

**BIOGRAPHY**

***“Whenever heroes set off on a journey, fighting adversity and discovering themselves in the end, you’ll find me glued to the screen. I just love cinema!”***



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Steven Gätjen was born on 25th September 1972 in Phoenix in the US, the son of a doctor and a journalist. When he was three, the family returned to their native Hamburg. As a young boy Steven loved popcorn, Superman II and Clash of the Titans. Best of all were the trips with his dad to the drive-in cinema in Billbrook. In the backseat, next to his younger brothers Daniel and Andy, he dreamt of one day telling stories. Aged just 14, he interviewed musician Herbert Grönemeyer while working as a trainee at the magazine Tempo. At 15 he returned to the United States for a year, as an exchange student in Virginia.

***“If there’s one thing we Germans can learn from the Americans, it’s how to loosen up! We worry about things like the curvature of a banana. Mad, isn’t it?”***

After finishing school, Steven fulfilled his national community service as a first aid instructor with the Samaritan relief organisation “Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund”. From 1994-1996 he completed a traineeship with the Hamburg radio station OK Radio, where he presented the “Morning Show” and the cinema programme “Kino”. In 1996 he flunked a casting for presenters at the music station MTV in London, but was given the position of television editor. When one day a presenter was absent through illness, Gätjen – prompted by his colleague Christian Ulmen – stepped into the breach. He performed so well that he remained on screen as presenter of MTV News Highlights and MTV Europe News, later becoming chief editor. Furthering his education in film and television production, Gätjen studied at the University of California in Los Angeles and Hollywood Film School in San Francisco between 2001 und 2002.

***“The atmosphere on the red carpet is amazing. Flashing cameras, endless voices and all those Hollywood stars – you are bombarded with thousands of sensations in the space of those four hours.”***

In Germany Gätjen presented the lifestyle show “taff” on the German channel ProSieben from 1999 to 2001. Since 2000, the German presenter with the American passport is THE man at the Munich-based channel for interviews on the red carpet as part of the Oscars ceremony. Be it Johnny Depp, Tom Cruise, Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt or Steven Spielberg – with many Hollywood greats Gätjen has made a name for himself not just as the live reporter at the Oscars who likes handing out roses and chocolates, but also as a respectful interviewer. Always thoroughly prepared, the cinema expert’s surprising questions are enough to make the stars laugh. He has managed to get exclusive interviews in which stars like Robbie Williams, Madonna and Will Smith reveal their fears, dreams and hopes.

***“I absolutely believe in the American dream, where dishwashers can become millionaires.”***

In his 20-year career in media, Gätjen has presented over 20 different television programmes and hundreds of film premieres in Europe and America. He has conducted around 1000 interviews with prominent personalities. Gätjen is a firm believer in the “American dream”, where everyone can work their way up from dishwasher to millionaire.

***“I want to entertain people, and tell stories.”***

Following a year in Los Angeles as a freelance presenter at “E! News Live”, Gätjen returned to German screens in 2004. He presented long-running series such as “Disney Filmparade” (2004–2009) and “Blockbuster TV – Das Kinomagazin”, as well as working as a Bundesliga football reporter for the sports channel Arena. Alongside presenting television and radio shows, he established himself as an MC at corporate events, gala ceremonies and film premieres as well as as a voice-over artist. After primetime series such as “Gülcans Traumhochzeit” and “Sommermädchen 2009” (ProSieben), his friends would bombard him with teasing text messages, but Gätjen has no regrets: “Every project was an experience that helped me move forward.”

***“While I’m presenting, I’m always thinking of the individual watching at home on the sofa. It’s for him that I want to do a good job. I want him to enjoy it.”***

In 2010 came a leap into unknown waters. Gätjen literally plunged into Stefan Raab’s show “TV-total-Turm” – in a synchronous diving activity together with the actor Daniel Wiemer. A year later the phone rang: Stefan Raab wanted Gätjen this time as presenter of his successful show “Schlag den Raab”. Since then Gätjen has regularly presented live for up to five hours in front of an audience of several million. Whatever the show produced by Raab’s company Brainpool - “Wok-WM”, “TV total Turmspringen”, “TV total Autoball Europameisterschaft”, “TV total Stock CarCrash Challenge“ or “Schlag den Star” – Gätjen is the host. In 2013 he co-presented the show “Fashion Hero” with Claudia Schiffer, followed in 2014 by “TV total Autoball Weltmeisterschaft 2014”.

***“When you do something out of love, and do it well, you’re sure to succeed.”***

Gätjen presented stories from the world of film in the programme “Mehr als Kino – Die Show vorm Film” (for the cinema chain CinemaxX), which he also produced. Moreover, he both produces and presents “Steven liebt Kino” (2011-2013 on Tele5, since 2013 on ProSieben and ProSieben MAXX). After all the years, Gätjen still enjoys going to screenings with his dad, and sometimes his brothers come along too. Steven Gätjen is a co-owner of the Italian restaurant “Louie&Chan“ in New York.

**Management:**

**Bigger Fish Management**

Contact:

Romy Günther

Gothaer Str.4

10823 Berlin

Germany

Tel.: ++ 49 30-469959-20

Fax: ++ 49 30-469959-18

Email: kontakt@biggerfish.de

