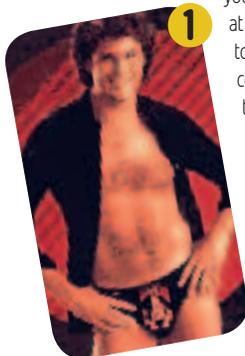


# Oliver's Travels

## Stop the Hoff

STAR OF *KNIGHT RIDER* AND *BAYWATCH*, THE HOFF IS A NATIONAL GERMAN OBSESSION. OR IS HE?

I've lost count of how many times I've heard the following remark: "You're from Germany? Hehehe, you like David Hasselhoff." Well, yes, I admit that the Hoff topped the charts for eight weeks in 1989 (but let's not forget that over in the UK you had Jason Donovan!). And, ok, he did sing at the Berlin Wall on New Year's Eve 1989, on top of a crane wearing a leather jacket complete with flashing light bulbs. Although this is an image that will haunt me for the rest of my life, it has strangely been wiped off the face of the internet. But lets get the facts right. The last time the Hoffmeister had a top 20 hit in Germany was actually in 1991. The rest of the world, however, is not only still going on about it, but has gone mad and relaunched the Hoff's career, which is now experiencing some bizarre renaissance all over the globe. He's played the lead role in *Chicago* at London's West End for three whole months last year, recently appeared in *Dodgeball*, *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie* ([www.tinyurl.com/cd4jw](http://www.tinyurl.com/cd4jw)), and now



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he's preparing - believe it or not - a big screen version of *Knight Rider*. I blame the internet for this intolerable state of affairs. The online community is absolutely obsessed with the Hoff. But how many 'funny' Hasselhoff emails can an average inbox take? There's the extremely disturbing Hasselhoffian Recursion 1 ([www.b3ta.com/board/4104576](http://www.b3ta.com/board/4104576)), the Hoffmeister showcasing some secret swimming powers 2 ([www.tinyurl.com/7jwsq](http://www.tinyurl.com/7jwsq)), and the even more shocking 'Can you find David Hasselhoff's missing nipples' game. I urge you all: sign the Stop The Hoff Emails petition ([www.petitionspot.com/petitions/Stopthehoff](http://www.petitionspot.com/petitions/Stopthehoff)) so we (and especially me) won't have to endure the ever-increasing flood of hopeless Hoff spam anymore. And while you're at it, stop giving Hasselhoff credit for goodness' sake. Otherwise he really might believe the Amazon reviews praising his musical output on *Looking For... Best Of David Hasselhoff* [Import]. Since 2001 no less than 1074 fans have variously called the CD a 'love letter to mankind', 'a classic tale of fortune and glory' and 'a masterpiece of original song writing' ([www.tinyurl.com/7eqo9](http://www.tinyurl.com/7eqo9)). We still don't know if it's a conspiracy, some twit being funny or David himself trying to push the sales of his record, which have



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plummeted globally - despite persistent new releases. Was it him, after all, who started the rumour that he had teamed up with bad boy Ice-T to record a hip hop album as Hassel The Hoff ([www.tinyurl.com/d3ctn](http://www.tinyurl.com/d3ctn)), only to deny it later?! We don't know but somehow David has found a new home on the net. On eBay His Davidness enjoys a dedicated following. More than 200 Hoff-related items are being flogged on [ebay.com](http://ebay.com), including drinks coasters and 'David Hasselhoff is God' badges, and they're quite popular. As if this wasn't enough, you can also track the latest, exclusive Hoff auctions on the 3 [hoff.eauctionassist.co.uk](http://hoff.eauctionassist.co.uk). For instance, Hoff-signed 20GB iPods, pre-installed with his Christmas album and a special message have fetched £265 - and this is on [ebay.co.uk](http://ebay.co.uk), not on [ebay.de](http://ebay.de)!



3



Has the world gone Hasselhoff-crazy or is it all part of David's evil plan for world domination ([www.esquilax.com/baywatch/domination.html](http://www.esquilax.com/baywatch/domination.html))? Is he the Antichrist ([www.esquilax.com/baywatch/index.shtml](http://www.esquilax.com/baywatch/index.shtml))? To be fair not many celebrities are honoured with fan sites like 4 [www.knight-foundation.com](http://www.knight-foundation.com), the official David

**More than 200 Hoff-related items are being sold on ebay, including drinks coasters and badges, and this is on ebay.co.uk not ebay.de!**



### Non-German Oompah bands

Obsessed with Bavarian brass? Invite these guys round!

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#### ANDY AND THE OOMPAHS

[tinyurl.com/a9gt8](http://tinyurl.com/a9gt8)



#### KARL'S BAVARIAN BRASS

[tinyurl.com/a275g](http://tinyurl.com/a275g)



#### THE OOMPAH BAND

[www.oompahband.com](http://www.oompahband.com)



# WTF?

POSTS OF CONFUSION FROM THE .net FORUMS

**Author:** pcfashion.co.uk  
**Subject:** Teh genius is...  
**Message:** Mr Identity AKA James he is teh genius

**.net says:** Clearly not.

**Author:** cerebral jam  
**Subject:** Yeay Fruity midweek viewing time again!

**Message:** Well, I've put Downfall on my agenda ... what about you?

**.net says:** You're planning your own downfall?!

**Author:** tfg

**Subject:** cold turkey

**Message:** well, cheese & onion actually. why can I buy a cheese and onion pasty from the shop in a sealed plastic wrapper, perfect for those yuppies on the go, but I can't heat it up as there's no oven where I'm working today? There's a microwave but the pasty isn't microwaveable. Anyone care to put this one to bed for me? A more pressing question is: why am i working away in this office for no money at all...?

**.net says:** Try heating it up with a magnifying glass.

**Author:** sickpuppysoftware

**Subject:** [Official]This is the official "official" thread

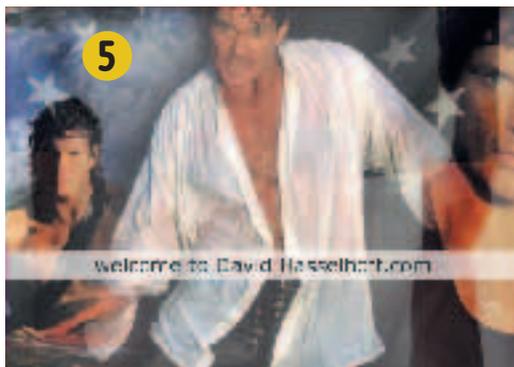
**Message:** I'm just testing if putting [Official] around a subject makes it more official? Look how official this thread is! It couldn't be more official if it had a peaked cap, shiny buttons and a little row of medals.

**.net says:** You need to get out more.



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Hasselhoff site of worship. It includes gems like 'Every woman desires him, every man aspires to his hairy manliness', a bizarre 'Ask David' section and a downloadable David Hasselhoff paper airplane template. Take a look at the Hoff pictures on this site as well as his own official page at [www.davidhasselhoff.com](http://www.davidhasselhoff.com), and you can't help but conclude that the Hoff is an easy target, with smiles cheesier than a pound of gorgonzola and a body hairier than the Yeti. But now guess what? None of the aforementioned links originates in Germany, so come on everyone, just confess to your own Hoff obsession and get over it. After all, there's always the Shat... ■



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## THE TYROLEAN TAVERNERS

[tinyurl.com/agqkx](http://tinyurl.com/agqkx)



## THE SAUERKRAUT BAND

[tinyurl.com/8tucp](http://tinyurl.com/8tucp)



## The brains behind: **Themanwhofellasleep.com**

**This Month:** Greg Stekelman

It's not a blog or a personal site but whatever the Themanwhofellasleep is, it's intriguing and shot to fame, thanks to its Tube Gossip section. Reason enough for us to catch up with its creator Greg Stekelman



**Q: Who are you? And why are you sleepy?**

**A:** When I'm not doing the site, I tend to languish in self-inflicted obscurity. I do freelance work; sub-editing and copywriting. I'm bored because I've hemmed myself into a corner. The site does well and is very high profile, so I don't want to beg for mental work, but on the other hand, it makes almost no money. I'll have to swallow my pride and work in KFC or something.

**Q: What's Themanwhofellasleep all about?**

**A:** Themanwhofellasleep is all about the banality of life in a North London suburb. It's equal parts surreal, pointless and amusing.

**Q: How did you come up with the idea?**

**A:** I was working at a dotcom that was going under and had a lot of time on my hands, so I taught myself some very basic HTML and started writing and doing stupid pictures. This was before blogs or livejournals, so I just registered a geocities page (it's still there, somewhere) and made my own, very basic web site. As it grew and I improved my Photoshop/Flash/writing skills, I decided to get my own domain. I like the fact that people don't really know how to categorise the site... it's not a blog and I am not really interested in making a prosaic site that describes what I had for lunch or what album I am listening to.

**Q: Why is it called themanwhofellasleep?**

**A:** It's called Themanwhofellasleep in homage to *The Man Who Fell To Earth*, which I always liked. I thought the name was quite appropriate, since I tend to fall asleep a lot.

**Q: What's your favourite bit of Tube Gossip?**

**A:** My favourite parts of the Tube Gossip are just the strange statements like "God is just birdseed"..."

**Q: What's the journal of hope and despair?**

**A:** It's a diary but the central character often embarks on strange, implausible adventures or muses about the nature of fruit machines. In truth, it's my favourite part of the site because it's a piece of old-fashioned writing.

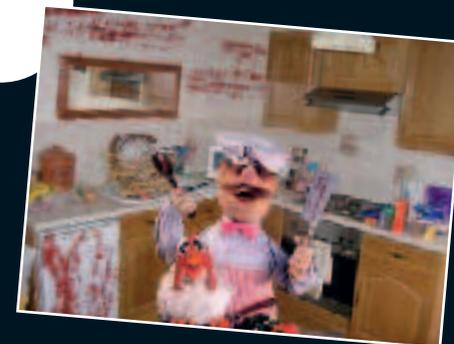
**Q: What's next for themanwhofellasleep?**

**A:** Through the web site, I ended up doing some comedy writing for Radio Four and Radio One and a film production also contacted me. At the moment, I'd like to see if I can translate the site into a book - a proper book, rather than a coffee table book or a toilet book. Basically, I'd like to do something fairly creative but also make some money! ■

## Image edit of the month

Where .net forum visitors edit images for the love of god

**Artist:** antenna  
**Show us your skills at [forum.netmag.co.uk](http://forum.netmag.co.uk)**



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