

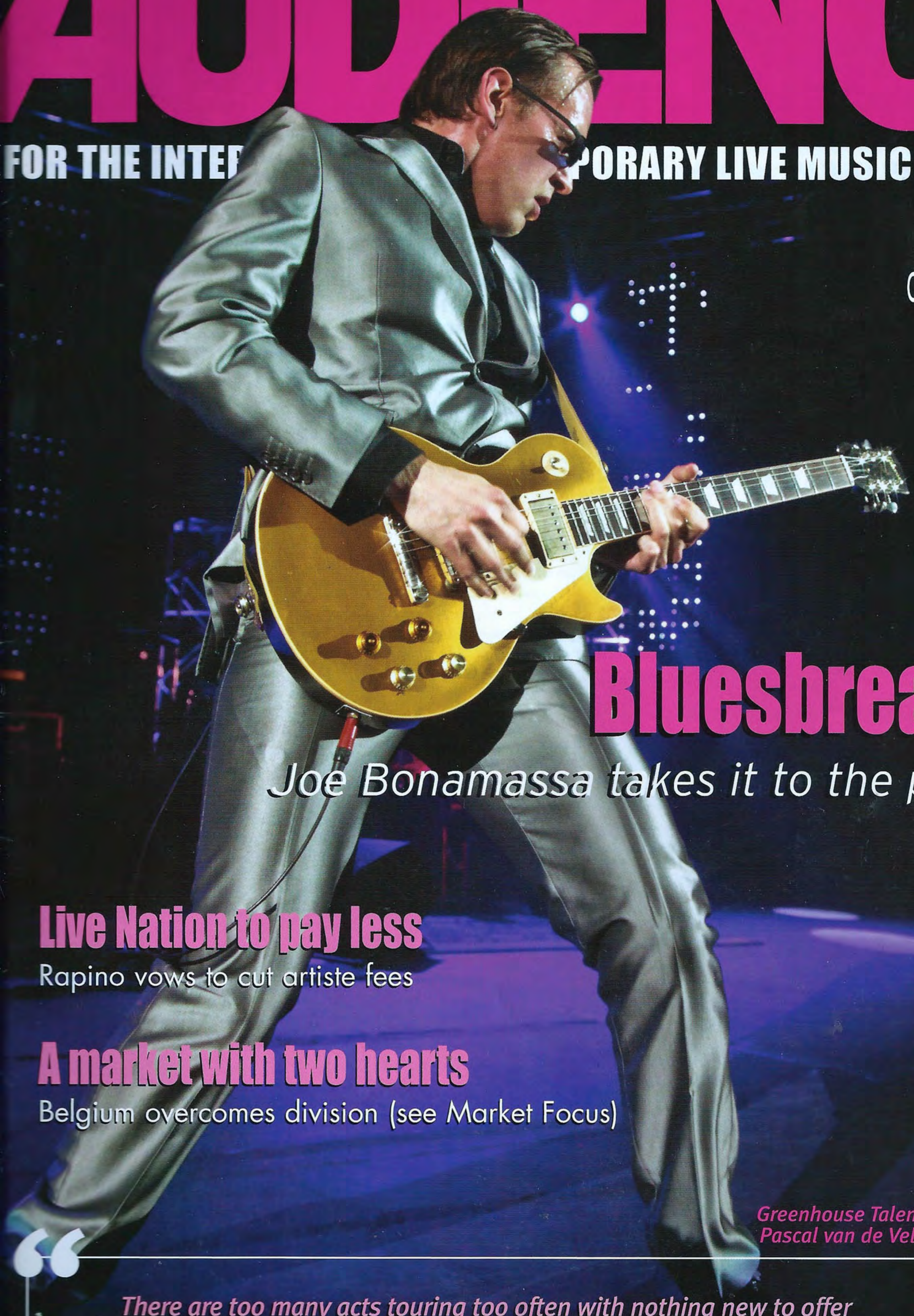
AUDIENCE

FOR THE INTERTEMPORARY LIVE MUSIC INDUSTRY

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Bluesbreaker

Joe Bonamassa takes it to the people

Live Nation to pay less

Rapino vows to cut artiste fees

A market with two hearts

Belgium overcomes division (see Market Focus)

Greenhouse Talent's
Pascal van de Velde



There are too many acts touring too often with nothing new to offer

No easy street for Ticketmaster

UNITED STATES More than 1,000 Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band ticket holders will receive refunds from Ticketmaster (TM), thanks to a settlement with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) over charges that the company used "deceptive bait-and-switch tactics".

Buyers were directed to TM's TicketsNow resale site, where prices were "double, triple or

quadruple the face-value of the ticket", when there were still regular-priced tickets available on TM, according to the FTC.

Claim forms were mailed earlier last month to 1,018 fans who bought tickets for shows in 14 cities.

Concert-goers will receive the difference between what they paid at TicketsNow and what they would have paid on the TM site.

Tavastia celebrates its 40th anniversary

FINLAND One of Helsinki's landmark live music venues, the Tavastia Klub, is marking its fourth decade in live music on 14 October, with Swedish band Imperial State Electric. Tickets sold out weeks in advance.

Acts who have played the 800-capacity venue range from the Stranglers and New York Dolls to Editors, while Danko Jones performs two sellouts this month, with tickets at €36 (\$49).



Juhani Merimaa

Brooks), Manfred Mann's Earth Band and The Swinging Blue Jeans.

According to CEO and part-owner Juhani Merimaa (who joined the venue's board in 1972, becoming chairman in 1973), "At the start, live music blew away the old-style dance hall atmosphere and youngsters wanted as much loud music as possible, which was difficult in the beginning as there simply weren't enough Finnish rock bands in those days."

Forthcoming shows feature The Fall, Kid Sister, Canned Heat, The Posies and Imogen Heap.

Russia's oldest staging company hits 14



RUSSIA Staging company JSA Russia is celebrating its 14th anniversary, now having worked on over 4,000 projects across several countries in the region.

Established by Alexander Strizhak in 1996, the company has worked with artistes such as the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Paul McCartney, Elton John and, most-recently, the Muse stage for the Positivus Festival.

Strizhak founded JSA after working as the technical director of the Michael Jackson

concert at Moscow's Dynamo stadium (1996), and became the first to use certified equipment in Russia.



Alexander Strizhak

"In those days there were only companies that worked with homemade equipment," says Strizhak. "I wanted to create my own company using European equipment to work with foreign companies around the world."

His success of his vision is demonstrated, jokes Strizhak, by the fact that Moscow now has more than 60 staging companies.

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