

Marvin Gaye in Ostend 1981

In Ostend, Marvin Gaye began working on his musical come-back. During his stay, he made a musical, performed in several cities in Europe and recorded a new song in Marc Aryan's studio. This song was released by the recording company CBS, who bought it from his former record company Motown. In the beginning, he lived in the guesthouse Mercury and later on he moved to the sea dike of the Belgian coast city Ostend.

In February 1981 he declared to the local newspaper that he sincerely loved Ostend. His performance in casino was a huge success. Back in those days, Marvin also had a legendary meeting with deceased Prince Charles (of Belgium) in the restaurant Midland. His recovery period in Ostend paid rich rewards. The star of soul music started to live again! With his new racing bike he rode hundreds of miles over the sea dike. It also occurred that he went over to the training of Sunair, and played a game of basketball.

In Moere (in the neighborhood of Ostend) there was a grand mansion which gained Marvin's love at first sight. More than a year, he lived there with Charles and Greetje Dumolin, who were the owners of this beautiful house. At the kitchen table the song 'Sexual Healing' was written. Then already, there were plans to create a statue, out of bronze, in front of the casino of Ostend. However, these plans were concretized by Charles Dumolin twenty years after Marvin Gaye's death.

The 'real' monument has been cast in bronze. It is 4.2 yard long, has a height of 2 and a width of 2 yard. The total weight of this monument is 5500 pounds. You can admire this piece of art and soul daily at the entrance hall of the casino of Ostend.

Marvin stayed in this house till the end of 1983, with his two children Bobby (4) and Nona (8). The two kids had a lot of fun together with Charles and Greetje's children, Bram and Jana, from about the same age.

Suddenly Marvin needed to leave the country, due to difficulties with his green card. In the dept of the night, he had to leave. But before he left the house, he offered Charles and Greetje a number of suitcases as deposit for their house.

The family Dumolin's wish is to make sure that more than 120 unique Marvin Gaye memoirs go back to their country of origin. It would be magnificent if they could be used in a real Marvin Gaye Museum.

A fatal family dispute ended the life of a shining star of the American black Motown studios. On 1 April 1984, one day before his 45th birthday, Marvin was shot by his 70-year old father in his parent's house in Los Angelos. His 71-year old mother Alberta has witnessed this family drama. Marvin passed away in the hospital due to two gunshot wounds in the chest.

Thousands of people visited the memorial park Forest Lawn in the hills of Hollywood, to bid farewell to the murdered Marvin Gaye. According to the police, 9000 people condoled with Marvin that day. Another 20 000 people had to return, because the mourning room was full before their arrival. They could not say their last goodbye to the idol. The vice-president of the cemetery declared that the interest was comparable with the funeral of Clark Gable in 1960. With the sudden death of Marvin Gaye, one of the most important soul singers ever, had passed away.

Stevie Wonder sang and spoke on the soul singer Marvin Gaye's funeral. Behind the open coffin on the cemetery of Forest Lawn in Los Angelos, there stood a picture of Marvin, surrounded with numerous garlands, among one of Diana Ross "With love, Diana". The influence of Mavin Gaye on the development of soul music reached as far as the influence of the renowned celebrities Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson.