

 **THE
PARLOTONES**



CELEBRATING



TWENTY YEARS



BIOGRAPHY | 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Parlotones are Kahn Morbee, Neil Pauw and brothers Glen and Paul Hodgson. Formed in 1998, they have achieved massive success in their home country of South Africa, as well as success in various international markets.

The Parlotones are known for their hard work, humble attitude, and passionate dedication and commitment to their music. Their career, to date, has spanned over 20 years and includes achieving multi-platinum selling status and accumulating numerous awards.

The band has toured internationally since 2007. They have regularly visited the UK, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and North America, as well as playing shows in South America, Canada, Australia, Japan and Russia. They have also toured with Coldplay, Starsailor, Ash, The Wombats, Snow Patrol and Blue October.

The Parlotones have released eight studio albums: *Episoda* (2003), *RadioControlledRobot* (2005), *A World Next Door to Yours* (2007), *Stardust Galaxies* (2009), *Journey Through the Shadows* (2012), *Stand Like Giants* (2013), *Antiques & Artefacts* (2015) and *Trinkets, Relics & Heirlooms* (2016). They also have three live albums to their credit: *Unplugged* (2008), *Live Design* (2010) and *Orchestrated* (2017).

In 2018, The Parlotones released a new album to coincide with their 20th anniversary as a band. The album is named *China* - after the traditional wedding gift for couples celebrating 20 years of marriage. The album was recorded at High Seas Studios in Johannesburg and the band made a unanimous decision to release all 25 songs that were recorded. They feel the whole body of work captures a unique sound and represents a new era for the band.



A BIT OF HISTORY

Kahn, Neil, Paul and Glen got together for the first time in 1998 and spent a few years learning to play their instruments and writing songs in Neil's parent's garage. They went through a few band names (including "Crayon", "Lilo" and "Soap Box Derby") before settling on The Parlotones - inspired by the record label Parlophone.

After a few years of additional members coming and going, recording low-budget EPs, and playing various bars and nightclubs in Joburg, The Parlotones self-released their first album in 2003. The album was called *Episoda*, and the band cited influences such as Muse, Radiohead and Coldplay. This home-grown, British-influenced indie-sound was something totally new for South Africa. The Parlotones rapidly became known as one of the freshest sounding bands on the scene, paving the way for the album which would cement their success and catapult them to be the stars they are today - the studio album *RadioControlledRobot*.

RadioControlledRobot was released in 2005 and showcased The Parlotones as top songwriters on the scene. The album is an upbeat, yet eerily post-apocalyptic, view on the power the media has over society. The single "Beautiful" was used in the Irish Fujifilm ad, which exposed the band to their first international audience and secured them a worldwide licensing deal with the international division of Universal Music, covering the territories of France, Japan, Germany, Holland, Northern Ireland and the UK.

RadioControlledRobot won the 2006 SAMA (South African Music Award) for Best Rock Album and spawned numerous Top 40 hits, making it one of the band's most important albums. It shifted the band from indie status to stars adored by fans. In the years following this release the band toured constantly and won over South Africa and the world, tiny step by tiny step. In June 2007, The Parlotones were selected to perform at The Live Earth concert.

Constantly pushing the envelope of their artistry and by now recognised as one of the hardest working bands in the industry, The Parlotones headed to studio to record their third album *A World Next Door To Yours*, which was released in 2007.

A World Next Door To Yours, the album often considered the band's magnum opus, was certified Gold in South Africa three months after its release and platinum three months later. The album remained one of South Africa's top-selling albums for more than 12 months and became South Africa's biggest selling album of the decade 2000-2010.

The band embarked on a two-month, international *A World Next Door To Yours* tour to support the album release. The tour began in North America, moved to Canada, and was followed by a trip across the Atlantic for a UK tour with Starsailor. The unrivalled success of *A World Next Door To Yours* exceeded all expectations and paid testament to the rock giants The Parlotones had become.

After years of relentless touring, performing and writing, and with no signs of slowing down, The Parlotones released their fourth studio album *Stardust Galaxies* in 2009. The album spawned the hits "Life Design", "Push Me To The Floor" and "We Call This Dancing", and reached Gold Status in its first week of release. The music video for "Push Me To The Floor" won the MK Award for Best Music Video 2010 and a SAMA for Best Music Video 2010.

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Stardust Galaxies was launched during the band's 2009 world tour, which culminated in sell-out headlining gigs at the Coca Cola Dome in Johannesburg and the Grand West Arena in Cape Town. Headlining these venues was a feat never achieved before by a South African rock band. In 2010, the band played on stage to a local and international live broadcast audience of over a billion at the FIFA World Cup Kick-off Celebration concert.

To coincide with the release of Journey Through The Shadows in 2012, The Parlotones spent a year touring in the US and their homeland, spreading their musical message. Having to juggle a home-life in South Africa and life abroad was a testing time for the band and made them realise that, although they are always willing to travel the world, South Africa will always be home. "The most exciting part about touring is doing the last stretch returning home," says frontman Kahn Morbee.

In 2013, The Parlotones released their sixth studio album Stand Like Giants onboard Virgin Atlantic flight VS602 from Johannesburg to London. The album included the critically acclaimed single "Sleepwalker" featuring South African hip-hop star Khuli Chana.

After splitting with their management and label, The Parlotones released their first independent album Antiques and Artefacts in 2015 and embarked on nationwide tours to promote the album. This record consists of a collection of tracks, written in-between their previous recording sessions at Bellville Studios in Cape Town.

Antiques and Artefacts was followed by Trinkets, Relics & Heirlooms in 2016. This album featured co-labs with dance DJs, as well as previously unreleased original songs. The CD release also included songs from Kahn and Glen's respective solo albums.

After more years of touring, writing, getting married, having children, and re-building their business and brand, The Parlotones released China in 2018. Re-energised and optimistic, The Parlotones are ready for another 20 years of making rock 'n' roll history.

— **END** —

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