

## **The French Scene — Taratata... Not Just a TV Broadcast**

If you're looking for something to watch on French TV other than the typical, run-of-the-mill variety shows, **Taratata** is a notable exception to the often bland music shows of television's "wasteland." The show premiered in 1993 on France 2 and is hosted by the French-Egyptian producer known simply as Nagui. The 45 year-old TV and radio host consistently features truly talented musicians, both newcomers to the French music industry and seasoned and well-known artists. His invited guests include French, English, American and other European Rock or Folk music bands and singers. Nagui's sense of humour makes for some exceptional interviews, interspersed with live renditions of his guests' music, and his show, which has made Nagui a very popular personality in the French entertainment industry, continues to enjoy excellent ratings. In fact, Taratata was taken off the air in 2000, but because both the public and musical artists clamoured for its return, the show was revived in April 2005.

### **His interviews are personable and intelligent**

Nagui's, and the show's, success is due largely to his ability to establish a warm and intimate rapport with the singers and the public. His personable and intelligent interviews allow the audience to discover, for the first time, very talented artists and to be up-to-date with the current French and international music scene. Many English singers who were not well known by the French public became popular thanks to Taratata. Each week, the show features a special guest and the program focuses on his or her career. In addition to his featured artist, you will see special guests, many of whom are more popular at that moment than the guest. One of the great joys of Taratata is when the various guests join each other on stage for truly unusual performances.

The show has great live music and unexpected duets, along with short interviews. Since the show is recorded in advance, the interviews with the English musicians are subtitled in French!

On the show, you can discover various singers such as Simple Minds, Alain Souchon, Hubert Félix Thiéfaine, Zazie, Cali, Devendra Banhart, Ben Ricour, Katie Melua, Sean Paul, Jane Birkin (ex wife of Serge Gainsbourg) and many others...

The show lasts for about an hour and a half followed by a "bonus" where you can see behind the scene rehearsals as well as the preparations for the show.

The show is aired every Friday at 8:50 p.m. on *France 4*, one Friday a month on *France 2* and also on *TV5*, the French International Channel. Check your TV listings for the exact time and dates for the show.

You can also watch all the previously broadcast shows on the internet on the official website of the TV broadcast: [www.taratata.net](http://www.taratata.net)

*Céline and Vincent Anthonioz*

## Taratata... Plus qu'une émission de télé

Si vous recherchez quelque chose d'autre à regarder sur les chaînes de télévision française que les émissions de variétés typiques, de qualité très moyenne, Taratata est une exception notable dans la jungle des programmes musicaux plutôt fades. Cette émission, qui a été créée en 1993 sur France 2, est animée par le producteur franco-égyptien connu sous le seul nom de Nagui. Ce présentateur-vedette de la radio et de la télévision, âgé de 45 ans, invite constamment des musiciens de vrai talent, aussi bien des nouveaux venus dans le monde de la musique que des artistes célèbres et chevronnés. Parmi eux, des musiciens et chanteurs de rock ou folk français, anglais, américains et d'autres pays d'Europe. Le sens de l'humour de Nagui génère quelques interviews exceptionnelles, entrecoupées par des interprétations en direct de ses invités, et son émission, qui a fait de Nagui une personnalité très populaire du monde du divertissement en France, continue de jouir d'un taux élevé d'audimat. En fait, l'émission de Nagui fut interrompue en 2000, mais devant la pression du public et des artistes pour le faire revenir, elle a repris en avril 2005.

### **Un rapport chaleureux et intime avec le public et les chanteurs**

Le succès de Nagui, et de son émission, est dû en grande partie à sa capacité à établir un rapport chaleureux et intime tant avec les chanteurs qu'avec le public. Ses interviews intelligentes et menées sur un ton très personnel permettent aux téléspectateurs de découvrir, pour la première fois, des artistes très talentueux, et d'être au fait de l'état actuel de la scène musicale française et internationale. De nombreux chanteurs anglais qui n'étaient pas très connus du public français sont devenus très populaires grâce à Nagui. Chaque semaine, l'émission met en avant un invité spécial, présentant aussi bien l'individu que sa carrière. Et vous verrez en outre bien d'autres invités, dont beaucoup sont encore plus populaires au moment de l'émission. L'un des temps forts de Taratata est lorsque les divers invités se rejoignent sur scène pour des performances tout à fait inhabituelles. L'émission offre ainsi de grands moments de musique en direct, et des duos inattendus, assortis de courtes interviews. Et puisqu'elle est enregistrée en avance, les interviews de musiciens anglais sont sous-titrées en français !

Cette émission permet ainsi de découvrir des artistes tels que Simple Minds, Alain Souchon, Hubert Félix Thiéfaïne, Zazie, Cali, Devendra Banhart, Ben Ricour, Katie Melua, Sean Paul, Jane Birkin (ex épouse de Serge Gainsbourg), et bien d'autres...

Elle dure environ une heure et demie et est suivie par un "bonus" vous permettant d'assister à quelques répétitions, et à des préparations de l'émission en coulisses. Taratata est diffusée chaque vendredi à 20h 50 sur *France 4*, un vendredi par mois sur *France 2*, et également sur *TV5*, chaîne internationale en langue française. Les jours et heures sont indiqués sur les programmes de télévision.

On peut aussi visionner toutes les anciennes émissions sur le site web: [www.taratata.net](http://www.taratata.net)

## A Selection of DVDs

### **Improve your language skills and enjoy French movies at the same time with some French DVDs.**

Watching French films on DVD is an excellent way to improve your understanding of spoken French. Most of them have subtitles in French for the hearing impaired (sous-titres “sourds et malentendants”) which are great because you get, of course, the actual texts for all the dialogues, but also for all the sounds (such as doors opening, cars passing by, etc.). And, of course, you can also pause and rewind when you haven’t quite understood a part of the film. It’s a great way to improve your French, and last but not least, there are a lot of great French movies!

Here are some of our recommendations:

#### **Tanguy**

Nowadays, more and more young French people continue to live with their parents until they are as old as 30. This film by Etienne Chatiliez (2001) is an example of this new phenomenon: Tanguy, 28, is very reluctant to move out and find a place of his own. His parents, two very good actors, André Dussolier and Sabine Azéma, are increasingly fed up with this kid who refuses to become an adult and resort to using subtle ways to convince him to leave. Very funny, and full of great and useful vocabulary...

#### **Le promeneur du Champ de Mars**

This film by Robert Guédiguian, released in 2005, is about former French President François Mitterrand, played by the excellent actor Michel Bouquet. The film covers Mitterrand’s final years while he was fighting against the prostate cancer that took his life on 8 January 1996.

#### **“Je vous trouve très beau”**

This movie by Isabelle Mergault, released in early 2006, is about a French peasant who has just lost his wife and is looking for another woman who could help him out on his farm . As he cannot find one in France, he travels to Romania where many girls dream of a better life in Western Europe. His new helpmate provides for some intriguing surprises. Funny and moving.

### **Where to buy or rent DVDs?**

#### ***Buying***

You can buy DVDs in the large stores such as Carrefour, Leclerc, Auchan, etc; or in music stores such as Fnac, Virgin, etc.

There are also a lot of online stores such as:

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

[www.amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr)

[www.virginmega.fr](http://www.virginmega.fr)

[www.dvdpascher.net](http://www.dvdpascher.net)

[www.priceminister.com/video-dvd-vhs](http://www.priceminister.com/video-dvd-vhs)

### ***Renting***

You can always take out a subscription in a video rental store close to your home. Another way of renting is to find one of the automated video distributors that are conveniently located in many cities; (like the “24 self video”). You just need your credit card to rent your DVDs. The choice can be somewhat limited in both of these outlets, however.

An additional convenient and comfortable way to rent DVDs is to rent them online. There is a vastly greater selection of good films, depending on the site, and you have the choice of either paying for a monthly subscription with an exchange system (you get 1, 2 or more DVDs at a time depending on your choice and once you send them back, you get 1, 2 or more etc.). You can also choose not to subscribe monthly but just pay up front for a certain number of DVDs. You receive your movies in the mail along with a pre-paid envelop to send them back in. Here are some online DVD rental sites:

[www.glowria.fr](http://www.glowria.fr)

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

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