

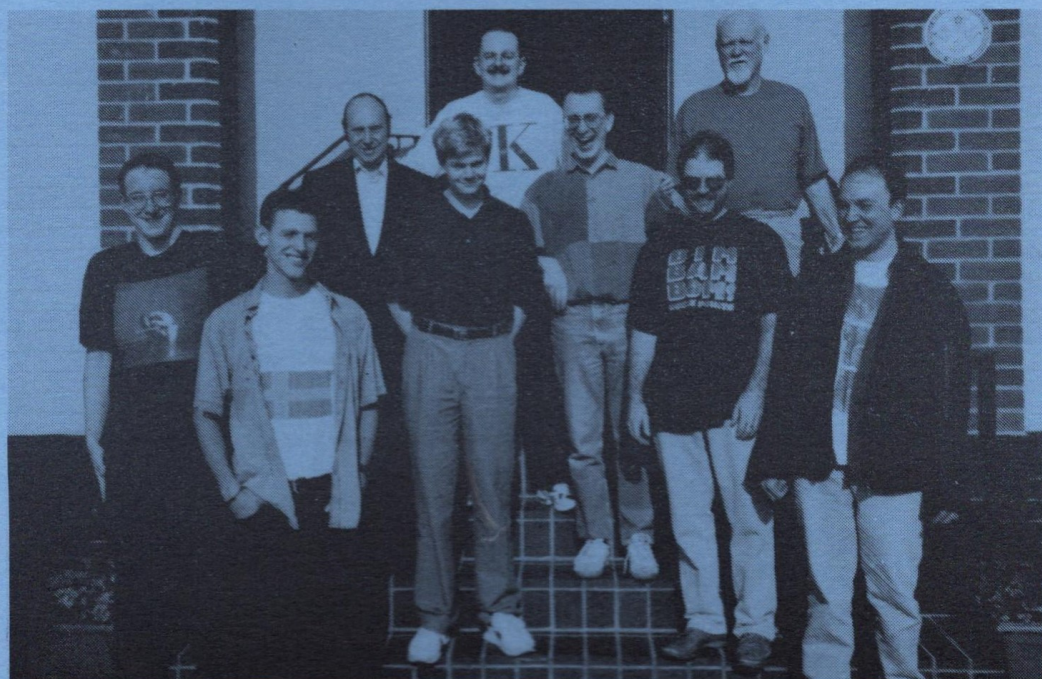
Issue 27

January 1997

# Vision

The OGAE (UK) Magazine

CONVENTION '96  
*Report Inside!*



Plus latest on Dublin '97

Affiliated to Organisation Générale des Amateurs Eurovision



# VISION Information

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## DEADLINE

All contributions for issue 28 of Vision should reach the Editor no later than 10 March 1997

## BACK ISSUES

Issues 4, 6 and 12 onwards cost £2.00 each (£2.50 overseas) inc. P&P. Double issues 8/9 and 10/11 cost £2.50 each (£3.00 overseas). Write with your requirements to the President. ALL OTHERS ARE NOW SOLD OUT.

## OGAE in Europe

OGAE(UK) is affiliated to the international OGAE organisation, which has branches in several countries. For an up-to-date list of associate members please write to the President enclosing an SAE/IRC.

## Data Protection Act

OGAE(UK) retains membership details on computer solely for club use. The club will not release this information to outside parties without your express permission. If you object to your details being held in this manner, please write to the President accordingly.

Views expressed in Vision are not necessarily those of OGAE(UK) or the Editor. No unauthorised reproduction of this magazine in whole or in part without the express written permission of the Editor.

## NEWSDESK HOTLINE

EDITOR: 01703 868777 (between 1800-1900)

PRESIDENT: 0161 740 2916 (tel. & FAX)



## EDlines

Welcome to 1997, and the countdown to the 42nd Eurovision Song Contest *aka Eurosong!* OGAE-UK has had a busy few months with the annual convention at Norwich, on going club publicity and an ever increasing number of new members. A personal thank you to all of you for your loyal support and hardwork; and I know that this will be endorsed by our president, Barry Bowman.

Can I also thank everyone for sending their contributions for this issue AHEAD of the deadline! It has really helped me, now that I am working full time, and I very much appreciate your continued assistance.

I am writing this in the knowledge that controversy already surrounds the 1997 event, although I hope that by the time 'Vision' goes to the printers I would have received all the latest information for you. If not, I apologise and will promise to make up for it next time!

Finally, thank you for the many cards and greetings which my wife and I have received during the past few weeks. Ann and I hope that you also had a good Christmas!

Best wishes for the coming year,

Gordon Lewis

Gordon Lewis

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UK/Northern Ireland/Channel Islands (p&p included) . . . . £12.50

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Barry Bowman's  
OGAE (UK) Clubcall

ESC COMPILATIONS

"Grand Prix 40 Ar" - Further to the information given in the last issue, I have recently been able to satisfy more enquiries about this collection. Due to the recent festive season, I have not obtained an additional supply but will accept any enquiries from members who still wish to purchase it (please enclose a SAE with your enquiry, but NO payment at this stage!). Early in the New Year, subject to demand, I will then obtain a further batch of what is obviously a very much prized item among our membership!!

"Suomen Eurovisio Iskelmat" - I would remind our members that I still have several copies of this CD which is a collection of Finnish entries from 1961-1978 inclusive. Due to the slight damage of the cases to the remaining CD's there are now revised prices as follows:

UK	£ 18,00
Eire & Europe	£ 16,00
Elsewhere	£ 18,00

If you would like to receive a copy please write initially, enclosing a SAE/IRC, but do NOT include payment. I will then confirm availability and the acceptable methods of payment. Please note, however, that stocks are limited!

"Eurosong '96" - Prior to the publication of 'Vision' 26 I had several enquiries concerning the compilation of ESC '96 entries. Unfortunately, as I have received no further information, I can only assume that the project has now been shelved. *(Bootleg copies are rumoured to exist, but the Norwegian record company has confirmed to 'Vision' that the project was scrapped, Ed.)*

CONGRATULATIONS & CELEBRATIONS

Since last issue it appears that the following ESC personalities celebrated birthdays recently; apologies to all of them for being omitted from issue 26!!

Bruce Welch	55	2nd November	(ESC 1975)
Petula Clark	64	15th November	(SFE 1959)
Kathy Kirby	56	19th November	(ESC 1965)
Hank Marvin	55	29th November	(ESC 1975)



Frank Ifield 60 30th November (SFE 1962)

Belated greetings to them all!

#### OUR GIFT OF LOVE

I recently received a very kind letter from Mrs Veronica Davies, the mother of the late Bryan Davies who many of you will remember with affection and who was a member of OGAE-UK before he sadly passed away a couple of years ago. Mrs Davies has offered OGAE-UK Bryan's collection of ESC audio tapes and I have decided to auction them among our members, with all proceeds going to a charity of my choice. If you would like to participate in a very worthy cause, drop me a line - preferably enclosing a SAE.

#### ESC '97 TICKETLINE

With the announcement of the confirmed date for this year's contest several members have already expressed an interest in attending. I am most grateful to member, Chris Melville for details of a package deal which has been put together and hopefully, as you read this, I should be receiving clarification of it.

In addition I have also contacted RTE and OGAE News in an attempt to compile a database of similar packages. If any member would like further details, please write enclosing a SAE and I'll forward the latest information as soon as possible, probably early in the New Year.

#### RECORD NEWS

From Italy, courtesy of RAI's Televideo service, comes news of recent releases by Euro-related artists. Franco Battiato (ESC '84) has a new album "L'Imboscata" on Polygram, while Celine Dion's latest offering "For You" is released in Italy on Zac Music.

In Spain TVE's Teletexto service reported that "Falling into you" was slowly rising in the charts from position 26 to 21. Incidentally, those of you with access to this satellite can check out the latest releases on page 570+ on each of the above services.

A check out on the Italian singles list revealed that Raf (ESC '87) had reached the top 10 with "Ocean Whispers".

Julio Iglesias (ESC '70) has had a number one album with "Tango", and Laura Pausini, a former winner of the OGAE Song Contest, has also reached the top 10 album list in Spain with "Las Cosas Que Vives".



Franco Battiato is another Italian artist who is popular in Spain, having achieved a top 20 placing with "Collection".

#### ROLL ON '97

As we begin a New Year I would, as usual, like to thank everyone who has written to me during the past 12 months, and especially for all of your kind comments on OGAE-UK and 'Vision'. Of course, special thanks go to Gordon for his sterling work on the magazine since he became its Editor. I hope that OGAE-UK, and indeed the organisation throughout Europe, will continue to flourish in 1997, and I wish all of our members a very Happy New Year!

### 'Vision' Subscriptions

'Vision' is issued four times a year and current subscription rates are:

UK - £11.00

Eire & Europe - £15.00

Overseas - £22.00

### OGAE News

'OGAE News' is issued five times a year. Current subscription rates are:

UK - £16.00

Eire & Europe - Refer to local OGAE club

Overseas - £22.00

#### Payment Methods ('Vision' & 'OGAE News')

UK; by cheque or postal order made payable to OGAE-UK;

Eire/Europe; by cheque/Eurocheque/cash in UK currency;

Overseas; by cheque (add £3 charges) or cash (UK only);

All subscriptions should be sent to:

Barry Bowman

15 Downham Crescent

Prestwich

Manchester M25 8EH United Kingdom



## ESC Chart Placings 1996

Source: MTV/Billboard

Compiled by Gary Shield

- BELGIUM : "Liefde is een kaartspel" Lisa del Bo  
*Belgium - No. 1*
- IRELAND : "The voice" Eimear Quinn  
*Croatia - No. 7*  
*Ireland - No. 3*  
*U.K. - No. 40*
- NETHERLANDS : "De eerste keer" Maxine & Franklin Brown  
*Netherlands - No. 3*
- NORWAY : "I evighet" Elisabeth Andreassen  
*Israel - No. 4 (English version "Eternity")*
- SWEDEN : "Den vilda" One More Time  
*Sweden - No. 7*
- U.K. : "Just a little bit" Gina G  
*Australia - No. 5*  
*Belgium - No. 6*  
*Denmark - No. 5*  
*Finland - No. 6*  
*Iceland - No. 10*  
*Ireland - No. 6*  
*Israel - No. 1 \*\**  
*Norway - No. 5*  
*Sweden - No. 6*  
*U.K. - No. 1 \*\**

also, Morten Harket's introductory song, "Heaven's not for Saints", reached No. 9 in Norway

With Top 10 placings in 10 countries - and these are just the one's we actually know about - it looks like our Gina was the most favoured song!



## Jury Service!

If you would like to be considered for the 1997 UK jury at the BBC, write to:

Tina Molenaar - Room 4008  
BBC TV Centre, Wood Lane  
LONDON W12 7RJ

Please provide full name, address, age, occupation and evening/daytime 'phone numbers. Only successful applicants will be contacted and you will need to be available at short notice!

\* \* \* \* \*

Forget the rest

'Cos *VISION*'s the best!

+ + +

'Vision is the official fanzine of OGAE- UK  
and is a sister publication of OGAE News

\* \* \* \* \*

## Fantasy Eurovision

The first season of *Fantasy Eurovision* has finished with a photo finish in the top league! Congratulations therefore go to France 1991, who held off Sweden 1991 and Norway 1995, to claim the top spot.

Other divisional winners included Spain 1995 and the Netherlands 1993, with the latter of these two also capturing the Cup competition!

The final of the Super Cup between Switzerland 1988 and Spain 1995 looks set to become a battle of Titanic proportions!

To find out how you can become involved with *Fantasy Eurovision* during the second season, please send a SAE/IRC to Kevin Richmond, 16 Charlotte Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 9AX

# 1 9 9 7 U p d a t e

Following RTÉ's announcement that the 1997 Eurovision Song Contest is to be held at Dublin's Point Theatre on Saturday 3rd May 1997, the EBU have subsequently announced that the 25 participants at the 42nd annual event will be:

*Austria; Bosnia-Herzegovina; Croatia; Cyprus; Denmark; Estonia; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Italy; Malta; The Netherlands; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Russia; Slovenia; Spain; Switzerland; Turkey; and United Kingdom;*

Most noticeably is the return of Italy following their recent absence, while the expected newcomers have not been forthcoming. The above countries were calculated on their average placings between 1993 and 1996, although this procedure is already in dispute due to the obvious fact that some countries were not present at all four contests!

<u>Country</u>	<u>Av. pos.</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Av. pos.</u>
Norway	3,5	Russia	13
Ireland	4,25	Iceland	13,25
Sweden	6,5	Austria	13,5
United Kingdom	7,25	Denmark	13,5
Malta	8,25	Estonia	14,5
France	8,5	Germany	14,7
Croatia	10,25	Israel	16
Portugal	11,2	Turkey	16,3
Poland	11,3	Slovenia	16,6
Cyprus	11,75	-----	-----
Italy	12	Bosnia	18
Netherlands	12	Slovakia	18,5
Greece	12,5	Belgium	20,3
Switzerland	12,7	Finland	20,7
Spain	12,75	Romania	21
Hungary	13	Lithuania	25 *

\* It is uncertain whether a formal application was submitted.



However, according to the above statistics verified by *Vision's* own analyst (!), Israel should be going to Dublin instead of Bosnia-Herzegovina. While this seemingly confirms the rumour that Israel have withdrawn from the contest as a mark of protest at the developments of recent years, it should also be noted that Israel remembers the Holocaust on 3rd May. *Vision* wishes to point out that no official announcement has been received from Jerusalem surrounding this issue.

It is understood that those countries unable to compete this year, including ESC stalwarts Belgium and Finland, will be present in 1998 under the conditions of the re-instated relegation system, but in reality the EBU could also introduce yet another selection process at the expense of other long serving contestants!

The saga does not end there, according to the Swedish press who claim that SVT are threatening to withdraw. It has been stated that the EBU require all entries to be determined by the end of February and the Swedish (and at least one other) final is scheduled for March. The high profile given to the Melodifestival in Sweden means that it is almost impossible to bring the event forward and so SVT, on the grounds that their arrangements had been finalised before the EBU announcement, are appealing to Geneva to revoke their decision - or else!

But that's not all! It would appear that ARD, Germany and the BBC in London are petitioning the EBU to introduce a telephone voting procedure which would totally replace the jury system. It is unlikely that such a drastic change would be implemented for the 1997 contest, but it is certainly one area we will all have to watch in the future!

As if this is not enough to contend with, there have been further rumblings in the corridors of EBU Headquarters, Geneva following the apparent shock resignation of Marie-Claire Vionnet from her Eurovision office. According to one unofficial source Marie-Claire, who had been Frank Naef's righthand woman since 1978 until his retirement in 1992, was unhappy with some of the proposals being put forward by the new Head of ESC, Christine Marchal-Ortiz. If anyone knows anything official on this matter, *Vision* would like to hear from you!

Finally, and this will probably affect UK members more than anyone else, it seems that the BBC have finally scrapped "A Song for Europe"/"The Great British Song Contest" and will appoint both song and singer for this years event. Once again, nothing is set in stone and, as the old saying goes, watch this space!

## The Dublin Draw

The draw for the running order at the 42nd Eurovision Song Contest took place in Dublin on 20th November 1996 in accordance with EBU rulings. The outcome was as follows and, although subject to change due to possible withdrawals, it looks like the United Kingdom have a favourable placing near the end!

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1, Cyprus          | 14, Bosnia-Herzegovina |
| 2, Turkey          | 15, Portugal           |
| 3, Norway          | 16, Sweden             |
| 4, Austria         | 17, Greece             |
| 5, Ireland         | 18, Malta              |
| 6, Slovenia        | 19, Hungary            |
| 7, Switzerland     | 20, Russia             |
| 8, The Netherlands | 21, Denmark            |
| 9, Italy           | 22, France             |
| 10, Spain          | 23, Croatia            |
| 11, Germany        | 24, United Kingdom     |
| 12, Poland         | 25, Iceland            |
| 13, Estonia        |                        |

- thanks to Mark Sorrell for passing on this information from RTE

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CARLISLE, CA6 4AH, ENGLAND**



## NATIONAL FINALS '97

Cyprus	:	mid-February 1997
Germany	:	27 February 1997
Denmark	:	1 March 1997
Malta	:	25 January 1997
The Netherlands	:	23 February 1997
Norway	:	8 February 1997
Slovenia	:	22 February 1997
Sweden	:	8 March 1997



- Five piece group, Mrs Einstein, will perform all songs in the Dutch Nationaal Songfestival. The group comprises of Suzanne Venneker, Paulette Willemse, Saskia van Zutphen, Marjolein Spijkers and Linda Snoeij.

- Twelve songs will compete in the Swedish Melodifestival. Six songs are open to the public, while the remaining six were commissioned from leading song writers including Jonas "Joker" Berggren (Ace of Base), Alexander Bard (Army of Lovers) and international soul singer Robyn.

### ADVERTISEMENT

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## **'Les Misérables' Eurovision!**

by Gary Garland

Frances Ruffelle and Michael Ball have both starred in Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical, but what about Østein Wiik?

Along with his wife, Sverre Wiik, Østein wrote and composed To (aka Jahn Teigen & Østein Wiik) Tenorer's "Ariel" which finished 4th in last years Norske Melodi Grand Prix final. In addition to this Østein played Valjean in the Norwegian production of *Les Misérables* and appeared in the 10th anniversary programme of the musical at London's Royal Albert Hall during 1996.

At the end of the main performance the finale featured many of the men who have played Valjean in the various productions around the world.

Along with Østein Wiik were found Colm Wilkinson (Ireland 1978), who played this lead role early in the musical's run, and Tommy Körberg (Sweden 1969 & 1988). Michael Ball was also in the production, but appearing in one of the lesser roles!

Østein has a tremendous voice, perfect for such performances, and it is indicative of the style of song which he wrote for the Norwegian final, as I am given to understand that this was very operatic in style and delivery.

\* \* \* \* \*

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and

'OGAE News'

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## OGAE(UK) Convention '96 REPORT

by co-organiser Mark Sorrell

When you offer to take the rather large step of helping to organise an OGAE convention, you must always, as with life in general, expect the unexpected and for nothing to go as planned! I hope, however, that all of those who attended ('stayers' or 'day visitors') had a good time.

The 'Grass Roots' were laid down from the previous year (I'd still like to know who bribed the hotel into having us again for the second year running), and with the same room being used setting up would be a doddle! WRONG!! With one of the three organisers up in Stockton-on-Tees, myself in Essex (Essex boy and proud-ish), and only Clive based in Norwich, it was 'keep BT happy' with almost daily phone calls.

We arrived early Friday afternoon to set up. On finding that a bell ringers convention was also booked into the hotel (I did not find any members, so I couldn't ask for them to do us a special quick rendition of Gina!), we couldn't get into our room until past 5.00 pm (planned start 6!) due to an exam of all things - something you can't exactly gatecrash! Clive and I set up the main room upstairs and plastered especially large Gina, Celine and Logo posters for all outside to see. While setting up some guests came over to ask what OGAE meant .... I replied 'a bunch of nutters', which I hope didn't put them off booking as I never saw any of them again.

Meanwhile Clive was doing his 'gopher' impressions again from last year, picking up arrivals from the station (amongst a city full of Norwich vs. Ipswich derby football traffic), while I finally got the go ahead and literally entered our room and 'went wild in the aisles', sticking blutack where never before!! Guests were asked to stay in the bar (they didn't seem to mind) as the rooms were out of bounds; all this and trying to actually welcome people on arrival upstairs, and be 'sociable' - I ask you!

Even before starting the original agenda had been 'severely mucked about with', but the first crowd pleaser came at dinner in the shape of the lemon sponge, a 'veritable bouquet' indeed! - (My, we are easily pleased!). The bread pudding made its mark early too, but thankfully no spotted dick on the menu which the chef had to go out and catch first!

After dinner Richard arrived, just as DJ Chris (invited back from last year) had arrived to set up the disco. Tired or not, no one misses a





The "3 Gina's"



Could this be Herrey's?



good bop! Gina got it going, as only she can, with Richard providing stuff to play, most of which Chris had not heard of, but he soon got into "Genghis Khan", with or without the fantastic, improvised, almost Cossack style dancing from Richard - now in hypo-mode! The three organisers decided to show the dance of the "Vrede Jacott Potato" and the "White and black blues" drum segment! At the end of the karaoke Gina was on again, and it was time for the marvellous and infamous "3 Gina's" to perform!!

The "3 Gina's" - first names Orange, Lemon and the lovely Barley, alias James, Chris and myself - massacred Gina in the nicest way (?), by changing the lyrics to "hey girls, don't call us, we call you"!?! After sweating away our lemon sponge, most of us decided that midnight wasn't late and so we settled down to what can only be truly described as 'Stars in your Eyes - Eurovision Drag Special'. So good were the performers that some of us took a while to realise that they were not women! Cleverly done, the German OGAE club cheekily used Irish '95 intro's with singers' own personal clips, plus audience clips, so that the whole performance looked real. Impressions ranged from Mekado, who became Tart-ado, Amina - Amonia, and Tacji, who's ample assets simply wouldn't stay still - just as on the night itself! Not only were the costumes accurate, but even the terrific dancing and hand actions! Nicole was 'dealt with' in hysterical fashion too. All this proving, along with a great Genghis Khan, that the Germans can also laugh at themselves. At 2.00 am approx, we crawled into bed.

Saturday morning saw weary faces over the muesli, and the main day started with the Richard Crane Record Fair, which was laid upon the table like the passover, but in which most people seemed to find something (Oh but Thomas! - who paid you the money to get Jasmine's CD!?!). While I helped Richard sort the fair, we showed ESC '96 complete with the subtitles, as transmitted on the night. I could hear lots of laughter, however, with such classics as "jokers and pokers" and "impale you on my sword" (both Belgium, don't you just love 'em?!). The English recorded versions, and Poland is no exception, are often nothing near the transmitted words!

After lunch we watched a far from boring Open University documentary 'Counting the Cost', which gave us a short insight into the costs which Ireland incurred in 1994, with some backstage clips too. This was followed by voting on ESC '89. I personally chose this year, not my





It's Nana Crane, or is that Richard Mouskouri?



Love the hair do, but it'll never win!



best overall, but it has Celine in it together with "Nacida para amar" (a fave!). We drew lots to decide our countries and, once the voting procedure had been completed from those present, Spain was declared the winner by only one point from Greece!

Just as I was beginning to celebrate, indicating a Spanish win on the scoreboard, Richard announced a 'Maltese twist'!!! Tim Weir in Newcastle (with us in spirit, but not in person this year), also saw the contest at his home and was ready to phone his votes. He had actually been drawn France, but it was his casting vote! Clive then returned and slowly announced 'Spain 4 points' - my heart sank! But then, Greece 5 points - oh no! a tie! ESC '91 all over again, but I knew almost instantly that Spain had still won on 12 points countback by 2-1. So myself? - much joy and happiness; fantasmagorical even!!

Now I say here, with nothing against the Irish as a race, I would have liked an 'Irish-free convention'. I still believe they should now be awarded the 'Lifetime achievement at winning Eurovision award' and politely be told to bog off, giving others a chance. Had I put this plan into action, I doubt we would have seen anything after 1991!

In the evening we were joined by two lovely ladies from the local TV show 'The Warehouse', on which Richard appeared to chat about ESC recently. They didn't know what to expect! This was also in time to take part in our 'Special Presentation' event listed on the agenda as 'And now for something completely different', which guests enquired about well in advance but were told nothing.

Originally the idea I came up with involved a slightly different form, but this, under the final title of 'Rock Bottom', became our tribute to all the lowest placed entries from 21 countries, with exceptions of Lithuania, Romania and the like, who were omitted due to lack of experience! Thanks go to Clive who compiled this tape (under the pseudonym of 'Dino D Horrendus Productions' in association with 'Camera Shakes Incorporated') over many hours, without whom this would not have been such a great success. Further thanks to Gary and Barry for their archival video assistance. As all of the entries were announced in draw order, most people played games guessing which entry had been chosen. The memories came flooding back and then the voting began. The contest would actually determine two winners; the first place country as 'Best of' and last as 'Rock Bottom'. Remedios (for me at least) took the performance prize, but it was congratulations to Stone & Stone who had

already won it even before, as drawing Luxembourg, I had the casting vote. Italy with Matia Bazar proved that putting half your bands name in tinsel on your top does not help, and were promptly placed 'Rock Bottom'!! Pity in a way, as they did go on to make good songs such as 'Ti sento'. Prizes were handed out and, as one of the TV ladies had drawn Italy, Richard handed out a Johnny Logan Hits CD as consolation - which came as a real tonic for the poor love!

Once the frivolities were over, I set about checking the scores as all the others saw the Sky TV Eurosong documentary (Gina dear, it's still Eimear not Emma!) which followed on nicely, and the RTE '96 previews finished off the night.

Late to bed, slow to rise (like my auntie's pastry) was the best way to describe Sunday morning. I thought I would arrive in plenty of time for breakfast but, with everyone sat there almost finished, I had to convince people that I did not have any sordid reasons for being last up. So late was I, that I had to raid the kitchen in desperation for milk!

Soon it was time for the annual photocall of the main stayers, with the exception of Hamish's delightful wife, Dorrie, who was here only for the shopping - and I don't blame her really, as sad departures were imminent. As farewells were made, preselections from Slovenia (Regina, I still think you were slightly robbed dear), Germany (with Leon and the fabulously camp Euro-Cats) and Sweden (where I finally got to see 'Mr All Man Jan' Johansen himself!) were shown.

When it was time for us to finally pick up and leave we thanked the hotel for putting up with us again. It's been an experience! My thanks to dear friends Richard and Clive for all their help, and to all those who said they would come and did not show up! Firstly, you missed a good 'un and, secondly, we're really not that bad, honest!

On returning home I came across a small article on our planned special guests, Code Red, who are doing worthwhile work in local schools on drug prevention. They are also apparently huge in Thailand, but perhaps attending a Eurovision club's convention would have spoilt their squeaky clean image!?!

I thoroughly enjoyed co-hosting this year, and I hope to see many new faces among the regulars in future years to prove the spirit of the event lives on!



## A Lyrical Tribute

by Duncan Hartley

Young man, there's no need to feel down  
I said, young man, just 'cause Wogan's a clown  
I said, young man, pick yourself off the ground  
There's a club that you can contact

Young man, there are people out there  
I said, young man, who watch ESC every year  
And they write in, with their comments quite fair  
To a magazine called 'Vision'

It's fun to be in the O.G.A.E.  
It's fun to be in the O.G.A.E.  
You can read the whole mag with the retro part two  
You can see every point of view

O.G.A.E. - it's fun to be in the O.G.A.E.  
It is always refined, it won't sully your mind  
If you're not the sensitive kind!

I was once in great misery  
But then someone told me where I should be  
He said Norwich, Grange Hotel on Thorpe Road  
And you'll be in with a good crowd

Young man, are you listening to me?  
What should our next UK ESC entry be?  
So go join up to the O.G.A.E.  
I'm sure they'll show courtesy

It's fun to be in the O.G.A.E. etc.

*(Apologies to the Village People - it WILL fit the tune! DH)*

- Could we be the first OGAE club to have our own song? Ed,

## OGAE-UK CONVENTION 1997

When Mark Sorrell submitted his report on the 1996 convention, he also expressed concern that the event had been arranged too late for many members to attend. Although there were genuine reasons behind the delay and apparent lack of advertising, OGAE-UK hope that the 1997 convention will compensate for any disappointment suffered!

So, check your calendars, get out your diaries and make sure that you are free for the event of the year (*apart from the ESC that is!!*)

Date: 10/11/12 October 1997

Venue: Somewhere in the south of England

Cost: £80-90 (estimated)

Special Guest: Currently being negotiated

Fuller details will appear in the next issue, but if you wish to reserve a place in the meantime, please send a £20 deposit to:

Gordon Lewis  
15 Hammonds Lane  
Totton  
Southampton SO40 3LH

*please make cheques payable to Gordon Lewis,  
enclosing a SAE/IRC if you require a receipt*

\*\*\*\*\*

*Something to say?  
Then say it!  
Write to  
"VISION LETTERBOX"  
today!*

\*\*\*\*\*



## VISION Letterbox

*(Letters should be addressed to Darren Jenkin, 11 Fairfield, Ludgvan, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8ES*

From: Duncan Hartley, Solihull

I hope that above all the UK in '97 selects a singer who has the ability and experience to sing correct notes and words on the night with a powerful voice, good expression and stage appearance. In '92 and '93 we had that and almost won; in '94 the able Frances Ruffelle had a style and a song that were not so appealing; in '95 the rappers did their best but looked amateur; and this year nerves affected Gina's performance. I believe the talent is out there and it is up to the Beeb to find it!

At ESC I think backing singers' and musicians' appearance and body language can make a difference to the outcome. The enthusiastic and cheerful performance of those with the Portuguese singer enhanced the appeal of the song a lot for me.

The same cannot be said of the keyboard player for Estonia, who looked and acted remarkably like Salman Rushdie, but even gloomier. Later, when Estonia got a 12 point award, the camera showed him as wooden and miserable as ever, in contrast to the other Estonians - a sceptre at the feast.

\* \* \*

From: Andrew Mullen, Halifax

Further to my comments in issue 26 all we want at the end of the day is for the United Kingdom to do well and even win!

As a collector of Euro-songs etc., it is great when we can say what is good and bad. Sure, good songs won't always win, but that is life. But I still stand by what I believe and would like to see OGAE-UK take a more active part in choosing the songs. This would make some headway so we can say at the end of the day "we did that and won"!

- prior to SFE/GBSC being scrapped, your Editor was speaking to the BBC about this very subject. The reaction was generally positive! Ed,

## RECORD REVIEWS

- by Richard Crane

ABBA "Forever Gold" (Polydor 533083-2)

If you're one of the many people who's already bought "Gold" and "More Gold" you'll probably be more than just a little peeved at this double CD which combines the two gold CD's into one package! To try and entice you to part with your money Polydor have come up with the ingenious idea of adding a 'free' CD single to the collection. The CD single contains "Put on your white sombrero", "Dream world" and "Dame dame dame" (the Spanish version of "Gimme gimme gimme"). The majority of ABBA fans will already have these tracks so this really amounts to a rip off. It's a pity that Polydor couldn't have trimmed down the 4 CD set "Thank you for the music" into a double CD and released the new bonus CD single as a proper release, giving ABBA another top 40 single instead of recycling the same old material. A final word of warning; if you must have this then it pays to shop around as I've seen it on sale at almost every price between £19.99 and £29.99, and that makes all the difference to your 'free' CD single!

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN "Long Live Love" (Mushroom D35230 via Telstar)

I've been after this CD for several years and, although I own the original LP from 1974, it's good to have these tracks on CD at last. The album was basically put together to cash in on Olivia's Eurovision fame and amongst it's 12 tracks are all six of her Song for Europe entries. Whilst "Long live love" is best forgotten, hearing "Angel eyes" and "Loving you ain't easy" makes me realise just how close ABBA came to not

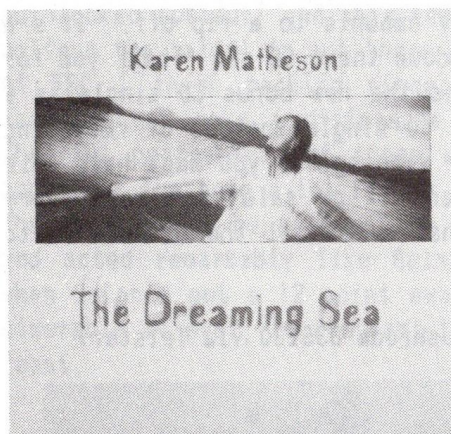
winning in 1974. The CD also includes the heart rending "I love you, I honestly love you". Well worth the wait!





CLIFF RICHARD "At the Movies 1959-1974" (EMI CDEND1096)

This is a brave attempt from EMI to right several wrongs done to Cliff Richard's legacy by issuing inferior recordings in bland packaging. As a result the majority of Cliff's back catalogue has now been deleted and this is the first release in the series of digitally remastered CD's with bonus tracks and informative sleeve notes. "At the Movies" includes all of Cliff's movie songs including four tracks making their debut on CD, nine alternate takes and one previously unissued song "Look don't touch". Superbly packaged. 10/10 EMI, if only we could get a Eurovision related CD of this magnitude! My favourite track is "Shooting star" from "Thunderbirds are go".



KAREN MATHESON "The Dreaming Sea" (Survival CDSURCD020 via Pinnacle)

In the last issue of *Vision* I urged you to check out Capercaillie's most recent CD "To the Moon". Unfortunately I can't be quite so enthusiastic about this solo CD by Karen. There's just something about it that doesn't quite gel. The album fails to grab you. Although it improves with repeated listening, it lacks the Celtic beauty of Capercaillie's recordings and Karen's vocals don't mesmerize you like they usually do. A major disappointment compounded by the fact that it doesn't include "Diwanit bugale". Initial copies of the CD come with exquisite packaging which is worth looking out for.



LAURA PAUSINI "Las Cosas Que Vives" (WEA 0630157262 via Telstar)

This is Laura's 4th album and it follows last years "Laura Pausini" which included her worldwide hit "La

solitudine" ("Loneliness"). This is the Spanish version of her new CD which is also available in Italian as "La Cosa Che Vivi". Once again she provides us with a powerful collection of dramatic songs which are generally more upbeat than previous CD's. This wonderful songstress will give Celine Dion a run for her money if she ever records in English, but watch out our Laura because Celine's next project is rumoured to be a Spanish language CD! "La Cosa Que Vives" is a major step towards international stardom.

CELINE DION "Live á Paris" (Epic 486606-2)

Whilst this CD only managed one week at number 53 in the UK charts (so far) it has crashed into number 1 in France where Celine is apparently the first artist to have three albums in the top 20 at the same time. "Live á Paris" is a stunning album and you find yourself listening with baited breath to her every word. To me this is her finest recording since "Unison" and my only gripe (sorry folks!) is the inclusion of "The power of love" and "River deep, mountain high". I'm convinced this album will eventually grace the UK charts again, despite it's low key release. The 16 tracks here include 10 taken from "Deux" (two of which are duets with Jean-Jacques Goldman), but only three tracks also appear on the "A l'Olympia" CD. For any other artist this would be a contract fulfillment album, but for Celine this is a testament. Favourite tracks have to be "Ziggy", "Vole" and "To love you more".

FRIDA "Djupa Andetag" (Anderson AND1 via Telstar)

The long awaited new CD by Frida doesn't disappoint. This is an album by a confident woman of the '90s and it is without doubt her most consistent album to date. Whilst few tracks are obviously reminiscent of ABBA, the overall feel is one of someone who is pleased to be back. An outstanding album which is a must for all ABBA fans. Favourite tracks are all of them(!), but especially "Aven en blomma" and "Alla mina basta ar" which is a duet with Roxette's Marie Fredriksson.

MICHAEL BALL "The Musicals" (Polydor 5338922)

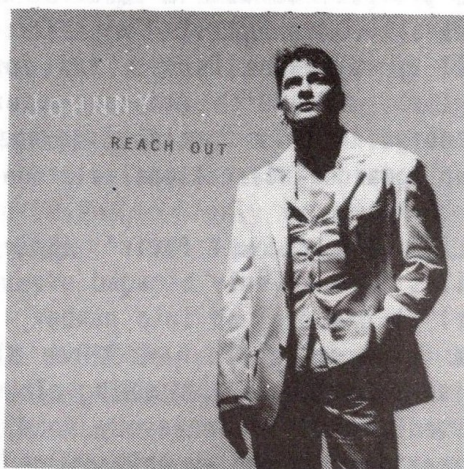
Despite commercial success with other material, Michael returns to familiar territory here (the tracks include a re-recording of "Love changes everything"), but whilst the album will appeal to many, to my ears it just sounds bland. However, whilst "Losing my mind" is a major



mistake, I have to say I prefer his version of "Memory" to any other I've heard.

JOHNNY LOGAN "Reach Out" (BMG 74321403252)

Yes, I know I'm in the minority but I'm a Johnny Logan fan and this is his best album to date, although I nearly didn't give it a second listen! On first hearing I thought this CD was very run of the mill and bland, but since giving it another listen I've realised it's the perfect showcase for Mr Logan's talents. There is a diverse choice of music here, ranging from the R&B sound of "Sho' you right" (the Barry White song no less) to the tenderness of "Heal this heart" and the soulful "Reunited". I have no doubt that this album will provide other artists with future hits, but this is a modern album that would be a top 10 CD by any other artist. Forget your preconceptions and give this a listen. My favourite tracks "Another lover", a slice of '90s dancefloor music, and the show stopping "The only thing I've ever wanted".

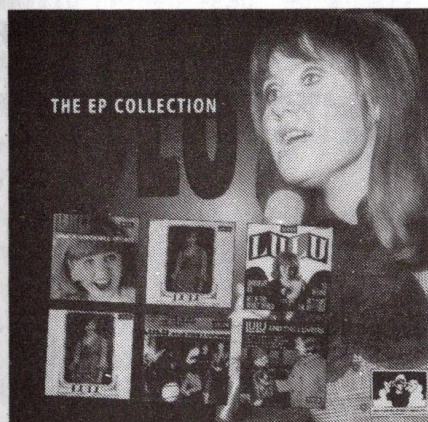


CLODAGH RODGERS "You Are My Music - The Best of .." (BMG/Camden 74321515042)

This 22 track CD includes four of Clodagh's six top 40 hits which surprisingly doesn't include "Jack in a box", but once you get over that disappointment you'll realise why it's not included here. The majority of tracks included were new to me and I was surprised at just how

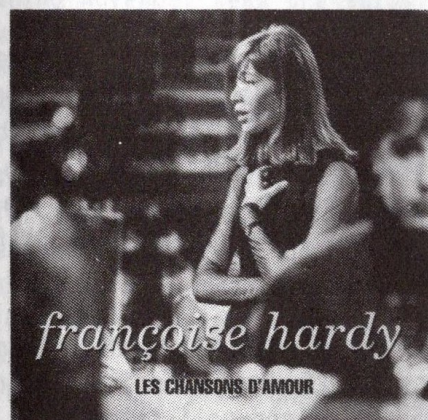


talented Clodagh is, I'm ashamed to admit that I didn't realise how good a singer this woman is! There are so many good tracks on this release that it makes you wonder why they've taken so long to appear on CD. There's over 74 minutes worth of captivating performances here and, at around £6, worth every penny. Favourite tracks include "It's different now", "One day" and "What in the world" where Clodagh sounds uncannily like Karen Carpenter. A classy album.



LULU "The EP Collection" (See for Miles SEECD 452 via Pinnacle)

For those of you under the misapprehension that Lulu is a middle of the road singer you must check out this CD just to make you think again! According to the excellent sleeve notes, when John Lennon first heard "Shout" he was certain it was being sung by a genuine black American soul star. This 23 track CD features recordings made for Decca in the early '60s and proves that, when given the right material, Lulu could tug at your heart strings or make you feel like you were in the 'Ready Steady Go' audience having a good time. An excellent compilation and my thanks to the OGAE members who tried to locate some elusive French EP sleeves for use in the booklet. Favourite tracks are "So in love" and "Don't answer me"



FRANCOISE HARDY "Les Chansons d'amour" (Camden/BMG 74321 415022)

Yet another superb compilation which unfortunately doesn't include her 1963 ESC entry, but for around £6 you get 22 tracks recorded between 1962 and 1967. Whilst any Francoise Hardy compilation is likely to duplicate tracks, the price alone makes this an essential purchase. As



far as I know this also marks the first time that English versions of her hits have been included among the French titles!

RONAN HARDIMAN "Michael Flatley's 'Lord of the Dance'" (Polygram TV 5337572)

Flatley's revenge as "Lord of the Dance" is becoming known and is going from strength to strength with sell out shows and the video keeping Oasis and Robson & Jerome off the number one slot. If you weren't keen on some of "Riverdance"'s more mellow moments but loved the uptempo tracks, then buy this! Together Hardiman and Flatley have come up with an uplifting and vibrant backdrop to, by all accounts, a breathtaking and exhilarating show. If you can't get to the show, buy this!



**Butlin's**  
**HOLIDAY**  
**WORLDS**



Butlins' Starcoast World, Pwllheli, North Wales is the place to be this March.

The theme of their Easter Midweek special is "The Best of Eurovision" and will feature Bucks Fizz and The New Seekers (1996 line up), Brotherhood of Man (ESC line up), ABBA Gold and Jimmy Jemaine as Cliff Richard.

Running from Monday 24 March through to Thursday 26 March, prices start from £25 per person self-catering.

For further information contact your local travel agent or telephone

**0345 700 700**

## LOOKING HIGH, HIGH, HIGH

ESC on Satellite by Barry Bowman

Early sightings following last issue's column emanated from Eutelsat Hot Bird 1, where the fairly new German music channel Onyx TV (11.146 Ghz) is worth a look at, especially a new programme - at least to my knowledge - called "Schlager Palast" (Hit Palace). It recently featured Camillo Felgen (ESC '60 & '62).

Just before finalising this column I noted that Celine Dion made a further appearance on TV5's programme "Taratata" and, although I only caught a glimpse of Celine singing "All by myself", I presume that this was indeed a different programme from the one I mentioned previously in 'Vision'.

Those of you who like to catch a glimpse of previous Italian ESC entrants may like to check up on RAI's nostalgic programme "Schegge", which sometimes crops up unannounced. One recent airing featured Italy's 1970 Euro entrant and frequent San Remo participant, Gianni Morandi, and included clips from '65, '69, '89 and '95, so keep an eye on RAIUNO's "Televideo" service from page 500 onwards!

During November test transmissions for a new Turkish channel appeared on Eutelsat 10 East, namely NTV, replacing ATV on 10.987 Ghz. This service includes many music programmes and among recent sightings were MFO (ESC '85 & '88) with presumably a fairly recent hit in the pop charts, "Sakin Gelme".

Due to the successful launch of the Hot Bird 2 satellite on November 21st there were due to be some changes to the services carried on the Eutelsat satellites, and consequently, at the time of preparing for this issue, I have postponed a further report on satellite radio until it is clear where the more interesting stations will appear! It does seem, as far as TV services are concerned, that RTP Internacional will move from 7 East to the new higher powered satellite; this should help those of us who have previously encountered slightly inferior reception quality! Unfortunately, RTP's new frequency was not known before this issue went to press, but I will have news of it in time for 'Vision' 28!

Well, that's all on the Euro satellite sightings for another issue, but with the anticipated technological developments due in the next couple of years, who knows what will await our own band of dedicated viewers!

Here's to many hours of satellite entertainment in 1997!



## **Richard Crane - "Eurovision Man".**

My interest in the Eurovision Song Contest opened new doors for me in 1996 in ways I had only dreamt of. I'd been a regular guest on my local radio stations for a few years and I had often been promised "something different". Whether or not the 1995 Convention had helped bring my name back to the forefront of peoples minds I don't know but in 1996 those promises became fruitful. As well as my promotional tour for the Convention, several other factors helped make 1996 my most hectic ESC to date.

The possibility of relegation certainly called for discussion and my phone started ringing. I was asked my opinions (and gave them!) and even my local paper sent round a photographer. This was a first in it's self. I'd been photographed before for the Convention but never at home surrounded by Eurovision goodies. The other major factor was the simple fact that everybody loved GINA G. The song brought Eurovision to the fore and the possibility of relegation added to the excitement. Not since SONIA had interest in Eurovision been so high.

Soon after this I was contacted by Stephen Lee from BBC Radio Norfolk. He wanted to produce a documentary about me and my facination with the Eurovision Song Contest. We decided that Stephen would produce a "fly-on-the-wall" type documentary and follow me around on "MY biggest day of the year". The stage was set and yours truly was a VERY nervous Cheshire Cat! A few days before the contest my partner Clive and I were joined by fellow OGAE (UK) member Mark Sorrell.

In my run up to the ESC my first stop is always the Bookmakers. It's the only time I go there I hasten to add. Apart from the obvious UK as the favourite it's the first indication of which song might win). Mark, Clive and I were joined by Stephen and his tape recorder as I created my usual havoc in Ladbrookes! The odds brought the usual highs and lows. I couldn't believe POLAND were as low as 33-1 or that ICELAND were an optimistic 10-1. Once Stephen had recorded all my shrieks and comments for posterity and attempted to get the lady behind the counter to speak (unsuccessfully) we departed.

I always take the days off before Eurovision to give myself time to prepare and incase I'm asked to do last minute interviews (as had been the case in previous years when my employers were good enough to give me an extended lunch so I could attend). As I mentioned earlier, I seemed to be in demand this year and on the Friday morning Mark and I went to BBC Radio Norfolk. There we joined Alison and Tony on the mid morning show. I guested on the show with local songwriter BRIAN APPLEGATE for almost an hour of good humoured debate, phone ins and ESC trivia as well as the rare opportunity to hear GERMANY 1995, TURKEY 1983 and this years SWEDISH entry "DEN VILDA" (which I was certain would win!). On air Brian provided a very interesting insight into the mechanics of trying to enter a song into the GREAT BRITISH SONG CONTEST. Tony was bemused to find out that I was prepared to point out the contests failings as well as the good points. Alison loved the TURKISH song as well as managing to pick IRELAND to win. All this and BETTY'S dancing too!

Amongst the phone calls was JEAN from GORLESTON-ON-SEA who had been present at the ESC in 1968. She commented that no one could believe it when MASSIEL won and that the BBC must have turned off the mikes to avoid any of the







disbelief going out on air.

After a quick coffee and cake (thank you Sally) it was onto the other local station RADIO BROADLAND where I had the chance to meet several old friends before guesting on the CHRISSE JACKSON show. Once again GINA G heralded my arrival. We started talking about the success of the 1995 Convention, my thoughts on this years GBSC and my predictions for ESC 1996. Once again "DEN VILDA" received airplay. The atmosphere was relaxed and we managed to cover alot of ground during my time on air.

Saturday 18th May arrived and thankfully Stephen wasn't there for the alarm going off as he'd threatened. He did, however, arrive with trusty tape recorder in tow at 8:30am to follow Mark and I down to my local newsagent. There we rummaged through the mornings papers like two old dears at a jumble sale looking for anything Eurovision. Finding GINA G on the front page of the times made me squeal with joy. In general there was plenty of coverage, a sign that the media interest was high.

With bundles of papers we went back to the house, quickly dissected the contents and threw out any pages that weren't relevant. Then it was in to the city for a recheck on the betting odds and my annual pilgrimage to the sweet stall on NORWICH market. I bought enough sweets to sink a battleship. (I was still eating them in August!). Back home my mother had arrived eager not to miss out on the festivities. She had travelled down from YORKSHIRE that morning to join me (some relatives will do anything for a free hosh up!).

Next, the five of us squeezed into Clives' car to hit TESCOS. Stephen had particularly wanted to follow us around whilst we were shopping for food produced by the countries participating in the ESC. Well, believe it or not, I've never done that before but I thought in for a penny in for a pound or nearly £200 as it turned out!! This provides some of the funniest moments in the documentary which could have been subtitled "5 Go Mad In TESCOS!". We took a list of this years entrants with us and tried to match the food to the list. We managed to locate SPANISH strawberries, DUTCH peppers, BELGIAN apples, NORWEGIAN jarlsberg, PORTUGESE tomatoes, IRISH cheddar (you get the picture). Mark spent most of his time in the produce department looking for a swede (called JAN!). We had to give up on some countries so we cheated with Maltesers for MALTA and viennese whirls for AUSTRIA. However we didn't stoop as low as Tim 'No Knickers' diet coke for FINLAND (ThinLand get it?).

Having departed TESCOS leaving behind some rather bemused and bewildered shoppers, it was time to return home to prepare all the food for the Eurovision party. We had spent almost 2 hours in TESCOS. Getting all the food ready took Clive and my Mum the rest of the afternoon. As usual we had enough to feed the 5,000 (unfortunately the other 4,992 never arrived!!) and enough drink to fill a very large swimming pool. As Mark and I rearranged the furniture and searched out clipboards & pens to mark DARREN JENKINS score sheets the finishing touches were being put to the food as Stephen returned with fello ESConut (thank you HAMISH) GRAHAM. Stephen managed to capture Clive's culinary skills for posterity as well as some reminising from my Mum as to where my fascination with the ESC had originated from.

As 8pm approached quicker than a KEANU REEVES bus we were joined by our good



friends Cathy & Jamie who live a few doors down from us. Well there were 10 of us (plus microphone) crammed into our front room including Jamie & Cathys new born, Emma and Adam their 2.5 year old son who couldn't believe his luck with all this help yourself food available! The evening was a roaring success ; we booed at VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY, cheered for GINA G, fell silent for POLAND, cringed at ICELAND and listened intently to IRELAND and SWEDEN.

I was gobsmacked when it became obvious that SWEDEN wasn't going to win, amazed at how well SPAIN & PORTUGAL were scoring, appalled at the lack of votes for POLAND & SWITZERLAND and disappointed that my predictions of a low score for FRANCE came true. All this was recorded by Stephen who ended up with 5 hours worth of material and then had to edit it down to 50 minutes. The documentary went out on the following Bank Holiday Monday and provided us all with an excellent souvenir of those mad, hectic and fun 48 hours.

I would like to thank everyone at RADIO NORFOLK, RADIO BROADLAND, TESCOs, LADBROOKES, EASTERN DAILY PRESS, Sweet Stall on Norwich Market, Sandy & Ash Newsagents, Graham, Cathy & Jamie, Mark, Clive, my Mum and of course Stephen Lee for bravery (and chocolate doughnuts) above and beyond the call of duty.

OH! ... by the way all this leads to another first .. but that's another story !!

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**LYRICIST and COMPOSER**

**VOTING**

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## OGAE - ON SONG 1997

Hopefully, by the next issue, we will have the results of 1996 OGAE Song Contest from Spain and discover how Midge Ure has fared with the song "Breathe".

In the meantime, it's not too early to think about the song that will represent OGAE-UK at the 1997 event, so raid your record collection and enter your favourite song!

All entries must be from 1996 or 1997 and must be sung in English, Welsh Gaelic, Cornish or Manx, and there is a maximum of one nominated song per member.

'B' sides, flops or obscure album tracks are usually more successful than established hit singles!

Once you have made your choice, please send a good recording to:

Michael Potter  
3 Ash Court  
Woodfieldside  
Blackwood  
Gwent NP2 0BZ

If you require further information, write to Michael at the above address or telephone him on 01495 223296

\* \* \* \* \*

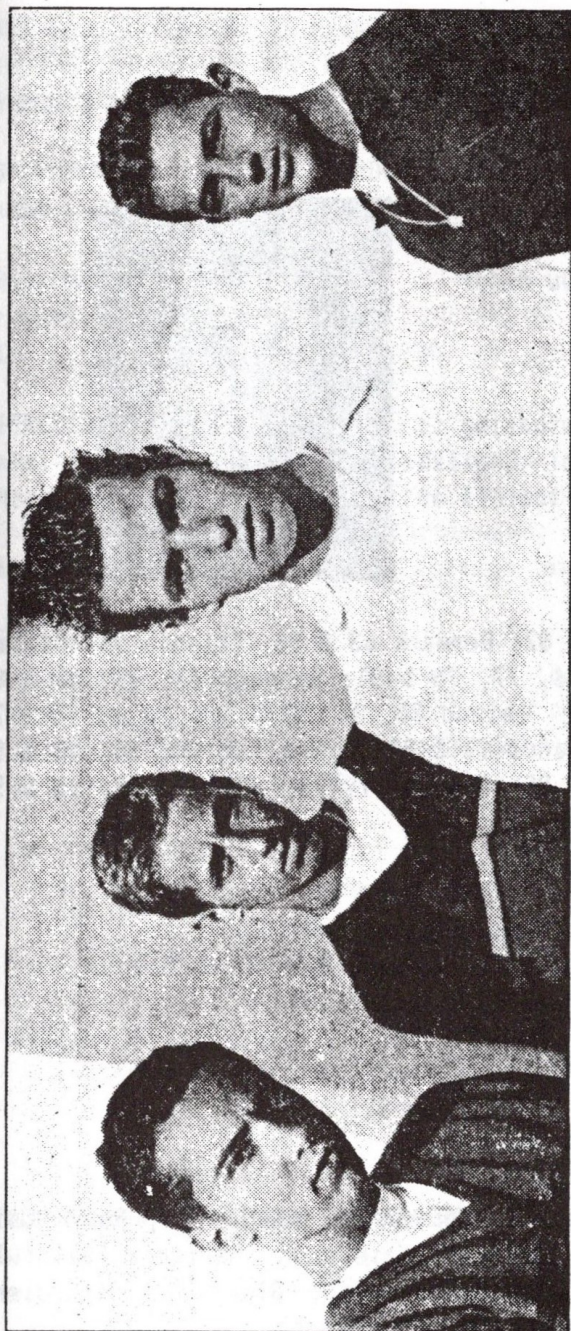
Forget the rest

'Cos VISION's the best!

+ + +

'Vision is the official fanzine of OGAE- UK  
and is a sister publication of OGAE News

\* \* \* \* \*



School visits ... Code Red are joining forces with the police

## Pop group drugs message

POP foursome Code Red are joining forces with Essex Police to warn pupils of the dangers of drug-taking.

The band have been working in the studio with top producer Nicky Graham of PJ And Duncan, Bros and Let Loose fame and saw

their debut single I Gave You Everything enter the top 50.

They release their second single This Is Our Song on October 21 and will be making personal appearances across the country to promote the track.

As part of that, Code Red will be

performing at schools and will answer questions from pupils about the dangers of drugtaking.

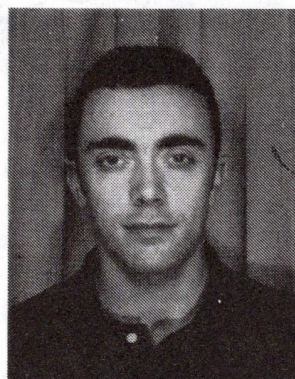
Code Red will be joining the 2Smart 4Drugs campaign at Thomas, Lord Audley School, Colchester, on November 8, and Colne Community School, Brightlingsea.



## Profile on ....

### Jean-Francois Lermé

NAME: Jean-Francois Lermé  
ADDRESS: Rés. Le Centre D93  
5 Terrasse Front Du Medoc  
33000 Bordeaux  
France  
BIRTHDATE: 13 January 1967  
OCCUPATION: I'm training and studying to  
become a teacher of English  
in France, or a teacher of  
French abroad



#### FAVOURITE ESC ENTRIES:

Austria 81; Belgium 81; Cyprus 82; Denmark 63 & 95; Estonia 96; Finland 75, 77, 85 & 86; France 62, 74, 77, 79 & 91; Germany 71, 79, 80 & 81; Greece 80, 91 & 95; Hungary 94; Ireland 80, 84, 93 & 96; Israel 73 & 76; Italy 74, 78, 84 & 87; Netherlands 69 & 80; Norway 68, 80, 81, 93 & 95; Poland 95; Spain 80, 82, 90 & 95; Sweden 71, 74, 80, 81, 83, 95 & 96; Switzerland 71 & 81; UK 70 & 77;

#### ALL TIME TOP THREE:

1. "Amsterdam" Maggie MacNeal (Netherlands 80)
2. "Johnny Blue" Lena Valaitis (Germany 81)
3. "Eläköön Elämä" Sonja Lumme (Finland 85)

#### WORST ESC ENTRIES:

Malta 71 & 72; France 86, 87 & 88; Finland 92;

#### FAVOURITE SINGERS/GROUPS (Non ESC):

Portishead; Massive Attack; Bjork; Sugarcubes; Simply Red; Roxy Music; Bronski Beat; Jimmy Somerville; Pixies; Kate Bush; Marianne Faithfull; Grace Jones; Nina Hagen; Police; Cure; Oasis; Blur; The Stranglers; Genesis; Simple Minds; INXS; Bel Canto; Supertramp;

WORST SINGERS/GROUPS (Non ESC);

Take That; Boyzone; and all those other groups built up for hysterical teenage girls!

BEST POP/ROCK SONG EVER HEARD (Non ESC);

"Ashes to ashes" David Bowie

FIRST/LAST CONCERT SEEN;

Eurythmics - Bordeaux 1986

INXS - Wembley Arena 1990

INTERESTS;

Travelling (my favourite places in the UK are Cornwall and Scotland); cinema; music (of all kinds); reading & writing; sports cars; all sports in general and tennis in particular; going to the beach; nature; international news & politics; foreign languages & cultures; etc ....

AMBITIONS;

I would very much like to be part of the French jury at a future ESC. Otherwise I'd like to get in touch with other ESC fans for a regular and exciting penfriendship - to exchange letters, audio and video tapes, CD's ... and why not holidays?

« » « » « » « » « » « » « »

*Who will it be next time?*

*Believe it or not your Editor urgently needs someone else to reveal themselves in readiness for the next issue of Vision !!*

*So don't be shy!*

*With hundreds of Vision readers there must be someone who wants to share their secrets with their fellow ESC fans!*

*Send your contribution to the Editor ....., NOW*

« » « » « » « » « » « » « »



## RICHARD'S ROUND-UP

Welcome once again to Richard's Round-up. As the wintery weather arrives I hope you're all snuggled up somewhere warm with your copy of 'Vision'. As usual there's less news (but plenty of reviews), so here goes!

Those of you with a keen ear will no doubt have spotted "I just wanna make love 2U" by Lois being used in the background on recent 'Head & Shoulders' adverts. Unfortunately it's unlikely to see a reissue of this excellent track as apparently neither the label or the group now exist - and don't get excited if you see a single by Lois in your local record shop called "Snapshot". The Lois here is an American folk singer.

Despite their management being unable to make a decision as to whether or not the boys had time to attend the convention in Norwich, Code Red are keeping busy. Their second single "This is our song" was a vast improvement on "I gave you everything" and would have fared better than one week at 59 if it hadn't have been released the same week as all the Oasis singles were re-released. Code Red have been busy doing PA's around the country and will have been touring during December as part of the Smash Hits Tour and also with East 17. 1997 should prove to be their breakthrough year.

What do ABBA, Cliff Richard and Celine Dion all have in common? Well, apart from the obvious, they all have videos out to tie in with their current CD's. "Forever Gold", "At the Movies" and "Live in Paris" should be available from most video outlets.

Gina G recently guested on the Lisa I'Anson show on Radio 1 and, during an interesting interview, Gina revealed that she'd like to duet with Peter Andre, that N'Dea Davenport of the Brand New Heavies was her major influence and that her all time favourite was "Unfinished Sympathy" by Massive Attack, which she used to dance to in Melbourne night clubs. Gina's debut album should be out in the spring.

How many of you watched "The Last Shout" of 'Absolutely Fabulous'? Whilst it may not have had as many memorable moments as previous episodes, it did have a large sprinkling of Lulu's songs thanks to Edwina's appearance on 'Desert Island Discs'. Maybe 1997 will see a return to the charts for Lulu; it's been two years since her last release. Meanwhile, the Trash Can Sinatras have released an interesting

version of "To Sir with love". If only Sony had the good sense to issue the unplugged version that Soul Asylum recorded with Lulu on MTV. For those of you bored with the usual Christmas compilations you might like to try "Celtic Heartbeat Christmas" on Warner Bros. 756782929-2. Among the artists included you'll find Clannad and Anuna. That ESC veteran, Ronnie Carroll, has a CD released entitled "Rose's are Red". The CD includes "Say wonderful things" and "Ring-a-ding girl" and is available through Pinnacle (GEMCD004).

A review of Frida's new CD can be found elsewhere in this issue, while Agnetha's CD, "My Love, My Life", is a double CD on Sony (4839102) and is available through Pinnacle Imports.

Cliff Richard said in a recent interview that for "Heathcliff" to break even it would have to run for at least seven months. Well, it's sold over 300,000 tickets and is set to run for at least six months, but as consolation, Cliff will gain a few extra pennies from the "Heathcliff Live" album (EMI CDEM01099).

Ireland's Dickie Rock has a greatest hits CD out on Homespun (DHCD717) which includes his 1966 ESC entry. Six other Irish ESC entries can be found on "The Best Irish Album in the World Ever" (Virgin VTDCD102). Among tracks by Daniel O'Donnell, Mary Duff and Josef Locke, you'll find tracks by Dana, Johnny Logan and Eimear Quinn, while a second CD features Irish rock tracks. An uneasy collection which doesn't quite work.

There are a couple of cover versions about at the moment. Strike have upped the tempo on Paula Abdul and Ofra Haza's excellent "My love is for real", whilst Suzanne Rye has done a dance version of "Because you loved me" which is actually better than it sounds!

Talking of originals, if you thought that Celine Dion sang the first version of "Falling into you" you'd be wrong. Whilst watching the film "Terminal Velocity" the other day I heard the song in the background and, at the end, it was credited to Marie Claire U'Baldo, who co-wrote the song. The song was apparently courtesy of Polydor Records, but I don't know if it appeared on the original soundtrack CD which was on Varese Sarabande (VSD5546). As this film dates from 1994, I'd be grateful if anyone could give me any further information on Marie Claire U'Baldo or the song.

Whilst the British public await Celine's new single "All by myself", she is currently enjoying the number one slot in France and top ten in



Canada with "Live à Paris". She has donated "Send me a lover" to an American charity album "The Power of Peace". The track, which can be found on the second CD single of "Tu m'aimes encore", was originally a stateside hit for Taylor Dayne. Celine will be touring Asia early next year before taking a year off. But don't expect 1997 to be quiet year. I think there's a good chance of a Spanish language CD and a hits compilation to keep Celine's name in the public eye. Meanwhile, "Falling into you" eventually made number one in the US album charts and has sold over one million units in the UK alone.

Congratulations to Clouseau who topped the Belgian charts with "Adrenaline" in October.

1996 was certainly the year that Gina G and Code Red both broke the Eurovision curse, but most surprising of all was the fact that the single by Bass Culture, "Love the life" featuring Gina on vocals, failed to chart. The single was recorded sometime ago in Australia and was released by Mushroom Records but, despite being a better song than "I belong to you", the single just didn't reach the right shops.

However, Gina has certainly won the hearts of the American's. "Just a little bit" has become the first UK Eurovision entry to enter the US charts since Brotherhood of Man reached number 27 in 1976. At the time of writing she was up 18 places to 59, and the music press is full of predictions of an American number one for Gina.

If you're one of the people who appreciates the talents of Niamh Kavanagh you'll no doubt have her excellent debut album "Flying Blind". Well, you may be interested to know that one of the songs on the album has been recorded by two of the biggest names in music. "I can't make you love me" can be found on the new album by the Artist (formerly known as Prince); the triple CD "Emancipation", and the track will also feature on George Michael's "Older" EP which is due out in early January. Although Niamh first heard the song by Bonnie Raitt, let's hope these new versions prompt people to check out "Flying Blind".

EMI are hoping that Cliff fans can provide them with rare material from 1958-1965 for inclusion on their forthcoming reissue and re-packaging of Sir Cliff's back catalogue. If any 'Vision' readers think they might have something of interest to EMI, write first with details to Peter Lewre or Nigel Goodall, PO Box 16, Westham, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5LQ.

The Swedish charts are providing some very interesting news for Eurovision fans at the moment. Currently at number one is the new album by Tomas Ledin "T" and a couple of weeks ago Benny and Bjorn entered at number two with their second musical, "Kristina Fran Duvemala". It's the story of Swedish immigrants going to Minnesota. The resulting album is a triple CD and, despite the fact that the show is not scheduled to reach Stockholm until 1998, the price of the CD hasn't deterred fans from rushing out and buying it. All this just a few weeks after Frida was number one.

Budget label Disky have released several boxed sets just recently. Amongst them are The Shadows "Good Vibrations" (Disky SA872782) and Matt Monro "Moment to Moment" (Disky SA871692), though neither of them include anything new to Eurovision fans.

As the video of Michael Flatley's "Lord of the Dance" manages to keep Oasis and Robson & Jerome off the number one spot, a single "Cry of the Celts" by Ronan Hardiman is scheduled for release. Meanwhile, a third "Riverdance" video joins the ever growing catalogue of Irish dance videos. "The New Show" (original title that!) is also being kept off number one by Michael Flatley's new extravaganza.

Those wonderful people at Bear Family have just issued another Lys Assia CD "Schweizer Madel" (BCD16108AH). As far as I can tell there are no Eurovision tracks included.

Budget label Laserlight have two new CD's out, both of which include Eurovision material. Both CD's are "Best of"'s - Lulu is Laserlight 16153 and Lynsey de Paul is Laserlight 12842. Distribution is via BMG. Not to be confused with the Camden CD reviewed elsewhere, but Flarensch have issued a CD by Francoise Hardy also titled "Les chanson's d'amour" (472478 via Discovery).

Abbacadabra issued their third double 'A' side single in December. This time it's "Waterloo"/"Mamma Mia". After the failure of earlier singles to chart, don't expect to find this one giving "Waterloo" a third chart appearance.

Sometime ago I mentioned a Frances Ruffelle duet with Michael Crawford which had turned up on a three-CD set only available by mail order. Well, I've got good news for you Frances Ruffelle fans! It's now available on a single CD, but the bad news is that it's on Michael Crawford's "Andrew Lloyd Webber" (Telstar TCD2544). You have to look in



the booklet to discover that "Only you" is in fact a duet with Frances. The song is taken from "Starlight Express".

Last year I mentioned a Christmas CD which featured tracks by several Eurovision artists. Well this year it's been repackaged as "A Christmas Spectacular of Song and Carols" (subtle change of title!) and, although it no longer includes the Frances Ruffelle track, "I watch you sleeping", it does still have songs by Michael Ball and Colm Wilkinson. Added to this years release are two more tracks which feature Eurovision artists. Tony Monopoly sings "When people build walls" and Pearl Carr & Teddy Johnson perform "Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer". The CD is on the Crimson label (CRIMCD 21) and is available in Woolworths. Baktabak have just issue a Celine Dion interview CD "In Conversation" (CBAK 4103 via Arabesque). At this moment I have no information about it's contents. However, if any of you 'Vision' readers have a copy, why not review it for the next edition!

The new CD by Agnetha Falkskog "My Love My Life" is a double CD of 37 tracks. The first CD is Swedish material that appears to be from the sixties and early seventies. The second CD features mostly English language recordings, including several ABBA tracks, as well as four duets. I hope to have a full review for my next round-up. Well, that's about it. Remember if you have any information to pass onto 'Vision' readers, or you want any more details on anything I mention or review, just drop me a line at 68 Hind Street, Stockton on Tees, Cleveland TS18 3NT.

Amongst this issues reviews you'll find the the new Karen Matheson CD. To WIN a promotional tape of the CD just name any of Capercaillie's top 75 singles and send your entry, complete with name and address, to my address shown above.

It just leave's me to say that I hope you had a good Christmas and wish you all the best for 1997.

Oh! I nearly forgot. Here's an interesting piece of trivia for you to share with the family over the holiday season. According to "Eurotrash", Plastic Bertrand's 1978 hit "Ca plane pour moi" was written and sung by Lou de Prieck!!

- my thanks to the following for their contributions for this issue:  
Ivor Lyttle, Tommy Robinson, Johnnie Walsh, Ian Fowell, Mark McLorie and Mark Sorrell,

## SNIPPET'S

- Dana International, who came 2nd in the 1995 Israeli National Final, was featured on Channel 4's late night show, Eurotrash, last October,
- Member Gillian Smith was the winner of the cash prize offered in the OGAE Song Contest Poll (Issue 25),
- Gina G's second single, "I belong to you", entered the UK charts at number 6 on 3rd November 1996. It did not climb any higher,
- Several items about Celine Dion have been received by the Editor. These have now been passed to Barry Bowman in the hope that a Celine supplement may still be a possibility at a future date!
- According to Julio Iglesias's autobiography, "Gwendolyne" (ESC '70) was about his longtime lover. His manager was the one who suggested it should be submitted for Eurovision.

## VISION *Small*s

*(Advertising is FREE to all OGAE(UK) members - please send your ads to the Editor, quoting membership number at all times)*

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:** Due to recent advertising difficulties all future advertisements must be submitted by the actual advertiser. Advertisements sent in by a third party WILL NOT be accepted.

## FOR SALE

I can offer various National finals from Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany, plus a programme with Nana Mouskouri (Lux 1963) singing in Greece during 1994. I also have interviews, concerts and other programmes with people related to ESC. For detailed information, please write to Steen Sørensen, Sct. Jørgens Park 69, 2.mf, 4700 Næstved, Denmark



I'm selling off my ESC vinyl, so if you would like a copy of my sales list please send a SAE/IRC to Gary Shield, 2 Coniston Avenue, Flimby, Maryport, Cumbria CA15 8RG

Eurovision records at reduced prices! For sales list send IRC to Steen Sørensen, Hvilebaekvaenge 46, 3520 Farum, Denmark

### WANTED

Wanted! Continental CD's by Vicky Leandros and Nana Mouskouri. Also videos of ESC's 1991; 1992; and 1993. Write to Geoff Elkin, 41 Burton Manor Road, Stafford ST17 9QQ

Bucks Fizz tour programmes 1981 to 1991. Bucks Fizz official wall calendars 1983 and 1984. Photos of Cheryl Baker. Write to John Phillips, Treffynnon, Llanllawer, Dinas Cross, Newport SA42 0YG

I am looking for good colour versions of ESC's 1968; 1978 and 1979 with both voting and commentary (but no flickers!). Also a good colour version in the PAL TV system of the French programme 'La Chance aux Chansons' from Antenne 2/1993. Please write to Steen Sørensen, Sct. Jørgens Park 69, 2.mf, 4700 Næstved, Denmark

Wanted; videos of National final for Croatia 1993 and 1994; stereo copies on video of pre-1991 contests with either TV or radio commentary. Also, pre-1986 programmes. Will pay or swap with lots of old finds from '60s-'90s on video. Derek Farquhar, 107a Colney Road, Dartford, Kent DA1 1TG

Can anyone help me locate Sweden 1996 on CD single? I'm also looking for a video of the 1996 Swedish Melodifestivalen. Please help by writing to Irene Revie, 22 Ashburn Loan, Larkhall, Lanarkshire ML9 2DQ

Items by ABBA and Björn Skifs wanted by collector. Penfriends also welcome! Contact Chantel Briody, 69 Campbell Street, St Helens, Merseyside WA10 2HH

Wanted! CD Singles of Netherlands '96, Estonia '96, Switzerland '96, Germany '94, Malta '92, Luxembourg '92, and Italy '92. Your latest sales list would also be very welcome! Write or send to James Nicholson, 19 Waverley Street, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 4HX

Good stereo audio tape recordings of ESC's pre 1980. English commentary preferred but not essential. In addition, I am seeking similar recordings, live or studio versions, from national finals as follows: Israel: any pre 1979, 1981-83, 1990-92. If you can help, please write to Barry Bowman, 15 Downham Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester M25 0EH

I am a member of OGAE Israel and currently studying in the UK. I am looking for ESC recordings on vinyl and video tape. If you can help me, please contact Erez Ranan, Thomas Hopper 4/2, University of Essex, Colchester, Essex CO4 3SQ

## MISCELLANEOUS

For details of the latest Far Horizons International Fan Club Directory, together with private advertising rates, send a SAE/IRC to Far Horizons, PO Box 53, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 3ZY

I am a 28 year old French male who can speak and write fluent English, and I'd like to find British male penfriends, aged 18 to 35, to exchange correspondence, ESC audio and video tapes, and maybe holidays! Please write to Jean-Francois Lermé, Rés. Le Centre Apt. D93, 5 Terrasse Front du Médoc, 33000 Bordeaux, France

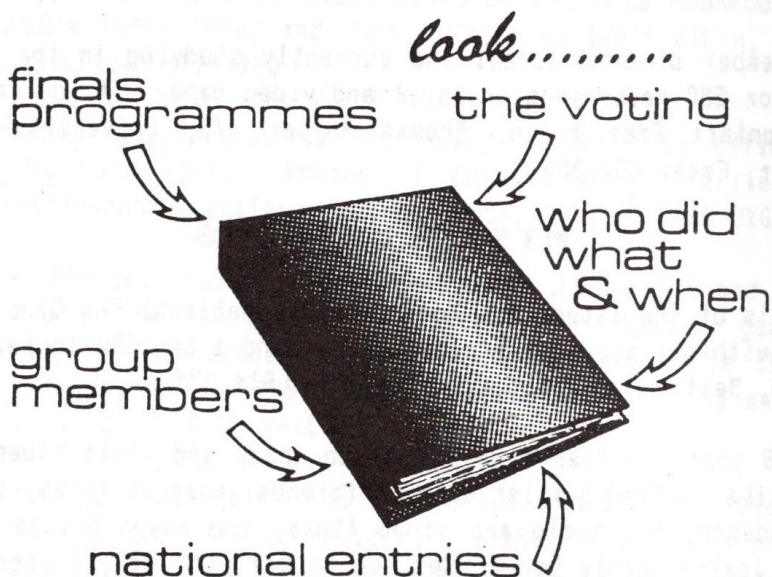
All your Fan Club news and addresses for contacting ESC artists or related Fanzines. If you can help, please contact Barry Bowman, 15 Downham Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester M25 0EH

Dutch author seeking material on ESC for research into proposed publication of a book in 1997. Information particularly requested on UK entrants from 1959-61, 1964-65, 1967-70, 1972, 1974-1977, 1981, 1987-89, 1992-93. If you have any articles, press packs, photos, etc., all of which will be returned following their use, write in the first instance to Barry Bowman, 15 Downham Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester M25 0EH



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# L A T E N E W S

## SWEDEN SAVED!

The EBU have extended the submission deadline for songs, which now have to be available no later than 10th March 1997 - two days after the Swedish Melodifestival. This means that Sweden WILL be present in Dublin on 3rd May!

## BRITISH SILENCE

Although *Vision* has heard several rumours surrounding the selection of the 1997 UK entry, no formal announcement has been made by the BBC. However, *Vision* has been reliably informed that the sought after information is imminent, and so we would recommend our readers to closely watch the music press during the next few weeks.

## MALTA'S MARY

Reports from Malta indicate that Mary Spiteri will be performing one of the songs in the Maltese final. This popular singer achieved Malta's highest placing to date with "Little Child" in Malmo. If Mary exceeds her previous success it could be Valetta in 1998

## GREEK NATIONAL FINAL

ERT (*the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation*) have informed *Vision* that the 1997 Greek entry will be chosen at a National Final to be held sometime during February. No further details were available.

## SAN REMO '97

The Italian Festival di San Remo will be held between 18-22 February. Among the artists taking part are Massimo Ranieri (ESC 1971 & 1973), Al Bano (ESC 1976 & 1985), Fausto Leali (ESC 1989), Anna Oxa (ESC 1989), Toto Cotugno (ESC 1990) and Loredana Berté, sister of the late Mia Martini.

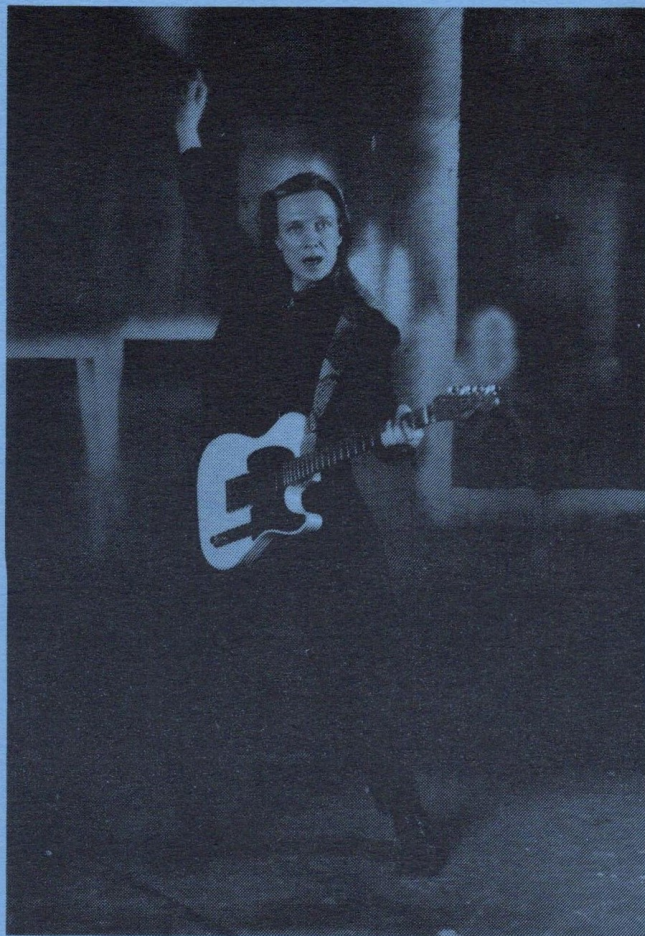
## AUSTRALIAN UPDATE

Despite previous offers to host the 1998 ESC in Sydney, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation are now saying very little about their proposition. If any readers, particularly those living in the Southern Hemisphere, have any information, please let *Vision* know!



# The 'LAST' page

FINLAND - 1992



"Yamma yamma"

PAVE

Received 4 points  
(1 from Israel and 3 from Yugoslavia)