

AUDIENCE

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Record-breaking highlights for Barley Arts

ITALY Enjoying another successful year, Barley Arts Productions' Claudio Trotta has one outstanding highlight - Italian rock star Ligabue's record-breaking show at Campovolo.

Ligabue claimed the European record for a single-artist show, selling 165,264 tickets, rising to almost 180,000 people with guests and staff, for the 10 September show, beating U2's 1997 record of 146,000



Claudio Trotta

(promoted by Fran Tomasi) at the same Reggio Emilia airport site.

Organised by Barley Arts and Friends & Partners, the show incorporated four stages surrounding the crowd, with each platform featuring sets recollecting different eras from Ligabue's 17-year career.

"Luciano [Ligabue] had the idea of just one show to launch the new album, then a tour in 2006," says Trotta. "The four-stage idea was mine - it's the

best way for such a huge audience to be close to a stage; put the audience in the middle and the artiste play around them."

With a promotion budget of €1 million (\$1.17m), the show was nine months in the planning. But despite its phenomenal success, Claudio Maioli (Ligabue's manager), Ferdinando Salzano (F&P) and Trotta are determined it retains its unique status by keeping

it a once-only event.

The show capped an exceptional year for Trotta who also promoted Queen, Steve Earle, Bruce Springsteen, Lenny Kravitz, Thievery Corporation, The Cure, Bryan Adams and Paul Weller, among others.



Ligabue at Campovolo

Rock festival first for Chechnya

CHECHNYA The troubled soviet republic held its first large-scale rock festival in November, four months after the original event had been cancelled amid security fears.

Appropriately named Phoenix - Revival of Life, the festival was held in Gudermes, where local promoter Dmitry Krichevsky of Musical Line used the Locomotive

football stadium to accommodate an audience of 15,000.

"It was a good success and we are hoping to organise another festival next year," Krichevsky tells *Audience*. "There are a number of concerts that take place in Chechnya, but nothing at this level, so it was a good beginning for festivals."

However, with rebel separatists engaged in a bloody conflict against Chechnya's Russian-backed government, up to 3,000 police were also on guard to ensure the artistes, crowd and senior politicians came to no harm.

The festival crowd witnessed performances by artistes such as Alexander Kutikov, Nuance, Uta,

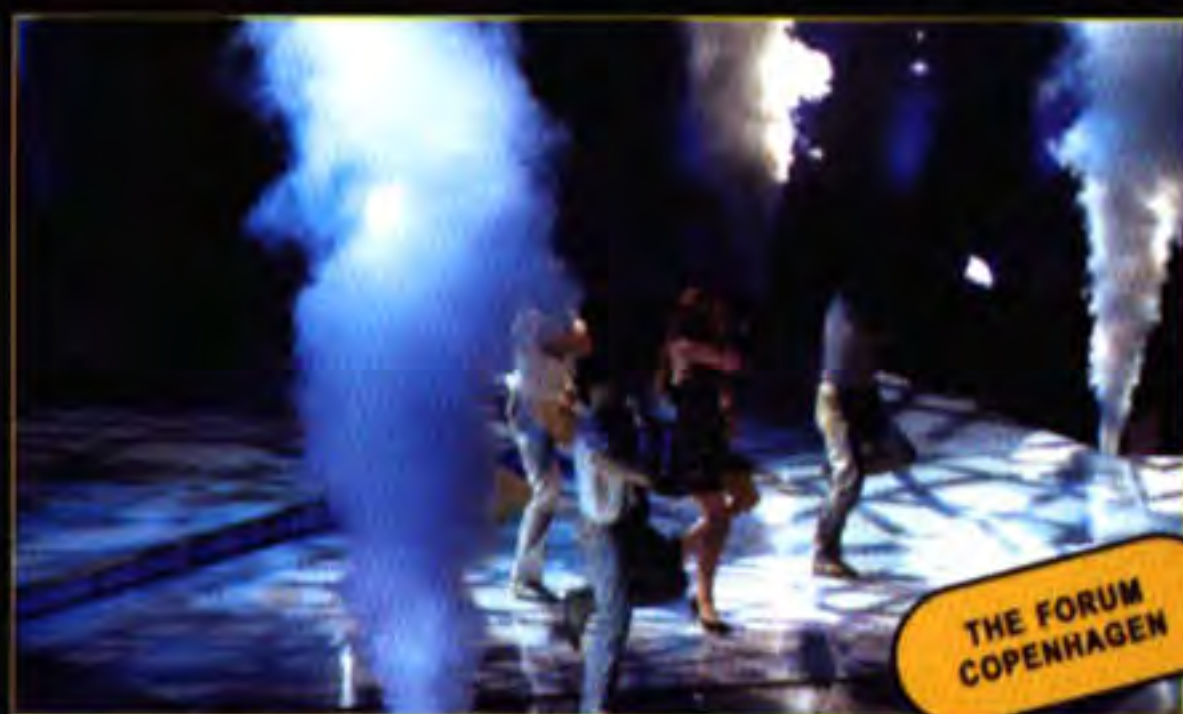
Agata Christy, Night Snipers, Prezident and Dead Dolphins.

Equipment for the festival was supplied by the Moscow-based JSA Professional Stage Company, with the support of the Chechen government. JSA crews used a Prolyte ST Roof System and basic Layher constructions to build the festival stage.



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PADDY GYTHFELDT
paddy@zpz.dk

BO TEICHERT
bo@zpz.dk

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TEL: +45 35 43 95 00 FAX: +45 35 43 95 03

www.zpz.dk

CAMILLA BJØRVIG
camilla@zpz.dk

NIELS KAY
niels@zpz.dk

