

CATERINA VALENTE



THE CAREER OF AN INTERNATIONAL STAR! or simply A WOMAN BORN FOR MUSIC!

London's DAILY SKETCH (1970) wrote:
"Whatever it takes to be a star, she's got it!"

This laconic statement implicates the superlatives used by other journalists all over the world. Whether they call her "Caterina la grande" in Italy or "Caterina the great" in England and the U.S.A., she is the same everywhere: an undisputed queen of show business.

Celebrated by the public, awarded the highest praise by her peers, revered by the greatest musicians and popular among other artists.

She is fortunate to have a blessed voice, unique musicality, and possesses a particularly distinctive feel for rhythm. But that's not all. This graceful woman worked on herself continuously and unwaveringly with incredible tenacity and an iron will. Whether she was singing, dancing, or playing solo guitar, she did so with total focus. Her abilities, combined with her charismatic personality gave this artist a glittering career and led to her becoming a well-established celebrity in the world of entertainment. To give a complete description of her career would take too long, so here is just a short summary of the most important stages of her success.

- 1931 Born on January 14 in Paris France. Her mother, Maria Valente, is a world-famous musical clown and her father, Giuseppe, is a talented musician. Her parents are Italian; Caterina therefore acquires Italian nationality.
- 1936 First appearance at the Friedrichsbau in Stuttgart within the family group.
- 1952 November 25 Caterina marries the German juggler Erik van Aro. (she obtains a German passport) She becomes his assistant. Erik later becomes Caterina's manager.
- 1953 March–May: Appears as a singer at the Grock circus.
- April: Auditions for Radio Zurich. Producer Walter "Walo" Linder produces 15 tracks straightaway.
- November: Guest singer for the Kurt Edelhagen orchestra.

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- 1954 February: First record "Istanbul."
- September: First one million-selling hit in Germany with the German version ("Ganz Paris träumt von der Liebe") of the Cole Porter song "I love Paris." Huge successes such as "Wo meine Sonne scheint" (Island in the sun) and "Dich werd ich nie vergessen" (I will never forget you) follow.
- Film career starts with "Mannequins for Rio." This is followed with title roles in several box office hits, including "Liebe Tanz und 1000 Schlager" (Love, Dance, and 1000 Songs) with Peter Alexander and "Casino de Paris" with Vittorio de Sica and Gilbert Becaud.
- 1955 International success with "Malaguena." Second international hit with "The breeze and I." Both tracks originate from the "Andalucía" suite by Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona and were recorded with Werner Müller and his orchestra.
- USA debut in the television broadcast "COLGATE COMEDY HOUR"
- 1957 First public appearance in the USA (Cotillion Room at New York's Hotel Pierre). The first German Caterina Valente show "Bonsoir Kathrin" is broadcast on September 10.
- 1958 August 8: Her son, Eric Philippe Bruno, is born in Mannheim, Germany. OLYMPIA owner Bruno Coquatrix is godfather.
- 1959 April 1: Premiere of her sensational one month run at the Paris OLYMPIA.
- "Best Female Vocalist" Grammy nomination for "La Strada dell'amore", awarded the "Grand Prix National du Disque" (Grand prize for music) from the Academie Francaise for the song "Bim Bom Bey."
- 1961 Perry Como has Caterina as a guest on his TV show, thus helping her to achieve her definitive breakthrough in the USA. He hosts her twelve times in the years to follow.
- The first Italian Caterina Valente show "Bonsoir Caterina" is broadcast.
- 1963 Gold disc for first charity LP "All Star Festival" for UNICEF. Caterina Valente's song "La Golondrina" is featured among other performances by such stars as Doris Day, Maurice Chevalier, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, and Edith Piaf.
- 1964 September: "The Entertainers" premiers on US-Television. Caterina co-hosts 22 shows with Carol Burnet, Bob Newhart and Dom Deluise
- 1968 The TV special "Caterina from Heidelberg" is seen by over 50 million viewers via US broadcaster CBS.
- 1970 Caterina's successful appearance at London's TALK OF THE TOWN leads to an invitation to perform at the "Royal Command Performance" in London.
- 1971 February 19 Divorces her husband, Erik van Aro,. The two remain business partners and friends. In the meantime Paris born Caterina becomes a French citizen.
- May 17–June 7: Russian tour (Moscow, Kiev, and Leningrad)
- Performs at the UN's 26th anniversary gala in Washington at President Nixon's request.

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- 1972 January: Legendary 18 concerts at Paris' OLYMPIA with Michel Legrand.
- March 4: Marries British composer and pianist Roy Budd.
- December 27: Awarded "Ordre de l'éducation Artistique" (order of artistic education) in Paris
- 1974 March 9: Birth of her son Alexander. Paulette Coquatrix from Paris' Olympia is godmother
- 1980 Divorces her second husband, Roy Budd.
- 1984 Caterina Valente is named the first ambassador for SOS Children's Villages.
- 1985 Huge German Democratic Republic tour
- 1986 16 million viewers in Germany and neighbouring countries see the TV show "Bravo Catrin" to mark her 50th year on the stage.
- Awarded the "Grosses Bundesverdienstkreuz" (grand order of merit) for life time as well as humanitarian achievements.
- Tours Germany, Austria and Switzerland with the Count Basie Orchestra conducted by Thad Jones.
- 1987 Last stage appearance in the USA at the Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles
- 1989 Records jazz CD "A briglia sciolta" in Italy, which, under various publications and titles including "Fantastica" and "Platinum Deluxe" among others, becomes the biggest selling Valente CD.
- 1996 Last stage appearance in Europe at the Leipzig Opera
- 2001 Her collaboration with harpist Catherine Michel is published on CD under the title "Girltalk." This last production is awarded the highest praise from international critics. The last track on this CD sees Caterina singing "Papa n'as pas voulu," the song she sang during her first appearance in 1936.
- 2003 March: With a surprise appearance, as a duet partner of her son Eric van Aro jr. on the "Paolo Limiti Show" in Italy, Caterina decides to retire.

Concerts & Tours

1954 - 1996:

in Argentina, Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, DDR, England, Finland, France, Hong Kong, Holland, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, México, Norway, Austria, Peru, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, Spain, UDSSR, Uruguay,

USA

From 1957 to 1972: 12 Supper Club Tours (incl. 7 times Headlining in Las Vegas – The Flamingo, The Sahara, the Desert Inn)

from 1974 to 1982: 10 Concert-Tours (incl. Avery Fisher Hall New York, Kennedy Centre Washington) with Buddy Rich, The Tommy Dorsey Orchestra, Woody Herman & Thundering Herds and others

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Germany:

Tour with Kurt Edelhagen and Peter Frankenfeld 1960, Grosse Deutschland Tour 69, Caterina 86 with The Count Basie Orchestra 1986, Ich Bin Tour 1987

Recordings:

Caterina Valente has recorded and published more than 1500 songs in 12 languages, amongst others with Kurt Edelhagen, Werner Müller, Chet Baker, Claus Ogerman, Thad Jones & the Count Basie Orchestra, Luiz Bonfá, Sy Oliver, Roger Kellaway with WDR Big Band conducted by Jerry van Royen, Catherine Michel, Manfred Krug, Johnny Keating, Edmundo Ross, Stanley Black.

More than 18 Million records sold worldwide!

Top Hits Germany (selection):

Ganz Paris träumt von der Liebe, Wo meine Sonne scheint, Steig in das Traumboot der Liebe, Tipitipitipso, Ein Schiff wird kommen, Quando Quando, Manuel, Männer brauchen Liebe

Top Hits Italy (selection):

Till, Personalita', Nessuno al mondo, Meta' di Me, Appuntamento a Madrid

Top Hits France (selection)

Bim Bom Bey, 39 de Fievre, En Ukraine, Siat-ons jamais, Je n'avais pas compris

Top Hits USA, UK, Australia (selection)

Malaguena, The Breeze and I

Top Hits Japan (selection):

Tout l'amour, Koi No Bakansu, Una Sera a Tokio,

Television

(Selection of Caterina Valente Personality Shows as well as guest appearances)

Germany, Austria, Switzerland (Personality Shows)

Bonsoir Kathrin (12 shows), Die Caterina Valente Show (8 shows), Rendezvous bei Catrin (14 shows), Caterina (8 shows), Musik Circus (6 shows), Ein Lächeln am Fuße der Leiter (5 shows), Bonjour Kathrin (Special), Verliebt in Musik (Special), Wünsche die ich mir erfülle (Special), Unter Freunden (Special), Wenn es Nacht wird in den Städten (Special), Catrin's Sylvesterparty (Special), Bravo Catrin (Special), Musik ist mein Leben (Special), Auf der Strasse der Erinnerung (Docu-Special),

Guest

Peter Alexander Show, Musik ist Trumpf, Michael Schanze Show, Petula Clark Show, Das ist Ihr Leben, EWG, Wünsch Dir Was, Der Goldene Schuss, Stars in der Manege, Baden Badener Roulette, Ivan Rebroff Show, Auf Los geht's Los, Bio's Bahnhof, Wie wär's heut mit Revue, Wunschkonzert, 40 Jahre Rias, Melodien für Millionen, Peter Frankenfeld Gala, 25 Jahre Goldene Kamera, Stars und Sensationen mit Siegfried und Roy, Willkommen im Club

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Italy (Personality Shows),

Bonsoir Caterina (12 shows), Nata per la Musica (12 shows), Bentornata Caterina (3 shows) Un'ora insieme (Special)

Guest

Il Musichiere, Johnny 7, Su' e giu', Studio Uno, Speciale per Noi, Premiatissima, Alla ricerca dell'arca, Raffaella Carra' Show, Paolo Limiti Show

France (Personality Shows)

Top a Catherine (Special), Catherine sur la 2 (Special), Valente a L'Olympia 1970 (Concert) , A l'Olympia avec Michel Legrand 1972 (Concert), Valente a l'Olympia 1976 (Concert),

Guest Michel Legrand Show

USA (Personality Shows)

The Entertainers (22 shows) The Hollywood Palace (as Host), Caterina from Heidelberg (Special), Caterina Valente in Concert 1975 (Special)

Guest

Perry Como Kraft Music Hall (12 shows), The Dean Martin Show (12 shows), The Danny Kaye Show(4 shows), The Bing Crosby Special, The Patti Page Show, The Colgate comedy hour, The Glen Campbell Show, The Meredith Wilson Show, The Ed Sullivan Show, The Steve Lawrence Show, The Mike Douglas Show (Co-Host), The David Frost Show, The Joey Bishop Show,

England (Personality Shows)

Alan King-Bobby Van-Caterina Valente Special, Caterina from Heidelberg (Special)

Guest

Tom Jones Show, Engelbert Humperdink Show, Rolf Harris Show, Nana Mouskouri Show, Sasha Distel Show, Harry Secombe Show, Cleo Laine Show, Royal Command Performance 1971, Night of the Proms

Awards:

EURO PREMIO 1964/1965, Italy
 2 GOLDENE BILDSCHIRME, Germany
 O GLOBO, Brazil
 FAME AWARD (US TV-Oscar) 1965, USA
 GOLDENE KAMERA 1966, Germany
 BUNDESVERDIENSTKREUZES 1968 (Cross of merit), Germany
 "OFFICIER DE L'EDUCATION ARTISTIQUE" 1972, France
 HONORARY LÖWE Radio Luxemburg 1978, Luxemburg
 2 GOLDENE EUROPAS, Germany
 2 BAMBIS, Germany
 GOLDENE STIMMGABEL, Germany
 PLATIN ROMY 1998 Life time achievement, Austria
 GROSSEN BUNDESVERDIENSTKREUZES 1985, (Great cross of merit) Germany
 PRIX WALO Life time achievement, Switzerland
 ECHO 2002 Life time achievement, Germany
 PREMIO GABARDI 2004 Life time achievement, Italy
 EHREN BAMBI 2005 Life time achievement, Germany

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CATERINA VALENTE IN THE LIGHT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS:

Die Valente ist nicht nur ein ungewöhnliches gesangliches und tänzerisches Talent – sondern auch eine Stimmungskanone par excellence
Filmblätter, Deutschland 1957

Caterina Valente is simply the greatest female entertainer in the world!
Jack O'Brian, Syndicated Column, USA, 1964

Ela è a maior do mundo!
Folha de Tarde, BRASIL, 1968

Few, even among the celestial ones, reveal such proficiency along with special magic
Variety, USA, 1969

"... dass sie so vieles und vieles so ausserordentlich gut kann, dass sie alle Konkurrenten in ihrer Branchenumgebung lässig in den Schatten stellt und dass sie dem Sinatra auf jeden Fall die Stimme voraus hat"
Die Zeit, Deutschland, 1969

Courez voir et entendre Caterina Valente! Sa voix est d'une pureté et d'une souplesse rares et tous son numéro est un feu d'artifice!
Le Figaro, France, 1970

Don't miss Caterina the great! A dynamic performer, in the same league as Sammy Davis Jr, Lena Horne... yes, and Barbra Streisand!
Evening News, UK, 1970

Caterina is the greatest!
Rand Daily Mail, South Africa, 1970

La piu' eccezionale show-woman, che lo spettacolo abbia espresso in questi ultimi anni!
EVA, Italia, 1972

Caterina is Europe's answer to Doris Day, Barbra Streisand and Liza Minnelli all rolled into one!
The Spectator, CANADA, 1976

Valente: A vocal superstar in any language!
Los Angeles Times, USA, 1987

Caterina Valente, Imperatrice di tutte le musiche!
Repubblica, Italia, 2000

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