

AUDIENCE

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEMPORARY MUSIC INDUSTRY

June 2008

Issue 101

UK: £5.95

EU: €10

ROW: \$12.00

The joy of X

Kylie extravaganza breaks records

A sticky situation

Live Nation defends Madonna resale deal

WOMAD co-founder quits

Brooman plans return with new venture

Troubleshooter's
Pino Sagliocco



*I used to sit down and strategise with labels,
now I don't even talk to them*

Chicago puts the wind up eBay and StubHub

UNITED STATES The City of Chicago is suing eBay and its StubHub subsidiary for failure to collect eight per cent city amusement taxes on concert and sporting event tickets sold via their web sites.

Although both secondary

ticketers claim that the taxes do not apply to them, they have been asked to provide the Chicago authorities with records of sales in Illinois.

"We don't have enough information to give an estimate [of lost taxes], because of the lack of

information from eBay and StubHub," Chicago Law Department spokeswoman Jennifer Hoyle told Associated Press.

The city is also suing other internet retailers and resale sites, such as Hotels.com, for back taxes.

NETHERLANDS Stage Entertainment-owned Holiday on Ice has appointed former Grolsch sales director Hendrik Jan Mari as MD, commencing on 1 August. The company, which annually stages events in 70 cities across 15 countries, currently has tours with two children's shows, *Mystery* and *Spirit*, and will launch its latest production *Energia* in Hamburg, Germany, in November.

Live Nation cuts Q1 loss by 20 per cent

UNITED STATES Despite making a first quarter (Q1) loss of \$35.4 million, compared to \$45m for the same period last year, Live Nation's (LN) Q1 revenue increased to \$636.5m from \$520.3m in 2007.

In an 8 May earnings conference call, Live Nation CFO Kathy Willard attributed the improved performance to an extra \$15.5m in ticket

sales, due to strong arena acts and higher attendance at mid-size music venues.

Acquisitions also accounted for \$75.5m of the revenue growth and included \$35.2m from House of Blues Canada, \$16m from the UK's Academy Music Group and the Netherlands'



Michael Rapino

Heineken Music Hall, and \$24.3m from merchandising operations Signatures and Anthill.

LN president/CEO Michael Rapino says the figures represent a solid start to what he believes will be a very healthy year for concerts, despite slow-

downs in the global economy.

"Our priorities for 2008 continue to be focused on improving the profitability of our core concert distribution platform, building our ticketing division for its 2009 launch and continuing to divest non-core assets," says Rapino.

LN's total running debt remains at \$764m.

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