

## FACT SHEET

**TITLE:** **SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA**  
[TV-PG] [CC] [Stereo]

**LENGTH:** 1/65; 1/71

**NOLA CODE:** SABT

**CATEGORY:** Music & Entertainment

**OFFERED:** Premium Service 16 offer, April 2005

**RELEASE DATE:** June 1, 2005

**CONTRACT TERMS:** 8 releases through June 30, 2008

**PROGRAM SUPPLIER:** Digital Classics Distribution, LLC

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** **SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA** is a retrospective celebrating 30 years of ABBA's worldwide popularity. Agnetha, Frida, Benny, Bjorn, and producer Pete Waterman tell the story of the pop group's early beginnings, their rise to international acclaim and the reasons for their demise. This documentary integrates material from *ABBA: The Movie*, a documentary about their first tour of Australia, current and archival concert footage and interviews with band members. The documentary culminates with three of the four group members reuniting in London at a performance of the stage hit *Mamma Mia!*, which is based on ABBA's songs.

**PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS:** Use the above program description for guide listing. A press kit, including fact sheet, press release, song list and group biography will be posted to Connect and [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org). Color photos will be available via email and on [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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**FACT SHEET**

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2004 Iambic Productions Ltd. and Littlestar Services Ltd.

**PRODUCTION CREDITS:** Executive producer: Judy Craymer  
Producer and director: Chris Hunt  
Director: Steve Cole

**BROADCAST HISTORY:** Ovation, 1/1/05-12/31/07

**RELATED MERCHANDISE:** Individual viewer purchase: Recordings by ABBA are available in retail outlets nationwide.

Pledge:

Program DVD, Related DVD: "ABBA - The Definitive Collection," Related 4-CD boxed set: "Thank You for the Music," Related CD: "Gold: Greatest Hits."

**VIEWER INQUIRIES:** American Public Television  
Viewer Services  
55 Summer Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Boston, MA 02110  
617-338-4455 ext. 202

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA Celebrates the Songs, Success and Stories of the World-Popular Band**

Get your metallic bellbottoms out of the closet and dance like a disco queen! **SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA** reveals the story of this effervescent Swedish pop group and propels audiences to sing their infectiously catchy tunes.

ABBA had all the ingredients for long-term popularity: fun and energizing music, decadent '70s costuming, personal drama, talented musicians and beautiful lead singers. Although this group only created music for 10 years, their popularity still continues more than 30 years later. **SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA** is a retrospective celebrating the worldwide phenomenon of this glam '70s group. Agnetha, Frida, Benny, Bjorn and ABBA producer Pete Waterman tell the story of the group's early beginnings, their rise to international acclaim and the reasons for their demise. Presented by American Public Television's Premium Service, the program begins airing on public television stations nationwide June 1, 2005 (check local listings).

"This program will draw both the younger and boomer audiences," says Eric Luskin, vice president of APT's Premium Service. "The boomer audience will remember ABBA from the group's heyday, while the younger demographic has been exposed to the ABBA revival through Hollywood films such as *Muriel's Wedding*, *The Adventures of Priscilla*, *Queen of the Desert* and the hit Broadway musical *Mamma Mia!*," adds Luskin.

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**SUPER TROUPERS** revolves around the first-ever, on-stage reunion of three group members at the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance of the huge stage hit, *Mamma Mia!*. Focusing on the anticipation of this occasion, the film reflects on 30 years of ABBA mania.

The documentary integrates material from *ABBA: The Movie*, (a documentary about their first Australian tour), current and archival concert footage and interviews with group members. Highlights include insight into the group's songwriting and recording techniques, pre-ABBA footage of the four members, a look at the group's outlandish outfits, exclusive footage from rehearsals and performances of *Mamma Mia!* and insight into Agnetha's mysterious withdrawal from public life.

**SUPER TROUPERS** captures the spirit and fascinating history of the band and will leave viewers singing any one of ABBA's fun-loving and classic lyrics including "You are the dancing queen, young and sweet, only 17." Fans will indeed remember all the fun of the disco era.

**SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA** is produced by Iambic Productions Ltd. and Littlestar Services Ltd. The program is executive produced by Judy Craymer, produced and directed by Chris Hunt and directed by Steve Cole. APT's Premium Service distributes the program to public television stations nationwide.

**About American Public Television**

For 44 years, American Public Television (APT) has been a prime source of programming for the nation's public television stations. APT distributes more than 10,000 hours of programming including *JFK: Breaking the News*, *Simply Ming*, *Globe Trekker*, *Rick Steves' Europe*, *Julia and Jacques Cooking at Home*, *Battlefield Britain*, *Jungle*, *America's Test Kitchen*, *Lidia's Family Table* and classic movies. APT is known for identifying innovative programs and developing creative distribution techniques for producers. In four decades, it has established a tradition of providing public television stations nationwide with program choices that enable them to strengthen and customize their schedules. Press should contact Donna Hardwick at 617-338-4455 ext. 129 or via email to [Donna\\_Hardwick@APTonline.org](mailto:Donna_Hardwick@APTonline.org). For more information about APT's programs and services, visit [APTonline.org](http://APTonline.org).

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## SONG LIST

### SUPER TROUPERS: THIRTY YEARS OF ABBA

“Super Trouper”  
“Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)”  
“Voulez-Vous”  
“I’m a Marionette”  
“Mamma Mia”  
“I Have a Dream”  
“People Need Love”  
“California Here I Come”\*  
“Fernando”\*  
“Eagle”  
“Head Over Heels”  
“Take a Chance on Me”  
“So Long”\*  
“He Is Your Brother”  
“Dancing Queen”  
“One Man, One Woman”  
“Thank You for the Music”  
“Money, Money, Money”  
“Does Your Mother Know?”  
“Knowing Me, Knowing You”  
“The Winner Takes It All”  
“Hole in Your Soul”  
“Waterloo”\*  
“Happy New Year”\*  
“When All Is Said and Done”

These songs are presented via vintage performances/video clips – not necessarily in their entirety.

\* In standard version only – not in pledge version.

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### ABBA

In June 1966, Björn Ulvaeus (born 1945) met Benny Andersson (born 1946). Björn was a member of the *Hootenanny Singers*, a popular folk music group, while Benny played keyboards in Sweden's biggest pop group of the 1960s, *The Hep Stars*. The pair wrote their first song together later that year, and by the end of the decade they had established a regular partnership as composers.

In the spring of 1969, Björn and Benny met the two women who were to become not only their wives but also the other half of ABBA. Agnetha Fältskog (born 1950) had been a successful solo singer since releasing her first single in 1967. She and Björn were married in July 1971. Anni-Frid Lyngstad (born 1945), also known as Frida, started her recording career shortly before Agnetha. Frida was of Norwegian origin, but had moved to Sweden at a very early age. Benny and Frida didn't get married until October 1978.

At first, the members collaborated musically by contributing songs, instrumental backing, production work or backing vocals to the recordings they each made as solo or duo acts. In 1970, the attractive sound of their combined four voices gave them the idea to put together the cabaret act *Festfolk*. In 1972, they recorded "People Need Love," garnering a medium-sized hit in Sweden. Encouraged by this success, they entered the 1973 Eurovision Song Contest with "Ring Ring." They finished third, but the single and the album of the same name competed for the top positions on the Swedish chart.

The group entered the selections again in 1974 with "Waterloo," which took them all the way to the finals. By this time they had changed their name to ABBA, an acronym of their first names. The Eurovision Song Contest on April 6, 1974 was the most famous moment in ABBA history, when the group won the international juries over with "Waterloo." The song soon became No. 1 on the charts all over Europe, and reached the U.S. Top 10.

Eighteen months later, ABBA scored a major worldwide hit again with "SOS," taken off their third album, titled *ABBA*. "Mamma Mia," also taken from the album *ABBA*, returned the group to the U.K. No. 1 spot, which they occupied a total of nine times between 1974 and 1980. "Mamma Mia" was also a No. 1 hit in Australia. Over the next few years, Australia would be caught up in a virtual ABBA fever, giving the group a total of six No. 1 hits.

In 1976, ABBA finally and firmly established themselves as one of the most popular groups in the world. Two different greatest hits compilations released in

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## **BIOGRAPHY**

the U.K. and Australia that year (*Greatest Hits* and *The Best of ABBA*) are still among the best-selling albums of all time in those territories. Classic single releases “Fernando” and “Dancing Queen” topped the charts all over the world. In April 1977, “Dancing Queen” became ABBA’s only U.S. No. 1 hit.

In late 1976, the album *Arrival* was released. It stormed up the charts and spawned the hits “Money, Money, Money” and “Knowing Me, Knowing You.” In 1978, the group embarked on a promotional campaign in the United States, leading to a Top Three single with “Take a Chance on Me” and a Top 20 entry for *ABBA - The Album*. The hit singles “Summer Night City” and “Chiquitita” were followed by ABBA’s album, *Voulez-Vous*, released in April 1979. Earlier that year, Björn and Agnetha announced their divorce. This did not mean the end of ABBA, but it did overthrow their image of two, happy, music-making couples.

ABBA’s single “Gimme! Gimme! Gimme! (A Man After Midnight)” was released in 1979, coinciding with a major tour of Canada, the United States and Europe. Around the same time a second compilation album, *Greatest Hits Vol.2*, became an international success. In March 1980, ABBA took their tour to Japan for what turned out to be their very last live concert. Later that year, the group recorded *Super Trouper*, containing hits like “The Winner Takes It All” and the title track.

In 1981, Benny and Frida announced their divorce. This event still didn’t stop the foursome from working together. At the end of the year, ABBA’s eighth album, *The Visitors*, was released. “One of Us” was the biggest hit off the album.

By 1982, the energy was running out of the group. Björn and Benny set their sights on writing the musical *Chess* and Agnetha and Frida wanted to revive their solo careers. The only ABBA album release this year was a compilation of their hit singles, entitled *The Singles - The First Ten Years*. At the end of 1982, ABBA decided to take a break.

More than two decades after ABBA’s “temporary break,” there still has been no ABBA reunion. But the group’s music lives on: the 1990s saw the beginning of a major revival, with successful covers and high-profile movies using ABBA songs on their soundtracks. The 1992 compilation CD *ABBA Gold* has sold 26 million copies and the 1993 companion album, *More ABBA Gold*, sold 2.5 million copies. The box set *Thank You for the Music* followed in 1994, containing all the hits, selected album tracks, plus rare and previously unreleased recordings.

In 1999, the hugely successful musical *Mamma Mia!* based on the songs of ABBA, premiered in London. The musical opened on Broadway two years later, and today it is the world’s most popular show. *Mamma Mia!* has been seen by more than 17 million people and plays to 15,000 people every night.

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