peters • »26A« • »Frog«: Hofstede / Kloet  
 »The Tender Trap« • »Skateboard Boy« • »Dapper Street« • »Adieu Sweet Bahnhof« • »Red  
 Tape« • »Shadow Of Doubt« • »Tutti Ragazzi«: Henk Hofstede

»Greatest Nits« design: Dennis Versteeg • Boat Picture: Nits Archive  
 Photos: Wojciech Dzieciolowski • Krzysztof Welian • Deena Omar • Jochen Stein  
 Cover Design: Mychael Gerstenberger • Krzysztof Welian

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 Thanks to Maarten & the soundguy  
 Recordings mixed by Tenno

More information:  
[www.nitsfans.org/dennis/greatestnits/html](http://www.nitsfans.org/dennis/greatestnits/html)





The next part of the day was the **Tom Telman Quiz**, which was a lot of fun. It was clear that he, the band and the roadies put a lot of effort in this. He structured the quiz around video and audio clips. First we had to guess the song after an audioclip was played of a demo version of those songs. Very interesting! The next part were roadies and Nits members interpreting Nits songs by making various noises... very funny! Then there were lyrics questions, of which some were quite difficult. The following section was very exciting. **Rob Kloet** came on stage and drummed parts of 4 songs which we had to guess. Very difficult, I only knew one. He also had a fifth one he wrote down: »Which song begins with TRAK TRAK BONK BONK«. I didn't know but later found out it was »Tons Of Ink«! There

were some trivia questions with very interesting audio and videoclips. One had the interview with a Japanese guy talking about Buildings and Mountains. The samples from this interview were used for »In The Dutch Mountains«. Very funny to see the original film. The question was the name of the Japanese guy which was written above on the screen during the film, but no-one remembered of course! Another very cool one was **Henk** singing »Mack the Knife« as a little boy with a rather high voice. Unique recording. The question was who wrote it (Kurt Weill). Another question was the name of **Rob's** first band (The Acclaim). The last section consisted of friends of the Nits interpreting songs. There was **Eric Facon** who explained a song in schweizerdeutsch... it was of course »Letter to E«. Very nice was two of **Henk's** daughters singing »Seven Green Parrots« in Dutch and **Tom's** own son Tjip doing »The Darling Stone«, which I think no-one recognized...

**Tom** did an amazing job collecting the questions, making the videos and presenting the quiz!

The next event was a **Lottery** with some great prizes, such as hand-written lyrics, signed CDs and cards, drumsticks, signed drumskins and a copy of Nits' debut LP.

After a break the results of the Tom Telman Quiz were presented. All of the prizes went to LICE members (Tenno, Jelle

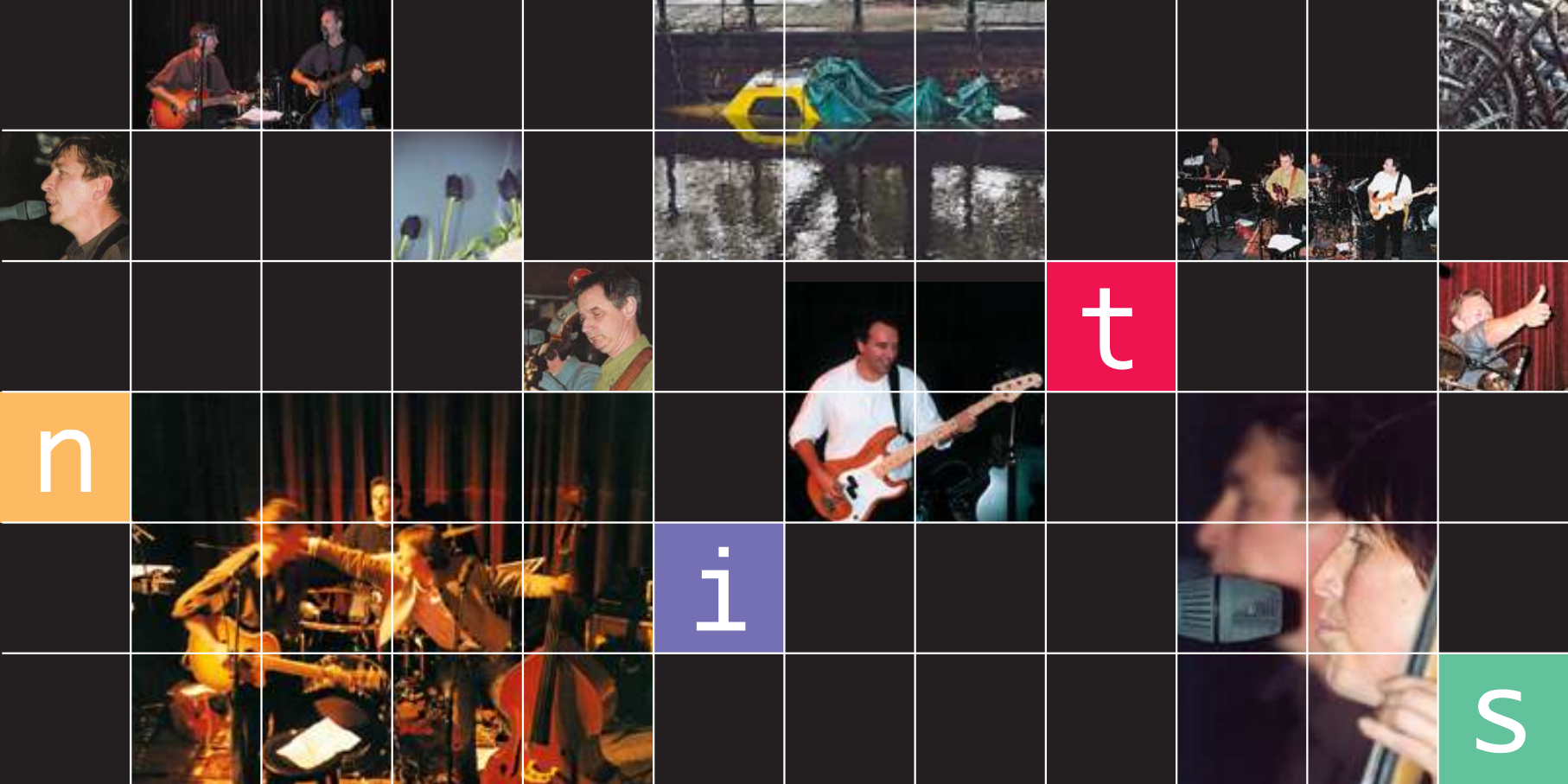
and me and the big winner Franck!), which proved that LICE consisted of some of the biggest Nits fans - who else would be crazy enough to play songs in front of an audience with so little rehearsals...! The first prize was another Nits debut LP. Jelle and I won handwritten lyrics.

After the quiz and lottery it was time for the second set of LICE. We had some surprises in this set and we were very excited to start.

We began immediately with the first



surprise: **Michiel Peters** joined us on stage to sing and play guitar on »**Spirits Awake**«. He used Jelle's guitar, so Jelle took some percussion instrument for this song. It was great to see and hear Michiel play again. Before I had explained to him how we played the song and we managed to get through the whole song very nicely! **Anna** got another chance to play the vibraphone very prominently. It was great singing and playing with Michiel. The next song was also a surprise: »**Skateboard Boy**« is a song that the Nits wrote and played live a lot in the late 1970s. But we performed it for the first time in over 20 years, much to the surprise of the audience who didn't know the song and the original Nits, who I think had forgotten about this song. It's a fun song to play and to sing (which I did). **Symeon** played a cool »ambulance« guitar solo. The third song was better known: »**Dapper Street**«. I think we managed to play it very well and Jelle's vocals were amazing! I loved doing the backing vocals. »**Typist Of Candy**« had another special guest: **Martin Bakker**, but he didn't play bass and instead took over the drumkit. **Franck** and **Jelle** started it on guitars. **Jelle** sang lead vocals, I did backing vocals and some percussion thingy. Martin's drumming was very subtle at the beginning, but halfway through he entered in full force. **Tenno's** keyboard solo in this song was fantastic I think. **Martin** got the chance to some great



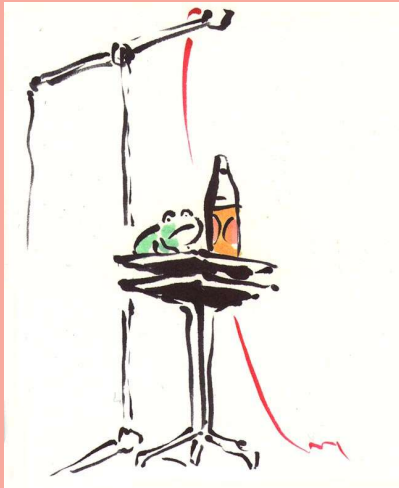
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banging on the drums in the ending! The next song »Statue« proved to be very difficult to play at the rehearsals, but on stage it turned out great. **Symeon** got a chance to show off his guitar playing abilities. He really went into it! Also **Tenzo** played distorted noises. **Franck** and I switched lead vocals a few times in the song and we also sang together in some parts. For the last song of our regular set **Robert** came back to the drums and we played »Frog«. I brought a small toy frog which made frog sounds. After introducing the frog as the next special guest I started the song by squeezing it and frog noises came out. **Anna** did the vibraphone intro and we went in full force. **Jelle** and **Anna** sang lead together, I joined in on backing vocals. **Maarten** played very cool bass in this song. **Symeon** did Henk's keyboard solos on his guitar! **Tenzo** played the horn parts excellently on his keyboards. After this song we took a bow. The audience wanted more so we had another song for them, with another special guest. **Henk Hofstede** came on stage to play Franck's guitar and sing »In The Dutch Mountains« with us. It was great fun and the audience liked it a lot I think. At some points in the song I was sharing the microphone with **Henk** which was amazing! **Henk** and **Jelle** were jumping around during the song, which was great. The soft middle part was a lot of fun as well with almost all of LICE doing the high



»ah-aaah-ah« parts. We thought it would be over for LICE now, but the audience asked us to do another one. We didn't know anymore, so we played »Bilbao Boas« again, this time with **Henk** on lead vocals. It was a great ending to our performance!

Many people thought this would also be the end of the day, but no: as a big surprise there would be more live music, this time by various **Nits** and **ex-Nits** members. Most

LICE band members and organizers knew about this, but I think it was a big surprise for most of the fans in the audience.

First **Henk** invited **Martin Bakker** back on stage, this time he took the guitar. Together they played »Chameleon Girl«. At some point **Tenzo** couldn't resist and he started to play with them on his keyboard! **Martin** left and it was time for **Peter Meuris** to sit behind the drums and **Joke**



**Geraets** to come on stage with her standing bass, which she had brought along. It was great seeing and hearing **Joke** play again. The three of them they played »Home Before Dark«. Next **Michiel** came back on stage and joined them, this time with his own guitar. They played »Adieu, Sweet Bahnhof«. This was an amazing lineup: three generations of Nits on stage -

**Michiel** played with **Nits** from 1974-1985, **Joke** from 1986-1989 and **Peter** from 1991-1996! Only **Henk** had played with all three previously. **Peter** and **Joke** left after this. **Henk** moved to **Tenzo's** keyboard, **Michiel** stayed onstage and then came the most unique part of the performance when **Rob** and **Alex** entered the stage: A reunion of the 4 original **Nits** members. They hadn't played together with the four of them in front of an audience since 1981! They played six songs: »Red Tape«, »Bild am Sonntag«, »Shadow Of Doubt«, »Four Ankles«, »The Infant King« and »Tutti Ragazzi«. I had never even dreamed of seeing those songs played by them again! **Alex** sounded fantastic. I's like he never stopped playing since 1981. Even the songs which were from after his period with **Nits** sounded great. It seemed like it was over in 5 minutes. The reunion with the original 4 lasted about 20 minutes though.

This was really the end of the day. **Anna** called all the organizers on stage and thanked us. **Clemens** said some words and **Pieter** presented the special bottles of »Vin de Nits« that were given to all organizers, LICE members and (ex-)Nits.

People then started to leave. Many of the **Nits** stayed for a while and I received many thank-yous and compliments from fans and **Nits** members: thank you all for that!

Dennis Versteeg