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How to make money BUSKING #3

Kiwi busker Nick Ferretti could be Germany's next Idol

Article taken from: Stuff - April 10 2019

Source: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/tv-radio/112202020/meet-the-kiwi-busker-who-could-be-germanys-idol>

"I never thought I'd be a German B-grade celebrity," muses Nick Ferretti. Actually he's a German A-grade celebrity. On Saturday night (local time) the 29-year-old Nelson native will compete in the final of *Deutschland sucht den Superstar*, the German version of the *Idol* format.

"It's going to be crazy," he says. "I can't believe I got this far." It's made all the crazier by the fact that Ferretti had no ambition to be on a reality show at all. But, like something out of a fairy tale, Ferretti was spotted busking on the street while on holiday in Majorca by Dieter Bohlen, Germany's answer to Simon Cowell and the producer of *DSDS*.

In a video posted to his Instagram, Bohlen captured the moment he first saw Ferretti playing his guitar and singing Sting's *Fields of Gold*. In the video, he can be heard to say that Ferretti would, in his opinion, win the show if he auditioned, which he asked him to do on the spot.

Months ago, he says, he "secretly despised TV shows and never thought I would be on one." "I just said, yeah I've got nothing else going on, so I did it," recalls Ferretti. That chance meeting started a journey that took Ferretti first to Hamburg, then on to Austria, Thailand, and now Cologne, where the semi-final and final are performed live. "It's been surreal," says Ferretti. "It's been a real ride."

Stuff [last spoke to Ferretti in 2014](#), when the then-24-year-old was about to head to London, hoping to make his mark as a busker and sell a few copies of his then-new, self-recorded album, *Back to Dust*. "I just want to spread the music to as many people as I can," he said at the time. A scant five years later he is spreading the music to more people than he ever could have imagined. *DSDS* is Germany's most-watched Saturday night entertainment show and about 5 million people will watch the final.

Already, Ferretti says, he is being recognised on the street by members of the public and his fan base has grown exponentially. "I started out with probably five Instagram followers, now I've got 40,000," he laughs. A recent Instagram post of Ferretti performing Bob Dylan's *Make You Feel My Love* in the semi-final, was liked by more than 16,000 people and garnered hundreds of comments from fans. "Incredible man! You are an inspiration!" reads one. "Good luck I hope you win the whole thing!"

So is he the favourite? "I don't know what they think because most of the reviews are in German," admits Ferretti, who says he has concentrated on singing rather than learning the language. But he does know that he's got what he calls the "Bohlen Bonus." Bohlen, he says, "knows me and any time he gets a chance to talk about me he does, and anything Dieter Bohlen says, Germany follows." While the other finalists are "really good singers," Ferretti believes that his biggest advantage is the fact that he plays guitar. "It's a novelty for them," he says. "I play the guitar and in 16 years no one's sung and played the guitar, it's always been playback."

If he wins, Ferretti's version of the new song performed by all finalists will be released as a single. He'll get a music video and a manager. He'll be Germany's Idol. He'll also be €100,000 (NZ\$168,500) richer. That would, he says in typically understated fashion, mean "a big change" for him, his wife and their 4- and 6-year-old sons. They plan to settle permanently in Germany in that event, he says, in order to pursue his new commercial career. "But regardless, even if I don't win it really has changed my life massively. "I think when it stops I'm going to feel a bit weird walking around and there's no camera there."

On Saturday night, following a packed week of vocal coaching, rehearsals and press interviews, the husky-voiced Ferretti will perform *Don't Dream It's Over* by Crowded House.

If you had asked him six months ago what he'd be doing now, Ferretti would have said he'd be "doing what I was doing, playing music on the street, entertaining German tourists. "But now I'm playing in front of them in their living rooms, I'm on the TV." It's a dream he never even knew he had. Let's hope it's not over.

So - If you have a passion for music why don't you consider busking to share your talents? If you decide to give busking a shot, give it your best shot. Busking will give you an opportunity to get used to playing in front of people, the chance to build on your musical skills and ability, to earn an income and it could even lead to stardom.

I've checked the websites of our largest councils to find out how you can apply for a busker license. I'm pleased to let you know that it's a really quick & easy process. If you're 14 & under you'll need to have signed permission of a parent or guardian.

To get you started I've copied & pasted the key details that you'd need to complete to give you an idea of what's likely to be asked. If you want to find out more go on-line to find out the process for your local council. It'll be pretty similar to the one below:

Application for a street performance (busking) licence

Full name:
Address of applicant:
Contact number:
Email:

Type of performance

What type of activity will you be performing? You'd answer this with a short clear description of your act.

If your performance is pavement art please see our website for a guide to using public space.

If your performance is a group act, list the names of all the other members. Please note that once the licence is issued, any additional members will require a new licence.

Location of performance

*What suburb(s) will you primarily be performing in? Give a description of the areas that you want to busk: **Example, Auckland CBD, Takapuna Shopping area, Lambton Quay, etc***

Do you need a special licence?

*Does your performance involve the use of live animals, flammable materials or dangerous objects e.g. knives, chainsaws etc.? Yes or **No (keep it simple to start with e hoa (friend))***

If you answered yes - then theres more forms to fill out and questions asked

Signature of applicant: **Date:**

If the applicant is under 14 years of age, parent/ guardian consent is required.& they fill out the details below:

Parent/ guardian full name:

Address

Phone number:

Signature:

Date:

Then: Submit your application: Online, by Post drop your application off at any Auckland Council service centre (too easy!).



TOP TIPS - BUSKING 101

USE SIGNAGE & BUSINESS CARDS

Every time you busk, put out a sign with your name & if you've set up a FB page for your busking advertise the address for that to. Another idea is to make a whole pile of home-made business cards that just have your name & FB address on it that you can give out or that people can help themselves to.

HAVE A BUSKING LICENSE

Nobody wants to be shut down and threatened with a fine, so check out the local [busking laws](#) in your city, as the rules can vary from place to place.

TRY TO FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY

Yup it can be hard when you're hungry, but do your best to focus on your music and on perfecting your art. Some days will be better than others when it comes to how much you earn financially, but each day's performance will be an adventure in itself.

BE OPEN & ENGAGING

Too often buskers keep staring at their guitars, or gazing off into the distance and often the reason for this is embarrassment or awkwardness. Try your best to make eye contact with your audience from time to time - it will get easier.

BE YOURSELF

There are thousands of buskers, but there's only one you. It can be tempting to see another busker and think "look how many people are watching them - they must be better than me! Don't focus on what other people do - just be yourself.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR BENEFACTOR!

If someone gives you some money make sure that you acknowledge them because they'll appreciate it.

BRING A MASSIVE WATER BOTTLE (& GO BEFOREHAND)

Seriously. You don't want to pack your gear up after only 30 minutes because you need to get a drink or have a pee.



All 3 Photos are of: Nick Ferretti