

# biography:

# Quazar

It all started in the summer of 1988, the Amsterdam 'Summer of love', that marked the beginning of house-culture in Holland. Producer MG (Gert van Veen), who'd been playing bass and keyboards in a band with members of metalfunkgroup Urban Dance Squad, was blown away by the new dance music that was played in clubs like the Amsterdam Roxy. MG bought a sampler, a secondhand 303 and 909 and started recording loose acid-house-tracks with two friends: Corne Bos and Roxy-DJ Eddy de Clercq, the godfather of the Amsterdam house-scene. In the spring of 1989 the trio released 'Dance to the music', the first house-track produced in Holland. A year later MG and de Clercq joined up with Eric Cycle for the House Of Venus-project, that had a first international clubhit with 'Dish 'n tell', released on the new Amsterdam-label Go Bang!, that put Holland firmly on the map of the international dance-community. Around the same time MG recorded a track that was so different from the clubby House Of Venus-sound, that he decided to make it another project: QUAZAR.

That track was 'Seven Stars' - a massive international clubhit, which became the blueprint for the energetic, hard techno-sound, that would become the most popular dancefloor-style in the years to follow. Later 12-inches like <Dragonfighters>, <Midsummernight's dream> and <Red alert> also did very well, while the first QUAZAR-album <Seven Stars> (1991) became one of the first big-selling techno-house-albums of that era. After the demise of Go Bang! in 1992 (due to poor financial management of record company Boudisque), Quazar went it's own way and from then on released it's material on it's own Seven stars-label: a string of pumping, melodic techno-house-12 inches like <Deeper and higher>, <Breakaway> (fave of the Slam-DJ's and Darren Emerson) and <North Star> (1994, re-released in 1998 on the British Checkpoint Charlie-label).

Around the same time Quazar recorded some tracks with Underworld-singer Karl Hyde (<Sunflower>), while van Veen and Hyde together performed live on the 'Crossing Border'-festival (1996) with a set of new (as yet unreleased) material.

Playing live has always been one of the strengths of QUAZAR (voted best Dutch live act in 1997), from MG's first live acid-jams of 1988 to the 55 date-tour, that MG & Daphne made following the release of the <Flightrecorder>-album (1997). Starting off

with a live-set on the Dance Valley-festival in Spaarnwoude (where QUAZAR performed on all four editions, followed by a Superstition-party in Cologne and a one hour-set in a packed 8000 + tent on the Lowlands-festival (next to Laurent Garnier and Darren Emerson), they played so many different parties and festivals, that first after a while they realised that they were no longer a duo, but a trio. Live-drummer Leon Klaasse (Proper Beating) joined Quazar for a loose live-jam somewhere in the spring, but became a solid bandmember during the last leg of the tour. Late 1998 MG & Daphne, with a little help from friends like Angelo d'Onorio, Proper Beating, Hans de Groot, MC Marxman and Denise Rivera, started working on the fifth QUAZAR-album <21 HOURS>, which of course carries the marks of the long period of touring. Most tracks originated as live-jams, and were later reworked in the studio.

About the Quazar members:

MG and Daphne first met on the dancefloor of Amsterdam-club Roxy in the spring of 1993. Living together in the Quazar-studio, with only a bed and a couch between loads of equipment, it was almost inevitable that the duo would start to make music together, which they did. They bought two new Apple Macs, started recording and designing in the same room, and never looked back.

On stage Daphne's the queen of the 303, while she also handles all the other machines with faders and knobs. Next to being a full time QUAZAR-member, she now also is a professional designer for Internet-company Twinspace. Gert van Veen is leader and founder-member of QUAZAR, that so far has consisted of different line-ups for every tour. Next to a string of 12-inches and five QUAZAR-albums, his output consists of other projects for R&S, Djax, Lucid and Bush, as well as two mix-cd's: <De Nederlandsche Underground> (1996) for the Emergency Broadcast-label, and an overview of 10 years of Dutch house music (Streetwise, 1998) for an exposition of Dutch clubculture. In 1998 van Veen received the prestigious Golden Award from Update Magazine.

At the moment QUAZAR are currently working on their next 12inch for Superstition. Therefore the duo has stopped all live performances until mid of the year to concentrate on the studio work.

The new Quazar-12" will be released on Superstition in autumn 2000.