

PAOLO BELLI

BIOGRAPHY

Paolo Belli is one of Italy's most famous singer, musician, showman and entertainer. Thousands of shows around Italy and the world, 10 released albums and continuous presence in Italy national TV made Paolo a highly popular celebrity, who never forgets his passion for social engagement.

Paolo starts studying piano when he is only 6 years old and, after entering the Academy of Music in Reggio Emilia, he starts to write songs in Rythm & Blues style.

1984. With some guys of his town he founds the band LADRI DI BICICLETTE (Robbers of Bikes), according to his admiration for the neo-realistic art and cinema movie with TOTO', SORDI, DE SICA.

1989. First apparition on SANREMO FESTIVAL followed by live performances as supporting group during VASCO ROSSI tour, presenting their new single DR JAZZ & MR FUNK. First prize in FESTIVALBAR '89. TELEGATTO prize (an important television award) as "the best new group of the year". Their first album, LADRI DI BICICLETTE, sells over 150.000 copies.

1990. With FRANCESCO BACCINI's collaboration, they produce SOTTO QUESTO SOLE, the song of the summer 1990. First prize in FESTIVALBAR '90.

1991. SANREMO FESTIVAL: They produce the second album, FIGLI DI UN DO MINORE. At the end of the year, Paolo Belli leaves the band.

1993. Paolo Belli realises a new single, PAOLO BELLI & RYTHM MACHINE. Important collaborations with many national and international artists: Sam Moore, Billy Preston, Jon Hendricks, Jimmy Whitterspoon, Piero Chiambretti, Enzo Jannacci, Fabio Fazio, Litfiba, Red Ronnie, Paolo Rossi, Gialappa's Band. Paolo Belli writes songs with VASCO ROSSI, AVION TRAVEL and P.F.M.

1994. He records the album SOLO, produced by Alberto Pirelli. The video clip of the single M'HANNO LASCIATO QUI is awarded as the best video clip of the year by VIDEOMUSIC (TV musical channel). Paolo Belli performs in more than 90 concerts per year, allowing to the people to know his overpowering energy and to crown him as "The King of Funky".

1996. The 22nd of May is a very important date for Paolo Belli: his favourite football team, Juventus, invites him to perform before the final match of Champions Cup in the Olympic Stadium in Rome. In September he takes part in CLIO RDS LIVE 2 in Palermo with a crowded audience of about 400.000 people.

1997. The new single is UOMINI O CAPORALI. The title is another homage to the great actor TOTO' and to the Italian cinema movies tradition. The new album is NEGRO, followed by the live summer tour.

1998. On 3rd of May Paolo Belli plays with the great DAN AYKROYD, the last of Blues Brothers, who is in Italy for promoting his new film movie. In the summer Paolo plays with his own band as special guest in PORRETTA SOUL FESTIVAL.

Paolo Belli and his music are devoted testimonials for important charitable associations, like ROCK NO WAR and NAZIONALE ITALIANA CANTANTI (Italian National Singers Football Team).

1999. The new album is A ME MI PIACE LO SWING, in which Paolo performs with a big band of 17 musicians.

2000. Paolo Belli and his Big Band take part in TORNO SABATO, a successful television show on RAI UNO Channel conducted by Italian actor and showman GIORGIO PANARIELLO. Paolo sings and plays with WILSON PICKETT, GIORGIA, AL JARREAU, KID CREOLE. In June, Paolo Belli & Big Band are fixed guest in SANREMO ESTATE 2000, another RAI UNO television show conducted by the showman CARLO CONTI. Paolo Belli consecrates his figure and talent on television.

The new single is HEY, SIGNORINA MAMBO, followed by BELLI DENTRO, his new album.

In November Paolo Belli composes the sound track for GIORGIO PANARIELLO film movie AL MOMENTO GIUSTO.

2001. Theatre debut in PANARIELLO...CHI?, beside GIORGIO PANARIELLO. The tour is followed by the VHS recording. The new single is FEMMINA, in which the typical Belli's soul and funk sound is blended with Latin colours. The single is followed by the new album, BELLI...E PUPE.

2001-2002. Together with GIORGIO PANARIELLO, Paolo Belli & Big Band attain a great success in TORNO SABATO: LA LOTTERIA, RAI UNO television variety show linked up with Lotteria Italia, the most important Italian television lottery.

2002. New theatre tour of PANARIELLO...CHI? .

1st of May 2002: exciting performance during the outstanding CONCERTO DEL 1° MAGGIO in Rome.

2003 to 2004. The albums "SORRIDI E VA AVANTI" (2003) and "BELLI IN SMOKING" (2004) are presented internationally with tours through Italy, UK, Czech Republic, Spain, Switzerland, France, Canada and South America.

On the 22nd and 23rd of May 2004 Paolo plays a record-concert with his Big Band: 36 consecutive hours of live music aired on TV, charity for heart problem research.

Paolo has always been socially engaged, as for associations such as "Rock no War" and the "Italian Singers Soccer" team

2005: Paolo is featured with his Big Band at the famous Italian Saturday night TV show "Dancing under the Stars", where he has been resident band ever since.

He also writes the soundtrack song for the 88th GIRO D'ITALIA and becomes with the cover of the Italian classic by Buscaglione "Guarda che Luna" highly noticed by major audience and TV.

2006 starts with the great concert in St Marco Square in Venice. The best of "PIÙ BELLI DI COSÌ!" comes out in the newspaper stores and sells in one month over 25000 copies, while licensing a track to Perugia Sweets, Italy's most famous sweets.

Later that year Paolo becomes co-showmaster of BALLANDO CON LE STELLE with Milly Carlucci, with whom he also conducts the TELETHON, a charity show for scientific research.

2007 starts with a new form of show, which includes sketches, comedy and theatre, with popular actors Paolo and Alberto Di Risio, which becomes a huge commercial and critical success and goes over months, sold out anywhere.

Once again he co-conducts BALLANDO CON LE STELLE and features his Big Band.

Also this year he conducts the highly popular TELETHON show.

2008 While still on tour from the year before and touring all summer, he releases the Italian version of "Just a Gigolo" and works with PUPO at the show "VOLAMI NEL CUORE"

Once again he conducts the TELETHON show with Milly Carlucci and Fabrizio Frizzi.

2009 Paolo and his band join the fifth edition of BALLANDO CON LE STELLE, which keeps shares high and gets the so called TV-Oscar.

It is also a great year returning to SANREMO, now in its 59th edition. He performs with PUPO and YOUSOU N'DOUR the song "L'opportunità" – "The opportunity", talking about integration and racism.

This success is followed by the actual release of his best of "20 anni", - "20 years", where he rerecords his major successes and features three new songs.

He opens Italy's biggest musical event, the 1st of May in Rome with his band, for 800.000 people, for which he also presents the TV-preview (on national TV).

During summer he does a videoclip and song against abandoning of animals, for which he receives a special award for social engagement from Italy's authors and publishers collecting society SIAE.

He's also this year joining the team of TELETHON, in its 20th edition, for which he writes and performs the soundtrack "È l'amore".

Actually he's working on the 6th season of BALLANDO CON LE STELLE and had already new listing records from beginning of the show.

Produzione - Cicuta Produzioni Srl
Executive production: Mauro Longhin
Tel. +39.0444.565860 - info@cicutaproduzioni.it - www.cicutaproduzioni.it
Sede operativa Roma – Cicuta Produzioni Srl
Label Manager – Fabrizio Brocchieri
Tel. +39.06.89681705 – fabrizio@cicutaproduzioni.it

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