

Fugees, Adams and Metallica head MTV Europe Music Awards



METALLICA / PHOTO: ANGELO LUBRANO

Top international acts will headline this year's MTV Europe Music Awards with nominees George Michael, Bryan Adams, The Fugees, Metallica and Garbage among those performing live. Robbie Williams takes over from fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier as host of the event which takes place at London's Alexandra Palace on November 14.

Nominees for the eight categories of awards were recently compiled by 800 European music industry professionals and MTV viewers are currently being invited to cast their votes. While the show will be broadcast live on MTV to a potential 123m viewers, a deal with UK broadcaster LWT will enable millions more terrestrial viewers to see an edited version on Saturday, November 16.

Lee Jeans and Mitsubishi Motors are once again providing sponsorship.

Dreamchaser Productions, a TV production company set up in Ireland in 1991 by Ned O'Hanlon and Maurice Linnane, is handling production through its new London office with MTV's Sara Martin, for this, the third MTV awards.

O'Hanlon told *Live!*: "Multi-talent shows bring their own problems with them. There are ten bands who all have different needs and requirements. Sara and I are positioning the bands now and working out how the performances will fit in with the awards."

ESS is providing the staging, LSD and Vari-Lite the lighting, and sound is by Clair Brothers. Event

production manager is Steve Iredale, long-time U2 stalwart, and Alan Branton has been brought over from the US to do lighting design.

Irish director Delcan Lowney (currently directing hit comedy *Father Ted*), is the show director.

■ *Karen Faux and Fiona Harley*

Break for the Border takes Dublin's Gaiety

The Break For The Border Group has completed a deal which effectively swaps a Covent Garden pub in London, for Dublin's Gaiety Theatre. John Northcote, director of BFTB's music division, says their pub, Dick's Last Restort, a joint venture with a US company, was bought by Gerry O'Reilly, the Irish entrepreneur who owns a number of music bars in Dublin including Bad Bob's. O'Reilly has opened another Bad Bob's on the London site.

Northcote told *Live!*: "He decided he was going to sell The Gaiety. It was quite a complicated deal." He adds: "We will continue to operate it as Dublin's premier theatre and continue to operate the

clubs nights at the weekend."

A new executive director, John Costigan, has been appointed to handle theatrical bookings at the venue. The London-based music team of Martin Creaney, Neil O'Brien and Jane Cotter will be booking concerts.

Creaney was on his way over to Dublin as he spoke to *Live!*: "It's definitely more of a priority now. We're going over to see what we can add on the music side."

BFTB has carried out some refurbishment of the 1,150 capacity venue, whose history dates back to 1871. Northcote added: "We are thinking of putting a PA system in."

■ *Fiona Harley*

Stephen Foxall: on the outside

Stephen Foxall, who has worked on a freelance basis for a number of major PA companies including Capital Sound Hire and Wigwag, has asked *Live!* to clarify to those who know, or know of him, in the industry, that he is not the man of the same name recently convicted for murder in his home area. Foxall says he was told of the news by Transam Trucking's Martin Wright at a Metallica show, after news of the conviction appeared in local and national press. He adds: "I am not in prison and I am available for tours, one-offs etc."

IMF Awards honours managers

Pulp managers Geoff Travis and Jeanette Lee were the recipients of the IMF's first Peter Grant Award – inaugurated in memory of the late Led Zeppelin manager – at its Roll Of Honour Awards on October 9.

EMI Music Publishing managing director Peter Reichardt and PolyGram chairman John Kennedy were inducted into the IMF's Hall of Fame and there were live performances from Cathy Dennis, The Stereophonics and Orlando.

IMF general secretary James Fisher reported that the awards dinner, held at London's Hilton Hotel with 500 distinguished music industry guests, retained "a small but special feel". He added: "Many people said they had never seen so many music business luminaries together in the same room and it was very exciting. There were also a lot of young managers present and it gave everyone the chance to meet and talk."

■ *Karen Faux*

Cranberries cancel

The European and British Cranberries tour has been cancelled due to the continuing illness of lead singer Dolores O'Riordan. The band cut short its American tour in August, as the singer was suffering from exhaustion.

According to the band's publicist Lindsey Holmes, O'Riordan may be suffering from either stress or anorexia. More than 300,000 tickets had been sold for the 40-date tour, due to have started October 15 in Austria, which was to have earned the band an estimated £6 million. Most promoters would be covered by cancellation/non-appearance insurance. Promoter Tim Parsons at MCP commented to *Live!*: "I'm really disappointed, (a) because the tour was going to do well and (b) because it's a shame about Dolores. I think she has a long-term physical problem and I hope she gets better soon. They are nice people," he added. Neil Warnock, the band's European agent, would make no comment and it is unclear to what extent O'Riordan's illness will affect the band's touring situation in the future.

■ *Fiona Harley*