

Tuning and Leningrad, the first Russian act to get festival appearances by entering the European Talent Exchange Programme.

## RUSSIA

### Ratnikov Calls For Krilya Re-jig

MOSCOW PROMOTER ED RATNIKOV believes the city's Krilya Festival needs to move to another venue if it doesn't want to see its crowd dwindle away to nothing.

"I don't think it can work on Tushino Airfield any longer because the security is so tight that the people don't even feel they're at a festival," he told *Pollstar* after this year's July 21-22 gathering had pulled around 8,000 per day.

The eight-year-old festival has had a troubled time at Tushino, beginning when two female suicide bombers killed 15 people and injured 60 others when they blew themselves up at the gates of the 2003 event.

The incident drew a defiant response from Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov, who said, "Those terrorists will never put us down on our knees. We will not close our festival. We will increase security."

And that's what he's done ever since. This year's Krilya - it means "wings" - would have been monitored by at least 3,000 police and special security services, despite the fact the 40,000 or so crowds of four or five years ago have dwindled to less than a quarter of that size.

In 2004, the year after the terrorists' bombing, the authorities moved the festival to the Luzhniki Olympic complex because they thought it'd be easier to police.

Since it's been back at Tushino, the security costs have cut the entertainment budget to the point that Natalie Imbruglia was the only international act that Ratnikov could place on this year's event. The rest of the bill is now Russian acts that the Moscow music fans can see several times over the course of a year.

Ratnikov plans to meet with Krilya promoter Mikhail Kapnik of Silencepro and reps from Efes Pilsner, the brewer that sponsors the event, to discuss how the festival's fortunes could be turned around.

Mayor Luzhkov seems to want the festival to go ahead, if only to show he won't be cowed by terrorists, even to the extent that - due to the strange intricacies of Moscow bureaucracy - it's one of the few 5,000-plus capac-

ity live music shows in the city where alcohol is allowed to be sold.

That privilege wasn't even granted to the July 18 Metallica show that Live Nation's Budapest office and the Moscow-based SAV Entertainment co-promoted at Luzhniki, despite the fact it was sponsored by Tuborg, the giant Scandinavian brewer.

It may be that Luzhkov's fear of a drunken Russian mob is greater than his fear of terrorists.

A year before the terrorist attack at Krilya, he stopped a Rammstein concert at Tushino after thousands of drunken soccer fans had rioted after watching Russia's 1-0 World Cup soccer defeat against Japan, a match that was shown on giant TV screens spread around the city.

An estimated 8,000 people went on a spree of vandalism and violence that led to two confirmed deaths, more than 100 injuries, cars being set on fire, extensive damage to windows and the destruction of most of the TV screens.

## SCANDINAVIA

### Pori Squeezed By Competition

ALTHOUGH THE FESTIVAL WILL still show a handsome profit, increased competition in the Nordic market means Finland's Pori Jazz is unlikely to be banking as much as the million euros that it made last year.

"It will be less than a half-million euros but a lot more than zero," festival programmer Jyrke Kangas told *Pollstar* shortly after the July 14-22 event had been wrapped.

"We know we did over 8,000 more tickets than it should take to break even but we haven't got full details of the outgoings and so the actual profit is impossible to judge at the moment."

Pori Jazz managing director Katja Leppäkoski says the gross ticket sales were 58,000, which is way down - as was the entertainment bill - from the 75,000 it did last year when Sting and Kanye West pulled 36,000 and 18,000 respectively in the main Kirjurinluoto Arena.

The biggest show this year was Paul Anka, Gilberto Gil, Natalie Cole and AJ Foster, a bill that put 15,000 in the same venue.

Kangas, who says it was also the best show of the festival, echoed other Scandinavian outdoor promoters including Juha Koivisto from Finland's Provinssirock festival and Rune Lem from Live Nation's Gunnar Eide in Oslo in saying that the num-



**IRISH PROMOTERS VINCE POWER AND DENIS DESMOND** aren't owning up to who's responsible, but their national flag is clearly flying over Spain's *Benicassim Festival*. The former and current *Mean Fiddler* chiefs bought into the event a couple years ago, and this year's four-day gathering pulled 150,000 people, nearly half of them from outside Spain.

bers of large acts visiting the region and small festivals springing up everywhere is squeezing the market.

"We have The Rolling Stones coming here now and the summer has been full of big outdoor shows. It's as if the public are expected to buy another million tickets this year," Kangas explained.

This year's nine-day Pori Jazz bill also included The Roots, Sly and The Family Stone, Elvis Costello with the Allen Toussaint Band, Steely Dan, Blood, Sweat & Tears, Ziggy Marley, The Original Blues Brothers Band, The Brand New Heavies and Us3.

### Quart Re-Groups For 2008

HAVING LOST A MILLION EUROS in a toe-to-toe scrap with Toffen Gunnufsen's new Hove Festival, the management of the rival Quart Festival is meeting to plan a way of avoiding another thrashing next year.

"We have to make a better event than we had this year," said new festival director Aasheim Knudsen, who took over after Gunnufsen fell out with the local Kristiansand authority and started his rival outdoor about fifty miles further along the south-east Norwegian coast at Arendal.

Gunnufsen and Morten Sandberg, chief exec of Concept Communications, the country's leading sponsorship agency and the event's main financier, scheduled Hove for June 26-30 - barely a week before the start of Quart.

The upshot was that a Hove bill including The Killers, Arcade Fire, My Chemical Romance, Damien Rice, Kaiser Chiefs, Bright Eyes, Slayer, Incubus, Queens Of The Stone Age, Billy Talent and Lamb Of God attracted 52,000 people over five days, instantly making it the country's biggest festival, while Quart - which had previously held that title - had its crowd cut by half to 22,000 over five days.

Apart from looking for an even stronger bill - this year's festival had The Who, Velvet Revolver, Turbonegro, Machine Head, Scissor Sisters, Beastie Boys and The Roots - Knudsen says Quart will also be moving to another slot in the calendar.

Besides falling a week after Hove, Quart also clashed with Denmark's Roskilde Festival, which attracts around 15,000 Norwegians per year.

## SPAIN

### Benicassim Wins Civic Approval

A SECOND SUCCESSIVE SELL-OUT for Benicassim had new city mayor Francesc Colomer turning up to the post-festival press conference to congratulate the organizers on creating a truly international event.

More than 150,000 turned up July 19-22 at the Festival Internacional de Benicassim, the 13th time it's been held, and more than 47 percent of them bought their tickets outside of Spain.

Last year sixty percent of the tickets were shifted in Spain, with the U.K. taking up most of the remaining 40 percent.

Praising the festival organisers for "internationalising" Benicassim with its outstanding contributions to music and other cultural disciplines, Colomer also focused on the way the fans behave well and how the state security forces and small Mediterranean coastal city's police do a great job marshalling them.

As if to emphasize the community approach to the festival, local police chiefs José Luis and Miguel Morán were both at the press conference and confirmed the festival's record attendance.

Benicassim has a significant impact on the local economy, bringing in an estimated euro 14 million per year.