



Big Love: dancing ahead

At the highest-profile date yet in a year of stellar success, **Underworld** headlined **Big Love** on September 28 – the last event of a heady festival season.

For Mean Fiddler the dance event was a political triumph after the earlier licencing adversity at the same Otmoor Park, Oxfordshire site of *Tribal Gathering '95* and a large crowd went home replete with dance, despite wet weather and the need for authority-friendly sound levels.

Colour Sound Experiment lit the two main stages (with Haydn Cruickshank's dynamic lightshow for Underworld) while The Spot Co served the others; SSE Hire provided PA (John Newsham mixing Underworld on a PM4000, with a Mackie on stage) with Jamie from Skan manning the monitor board. Numark supported the event in the shape of DJ desks on all stages.

■ Mike Lethby

Screenco sails into Middle East...

Screenco has shipped its first system of 16 JTS35 modules to Dubai for a winter season of sports and entertainment events at various venues. One of those, the Dubai Racing Club, hosted the JumboTron's launch to over 60 potential clients on the October 31 opening night of the 1996-7 racing season. Enquiries will be handled by Screenco in the UK or Sony Dubai, but Screenco expects to increase its presence in the region in the coming months.

...and nautical history

Following its busiest summer ever, Screenco celebrated with a three-yacht race across the Solent.

Echoing *Live!*'s experiences of the *DAMMSTY* (Dave Martin Memorial Sailing Trophy) yacht race three years ago, Screenco reported that "the weather did not co-operate and, after spending two hours bobbing like ducks on a millpond, engines were revved and the boat with the biggest motor won." *DAMMSTY* regulars would readily have provided Dave, Anita *et al* with the most sure-fire winning solution...Soundtracs' phone number.

Shaking the Tree

AGENCY & PROMOTER NEWS BY FIONA HARLEY

Ogden Entertainment Services' employees must be wondering how much deeper the company's workforce cuts will go, with **Carl Martin** and **Steve Pike** the latest names to find their services no longer required. Now managing director **Noel Penrose** has said he is leaving at Christmas. The remaining staff, huddles together at **Nynex Arena** in Manchester, must be re-touching their CVs just in case...

Now that **U2's** album, to the frustration of **Island/PolyGram** eggzex, has been put back to February/March 1997, we wondered whether that has put the tour bookers on the alert to move the dates. **John Giddings**, working with tour producer/promoter **Michael Kohl**, was difficult to pin down. However, **Johannes Wessels**, newly-returned to his old company **Sunrise Concerts**, after four and a half years running **German Tours Concertbureau** with **Joe Rambock**, is waiting for news on that very subject. Sunrise has U2 dates pencilled in Germany for July and August. He told *Live!*: "I know they are trying to move the US dates (starting in March) by four weeks; consequently, they may move the European dates by four weeks," but says he is still waiting to hear. He hopes they *will* be moved because, he says, the dates are all in the holiday season, and not due to go on sale until February – not a good time for selling tickets. "I'm trying to convince them to put tickets on sale earlier, to take advantage of the Christmas buying period", he says.

McCarthy is currently on tour with the **Hunchback of Notre Dame**. True North's **Guy Yeomans** is tour-managing **Laibach's** five week European tour, booked by **Ian Huffam** at **Fair Warning/Wasted Talent**, starting early this month, plus he is doing Camden dates with **The Muttonbirds** and pre-production for a **Fluke** radio show.

Andy Franks, flush from **Mike Flowers Pops**, is going on the road as tour/production manager with **Little Axe**. The UK and European tour starts at The Hop & Grape in Manchester and continues through to November 26 in Paris, also booked by **Ian Huffam**.

Mike Hinc at **ATB** is booking a UK tour with **Jolt** starting in November. The band has a single coming out on independent label **Scared Of Girls**...

Surprise and sadness in the business for Lush drummer **Chris Acland**, 30, who committed suicide last month at his family home in Cumbria. Acland was one of the founder members of the band, and was believed to have been considering his future with the band following a recent 'difficult' tour of the US.

The famous watering hole for the hoi polloi in the 30 and 40s, **Café de Paris**, is back in business after a refit by new owners. Partners **Nic Trulocke**, **Jamie Bloom** and **Barry Lorenz** have re-opened the 800-capacity nightclub, including restaurant and bar, at its original site. First opened in 1914 and bombed in 1941 (killing 80 people) it saw all the celebrities of its hey-day including **Marlene Dietrich** and **Frank Sinatra**. Closed two years ago, the partners think it is the right time for glamour to return to London life. "There's nothing like it in London whatsoever, where people can dine and dance in glamorous surroundings," Lorenz told *Live!*. Bloom adds: "We aren't actually booking names as such, until we get a bit further."

Forward Agency Booking has moved to: 35 Britannia Row, London N1 8QH, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 171 704 8080, fax: +44 (0)171 704 8999. Yes, that's the old Brit Row address, not the new one in Putney as I may have suggested...

Mick Kluczynski is back from his unaccustomed role as site manager on the **Tina Turner** tour. He is gearing up for his busy winter season with production matters for January's **Live! Show and Awards**, and the **Brit Awards** in February. However, he won't be taking his usual role with the **ILMC** this year... **Kim McCarthy** and partner **Robyn Jellef** at **True North** are in the hot seat for that one. In fact, **Martin Hopewell**, though still very much **ILMC-Meister**, has handed over the nuts and bolts of conference topics, newsletters, administration and production over to the team...

Speaking of the **Live! Show and Awards**, the team was busy at press day securing an alternative stand-by venue for the Awards following the **Forum's** threatened licence capacity reduction by Camden Council – the two-day **Live! Show** still goes ahead as planned at the nearby **Roundhouse Theatre** (though perhaps we shouldn't tempt fate...)

White Light expands into East Anglia

White Light has teamed up with Norfolk's commercial theatre lighting specialists Electrolite Entertainment Lighting Services, to provide comprehensive lighting and entertainment services in East Anglia. Electrolite is based in Great Yarmouth – and has itself been involved in a number of leading West End productions including *Tommy* and *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, as well as UK tours of *Grease* and *Crazy For You*.

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Elcea offers 'flat response' hearing protection

Concern about hearing loss by musicians and sound engineers is one of the issues at the forefront of the industry, with many industry

professionals now recognising that they risk some degree of long-term ear damage. In response, Elcea UK is one company to have developed a range of custom-designed hearing protection apparatus.

The Elacin ER15 and ER 25 provide flat attenuation protection (-15 dB and -25dB) thus ensuring that their frequency response follows the shape of the natural resonant frequency of the open ear. Conventional ear plugs do not attenuate frequencies evenly.

Flat attenuation while wearing these protectors on-stage or in rehearsal, says Elcea, "will ensure the fidelity of the original sound is preserved without any loss of clarity".

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