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A Tribut to Kurt Cobain

It is three years ago, since the „Godfather of Grunge“ killed himself in his luxury house in Seattle. At that time his suicide dropped many Kids into deepest sadness. But who was Kurt Cobain, the man, who couldn't just enrich a generation with his music, but them, with his „Fuck on the world“- attitude, in there whole existence and thinking changed?

Kurt Cobain was born on the 20th of February 1967 in Aberdeen, a little logger town in Washington state. Already when he was a little boy, Kurt was brought into medical treatment because of his hyperactivity. Already as a child he was pained by a chronic bronchitis. He also had a spinal curvature, with which he had problems until his untimely death. In spite of these pains, Kurt was a happy child, something he always tried to emphasize in the interviews. An essential point in his life was the divorcing of his parents in 1975. Kurt was interested in music pretty early. So for example he listened to groups like The Beatles and later also to Kiss, Aerosmith, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath. When he was 12 years old, his uncle gave him a guitar. So he started to play the guitar and very soon he wrote his first songs. When he was composing he felt as if doing a job. It was probably the only job he has ever liked in his life.

Kurt spent the next summer with prowling and bespattering of houses and cars of the bigwigs. That's how he met Krist, the son of Yugoslavian immigrants. Like Kurt, Krist also came from a disordered family. They also both grew up in Aberdeen and didn't like the area pretty much. Krist was bassist, and because of that Krist and Kurt founded a band for a short time. They started to play in Krist mother's house. But one day they lost their enthusiasm for playing music, and separated themselves. One year later they got together again. This time with the drummer Bob McFadden. They played a couple gigs in and around Aberdeen. The success wasn't good at all and so they separated from Bob McFadden and got a new drummer with Aaron Burckhard. But he also had to go after a short time, because the differences in the musical scope were too big. Finally they found a drummer with Chad Channing, who could satisfy their high expectation. Still during the same summer they recorded their first single *Love Buzz*, and at Christmas in the same year their debut-album *Bleach*. The costs for the recording were only 607 dollars. The disc was published in the summer '89 in England and later in the year also in the States. At the time they were already kind of famous and so the album was pretty well sold, and soon they went on an underground-tour with a low payment.

They gave their concerts in a kind of monotony. They filled themselves up with alcohol and smoked pot. Most of the time when Krist wasn't on stage he was occupied with taking something to get high. But when their tour was over, Kurt and Krist realised, that Chad Channing was also not the right one for their plans and so they left their third drummer. But this should be their last drummer-change, because Dave Grohl wasn't only a great drummer, Dave Grohl could harmonize with Kurt and Krist on stage, something that didn't work with the three others before. Afterwards Kurt called the time that came now the best in their whole band history, because they were slowly getting famous, but it wasn't that everybody on the street knew them. There was no pressure from outside and the mood in the band was pretty good.

In spring 1991 Nirvana started the recordings for their second album; *Nevermind*. During this work Kurt met Courtney Love, who is the bandleader of Hole. Between

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Kurt and Courtney there was a kind of appeal that some of their friends described as occult. But Kurt had to invest a lot of time for the new disc, on which all the texts and every melody was written by him.

In November 1991 the album was published and got really successful all over the world in a short time. The song *Smells like Teen Spirit* was played all the time on the music channel MTV and the clip to *In Bloom* was one of the best Rockclips that was ever made. But Kurt was never happy with the worldwide glory they had. At that time Kurt's drug abuse started, what had bad consequences for himself and the band. Kurt asserted, that a reason for his heroin dependency was his gastric ulcer, whose excruciating pains during the intoxication were getting better and against which no doctor could ever help him until that time. But the main reason was probably his unhappy personality. The only moments, in which he had a kind of satisfaction, was the time, when he was together with Courtney. Kurt had strong feelings for Courtney and so in February 1992 they got married. But even on the day of their wedding Kurt couldn't be without his drug and took some heroin before the ceremony started. But when Courtney found out that she is pregnant, both of them stopped taking heroin which probably wasn't that easy.

At the 18th of August 1992 Frances Bean Cobain was born. Nirvana had meanwhile not been on stage for over a year. Kurt enjoyed the life with his family, even though it wasn't positively influenced by the withdrawal treatment he had. The only thing they did during this time was the unsuccessful album *Incesticide*. In July 1993 Nirvana gave their comeback on stage, to test the people's reaction for their new disc *In Utero*. Even though the album was strongly criticized, it was defended by Kurt till the end. It was an extremely difficult assignment for Nirvana to be as successful with the new one as with the *Nevermind*-album, because this one became cult-status in only two years. Half a year later, Nirvana gave their legendary „Unplugged in New York“-concert, which was also obtainable on CD. Nobody had a premonition at that time, that it would be the last album during Kurt's life. After they had broken up a tour in Italy, Kurt went back to his house in Seattle. On the 8th of April 1994, he was found dead by an electrician in a garage next to his house. Doctors determined that he had been dead for two days.

When Kurt Cobain died didn't lose the world only a genius of music, but a man who helped the Grunge onto the peak. His name was the personification of this way of music. However of his death the memories for Kurt Donald Cobain will never get lost. He created with his music something, what couldn't do a lot of artist before him. Even though the most of his hits can be played by every better schoolband. But maybe it was exactly this simpleness, what made his music so fantastic. Even better than his music was his voice. It came from deep inside of him and when you hear it, you get a feeling, like hearing his suffering soul. Also amazing was, that Kurt got so famous, even though there were between his first international success in November 1991, and his suicide in April 1994 only 5 ½ years. And even today, three years after, his music can inspire the people for a new time.

Wenn ihr mein Referat für die Schule benutzt, und es eine mögliche Bewertung gibt, wäre ich darüber erfreut, diese zu erfahren. E-mail: knobasel@yahoo.com