

AUDIENCE

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL

Y LIVE MUSIC INDUSTRY

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On fire

Kasabian sets sights on Europe

Mega-merger delayed

Authorities take more time over Live Nation-Ticketmaster deal

Partners in court

MC chases D for 'unpaid profits'

Promoter
Folkert Koopmans



*We have 20-30 per cent more tours than last year,
but sales are dropping by 10-20 per cent*

Fraudsters may be planning major hit

UNITED KINGDOM Criminal gangs may be gearing up for a major attack on live music events, a security expert has warned, following the discovery of "very sophisticated" forged tickets and wristbands.

The passes were printed on the special security paper used across the industry, while the wristbands were almost indistinguishable from real ones of the same type, says The Iridium Consultancy's operations director Reg Walker.

"These people have acquired security paper and a high-end printer in order to make these tickets look genuine," he says. "Also, it appears they have compromised the factory in China where certain wristbands are made, in order to produce almost exact replicas."

Walker reveals that around 800 fake tickets for the Reading and Leeds festivals were discovered this summer, but says, "That number does not justify the costs which must have been incurred to produce them. It may have been a trial run."

Mel Gibbs, MD of ticket manufacturer Premier Rolls, which supplies millions of tickets to agencies and promoters, says, "In the short to medium term it's worrying because people are still using these security devices."

"We're taking a very proactive approach and developing new security features which cannot be copied, at least for as long as it takes the criminals to get the technology themselves."

Saved concert eventually pulled

MALAYSIA A concert by Beyoncé which appeared to have survived attempts by conservative Islamic groups to have it cancelled (see *Audience*, issue 117), has been abandoned, at least temporarily.

The 25 October show at Kuala Lumpur's 25,000-capacity National Stadium, was pulled a week before it was due to take place.

However, co-promoters Marc-tensia and UCSI Communications

say they came "to an amicable understanding" with authorities regarding the matter.

"The postponement is solely the decision of the artiste and has nothing to do with other external reasons," say the organisers in a joint statement, offering no further explanation.

In 2007, the artiste moved a Malaysian show to Indonesia, where there are less stringent attitudes about how performers should dress.

Leitner and Urasch part after 30 years

AUSTRIA After almost 30 years as George Leitner's business partner at GLP, Carl W Urasch has left to set-up his own agency - Urasch Management.

He says his roster includes Gloria Gaynor, The Temptations Review, The Supremes and Supermax, and he expects to add more acts, but will keep the number below 10. The company will be based in Poland, where Urasch has lived for two years.

"I wish Carl all the best - we've

worked together for 30 years and have become like friends," says Leitner. "However, I don't think him leaving will have any effect on the business we do."

Urasch says, "I wanted to provide a more personalised service to artistes and promoters."

Among acts remaining on the GLP roster are 50 Cent, Busta Rhymes, Chaka Khan, Sean Paul and Wyclef Jean. The company has recently signed Nina Hagen on an exclusive contract, adds Leitner.



George Leitner



Carl Urasch

Production company adds services

RUSSIA A TOPConcert-promoted tour by The Prodigy was not only given staging and technical support from production company JSA, but help with local media advertising and ticket sales in two of the markets.

The four-date outing stopped in St Petersburg's Ice Palace (cap. 11,000), Moscow's Crocus Centre (15,000), Latvia's Skonto Hall (10,000) in Riga and the International Exhibition Centre (10,000) in Kiev, Ukraine.



Alexander Strizhak

"As the first company to provide professional production services in these other cities [Riga and Kiev], we have

developed contacts and can help in other areas, such as ticketing," says JSA president Alexander Strizhak. "We hope to expand such activities more next year."

On the success of the tour, TOPConcert's Tatiana Dalskaya says, "St Petersburg, Moscow and Kiev performed to expectations in terms of ticket sales and Ukraine has good growth potential. But Riga suffered because it is a deeply depressed market."

Forthcoming TOPConcert shows include Backstreet Boys at St Petersburg Ice Palace and Moscow's Crocus Centre, and Placebo at Arena Riga (10,000).



Tatiana Dalskaya

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