

POPSTAR

The Hotwire



OCTOBER 12, 2001

JAMIE O'NEAL

the rate had gone up to nearly 910,000 TRL.

"My complaint is not that Mydonose canceled but because they refused to pay any compensation whatsoever, arguing that the company wasn't responsible for the country's economic crisis.

"I tried to explain that Lord Of The Dance and Multimedia weren't responsible for it either, so it wasn't fair they had to pay and Mydonose took no part of the loss.

"This was the point at which Mydonose stopped communicating with me. My last fax to them on the matter was simply ignored. The next thing I heard was that the company was organising a Sultans Of The Dance production. Funny, eh?"

The cancellation for Lord Of The Dance for the agreed eight shows was received on a fax from Kizilkaya on March 1. The dates had been scheduled for May 27 to June 2. Mydonose had asked for a postponement rather than a cancellation, but Dowdall pointed out even that would cause heavy losses and asked for some form of compensation toward them.

Sultans opened in the same venue mid-May and Dowdall's view that the cancellation had less to do with the Turkish economy than it had to do with Mydonose having a rival show appears to be borne out by the fact that Joaquin Cortez, managed from Spain by Pino Saggiocco, didn't have his Mydonose dates in Istanbul canceled.

Dowdall managed to cover some of the lost period by finding two shows at Romania's 4,000-capacity Bucharest Sala Palatului, two in

Bulgaria at the 3,470-capacity Sofia Palace Of Culture and two more in Slovakia's 5,700-capacity Bratislava Incheba, but Multimedia still took what he describes as a "substantial loss." He said if it hadn't been for the understanding of Banfield, Triple A and Lord Of The Dance, it would have been much worse.

Kizilkaya claimed the dates were never contracted, although she did acknowledge that she'd faxed a confirmation in December.

When asked the difference between a written agreement and a contract, she said, "The confirmation is to say that we agree to do the shows under certain terms and conditions, and then the contract is a confirmation of the business details and fees. If the shows had gone ahead, then all of us would have lost money."

At press time, Dowdall could not be reached to comment on Kizilkaya's explanation.

The safety issue concerns a Sultans performance at the 6,500-capacity Aspendos Amphitheatre at Antalya in Turkey on September 9. The venue is ancient and has a very steeply sloped gradient of centuries-old steps. It only had two exits (both at stage level) and neither were lit. They have a combined escape width of around seven metres and no direct walkway access on the same level.

The only walkway is about 25 (one in one-and-a-half gradient) steps higher and is about three metres wide, but that was jammed with standing punters that couldn't find a stone-stepped area to sit on.



JSA PROFESSIONAL STAGE'S Valery Feofanov hangs out with the members of *Muse* after the band played the Luzhniki Sport Palace in Moscow September 22. The event commemorated the launch of the Russian version of music magazine *New Musical Express*.

The sound and light desks were situated on this walkway, which is halfway toward the back of the amphitheatre, and loose multicore leads trailed down to the front-of-stage area.

Mick Upton of International Crowd Management and Safety (ICMS), a member of the ILMC crowd safety panel, said, "Under European agreement, there are standard signs for exits and they should be lit and also have emergency lighting."

He also expressed concern that both exits are on the same level, there were no fixed handrails to help the crowd up and down the steps and the exit widths were insufficient for a 6,500 crowd.

Touts were openly selling fistfuls of tickets outside the venue prior to the show, although it isn't clear if this was a deliberate over-sell or if the final night of Sultans Of The Dance at Antalya had become a forgers' beanfeast.

The show's tour manager, Birol Akbaba, said he had heard that 500 extra tickets had been sold, while the Mydonose Group's production coordinator Ali Ertem said there had been a crowd of 10,000 in the venue. Other members of the ILMC crowd safety panel highlighted the fact that the task it faces in regulating crowd safety standards doesn't have a quick-fix solution.

Referring to what they had heard about the Sultans Of The Dance show at Aspendos, Roger Barrett of production company Star Hire said, "None of this surprises me at all. I

actually don't know what to suggest. All my experience says that the further one goes from western Europe, the lower safety standards become.

"Although it's a long way from ideal, I think we have to get our own house in order and hope that we can lead by example. It won't be quick."

Herman Schueremans of Clear Channel in Belgium said he feels there is a difference between the ways that certain countries and cultures put a value on life itself, and hoped those differences could be resolved before too many lives are lost, while Stuart Galbraith - Clear Channel's head promoter of music in the U.K. - called on the press to highlight any deficiencies it felt it had found in safety standards.

He said, "The ILMC safety panel can only function effectively if it has the support of the industry's press."

Russia: MAYBE THE DITHERING over the choice of venue and then making a very ambitious decision meant the percentage of sales were low for the concert launch of the country's version of music magazine *New Musical Express* (NME). Still, *Muse* managed to pull a crowd of more than 4,000 into Moscow's 8,000-capacity Luzhniki Sport Palace and went a long way toward rescuing what at one time must have looked like an ill-fated venture.

The September 22 show should probably have been pitched in a venue that's a bit smaller or gone on sale a bit earlier, but the band and Valery Feofanov of JSA Professional Stage Company, hired

god bless america



ABC

Associated Booking Corp / Oscar Cohen, President
1995 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 / (212)874-2400 / Fax (212)769-3649 / www.abcbooking.com

by *NME* to run the event, came out of it with a lot of credit by creating a night that will be remembered long after the magazine's lack of pre-show planning has been forgotten.

GERMAN NEWS

Reported by Manfred Tari
Tel 49.172.20.29.132
E-mail: tari@pollstar.com

• **THE CANCELLATION OF JANET Jackson and Weezer's** European tours are the latest consequences of the September 11 tragedy and it is still too early to see how the terrorist attacks will affect the future of the music business.

In particular, the cancellation of Jackson's German dates means that the agency involved (Peter Rieger Konzertagentur) and the local promoters will suffer a substantial financial loss because there had been strong ticket sales for the tour. Due to a huge demand, three extra shows had been added and according to local promoter Ernst Ludwig Hartz of Concert Cooperation Bonn, these would probably have sold out.

Jackson will also not attend the **MTV Europe Music Awards** scheduled for November 8 at Frankfurt's Festhalle. MTV has just announced the nominees for the 22 categories to be awarded at the event. Lined up for live performances are Destiny's Child, Dido, Craig David, Depeche Mode, Rammstein, and Blink-182.

• **CHRIS JAEKER**, MANAGING director of the **JTC Agency**, has announced that due to the current political situation he cannot guarantee that the tours he has booked for American acts in November and December are going to happen.

He booked a 25-date German tour for Rich Hopkins & Luminarios and a 17-date European tour for Steve Wynn & Miracle 3 with Chris Cacavas as special guest. Another 15-date tour is scheduled for Jupiter Coyote at the end of the year.

His planned tours for non-U.S.-based artists are Gong (U.K.) and Ian Matthews & Elliot Murphy (France & U.K.).

JTC represents many American artists in Germany and Jaeker hopes that his tours with Jolene, Granfaloon Bus, Mushroom, and John Kay at the beginning of 2002 will go ahead as planned.

• **A.S.S. CONCERT & PROMOTION** is probably one of the very few

companies that will not have to fear as many cancellations as other agencies, as the majority of their artists are domestic acts.

A.S.S. has just started a 21-date tour with the German band **Kraan** in celebration of the band's 30th anniversary. Kraan used to be trademarked for the genre "Krautrock."

Helmut Hattler, who is one of the most talented bass players in Germany and a founding member of the band, has released an album on his own new record label in honour of its anniversary and tour.

• **AT A PRESS CONFERENCE** IN Berlin, Rolf Schmidt Holtz, CEO of **BMG**, announced that the company will dismiss 600 employees worldwide. BMG faces an estimated loss of about 236 million Euro for the ongoing business year. Schmidt Holtz expects that, when completed, restructuring will show profitable results within the following year.

• **VIVA ZWEI** IS GOING TO BE renamed **Viva +**. AOL Time Warner and Viva Media AG have set up a joint venture for the new station with the aim of creating a multimedia music channel. The Viva + deal is going to be a significant step in AOL's international growth strategy into Europe's biggest cable and TV market.

Dieter Gorny, CEO of Viva Media AG, announced plans to create (together with AOL Time Warner and the record industry) a music station that will be strictly interactive and convergent in terms of on-air and online. The station is due to start broadcasting at the beginning of 2002.

AUSTRALIAN NEWS

Reported by Bryan Jones
Fax 613.9459.1788
E-mail: bryan@pollstar.com

• **PROMOTER SIMON MYERS' Boldjack Productions** issued liquidation proceedings in the Supreme Court against Hayham, the management company run by **Men At Work's** Colin Hay and Greg Ham.

In 1999, Boldjack gave Hayham a \$25,000 deposit for Men At Work to headline a New Year's Eve Millennium show in Melbourne. The band claimed that allegedly low ticket sales made it choose to perform at a larger show in Sydney.

Last November, a magistrate found that Hayham breached its contract and ordered it to pay \$54,000 in damages, interests and costs. Boldjack initiated the liquidation move when the money failed to arrive.

• **INXS** WAS INDUCTED INTO the Hall Of Fame at the October 3 **ARIA Awards** at the Sydney Capitol Theatre.

Last minute additions to the performers list included The Superjesus (who eschewed the traditional limo to arrive playing its "Enough To Know" single on the back of a Mack truck); diva Tina Arena making the first local TV performance of her new "Soulmate 9" single; dance producer Paulmac + Peta Morris; rock band Powderfinger, whose "Odyssey Number Five" has spent a year in the charts and sold 450,000 units; and indie crossover Something For Kate.

• **A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT** provided to Western Australia's Liquor Licensing Division claims up to 10,000 ecstasy and speed tablets are sold in **Perth** clubs and pubs each weekend, and that club owners are turning a blind eye.

The report says, "These men are a close-knit group who share many secrets and are all prominent in the nightclub and hotel industry. They will not rat on each other."

But police said the drug trade in clubs was not rampant. The Liquor Licensing director, Hugh Highman, revealed they would have liked more consultation when the WA state government in August allowed clubs

to have more people, increasing the density ratio from one person per 0.85 square metre to one person per 0.5 square metre.

• **THERE WERE LOTS OF RUMOURS** about why telecommunications giant **Telstra** was dragging its heels before finally agreeing to sponsor the 2002 **Adelaide Festival** to the reported tune of \$400,000.

But unlike the past three events, Telstra will not have naming rights (a reported \$1 million in past years). This time, the festival's organisers decided against having a sponsor.

The whisper is that after Ansett Airlines withdrew \$250,000 in sponsorship and discount travel for acts, the state government might step in with an injection of this sum.

• **THE DEMOCRATS POLITICAL** party was set on October 5 to propose amendments to the **Liquor Licensing Act** to protect live music venues in Adelaide from being closed down by developers and new tenants.

It will restrict the sort of people who complain, and take into account if the music venue was there before the complainant. If passed, the law will be backdated to July 14 when 5,000 people attended a rally to protest the threat to venues such as the **Governor Hindmarsh** as well as the Austral Hotel and Grace Emily.

• **THE 11TH MEREDITH MUSIC Festival** returns on December 15-16 at the Meredith Natural Amphitheatre in Victoria. Announced so far are You Am I,

The MERRION DUBLIN

There is nowhere finer to stay.

A member of
The Leading Hotels of the World®

Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Tel: 353 1 603 0600 Fax: 353 1 603 0700
e-mail: info@merrionhotel.com Website: www.merrionhotel.com