

ESTONIA



Artist: Kreisiradio

Song: Leto Svet

Reviewed by Aaron Harmer

Kreisiradio are apparently an Estonian comic act (I didn't know such things existed). The trouble for these poor lost souls is that they haven't yet worked out that everyone is laughing at them, not with them.

The entirely incomprehensible lyrics of this song are delivered in a mishmash of Serbian, Croatian, German and Finnish, and to top it off, the lead singer looks and sounds remarkably like legendary boxer Milo Kerrigan (famous for being knocked out 27 times).

Having said this, the dancing from these guys is enough to make any Australian male proud. And with some vital Eurovision ingredients, namely scantily clad, flag waving backing dancers, and a complete lack of musical talent, don't be too quick to write 'Leto Svet' off just yet.



FINLAND



Artist: Teräsbetoni

Song: Missä Miehet Ratsastaa

Reviewed by Aaron Harmer

There's hair, there's metal, it can only mean one thing, Finland are back with another face melting epic!!! After a disappointing turn out at last year's Eurovision finals, Finland return to their winning hair metal formula that saw them take out the coveted first prize in 2006 with the inimitable Lordi.

Last year saw a string of forgettable metal/hard rock entries resulting from the well documented 'Lordi-Effect' (Herberstein et al. 2007), but for all those ardent fans of Finnish metal out there, don't fear, Teräsbetoni (Concrete Steal) will not disappoint. With smoke machines, tight leather pants, flowing locks, and the fact they appear to be playing their own instruments, expect big things from Finland this year.

Reference: Herberstein, M.E. et al. (2007) The 'Lordi-Effect' and its influence on entrants in the Eurovision Song Contest. *Journal of European Song and Dance* 26: 6-17.



ICELAND



Artist: Euroband

Song: This Is My Life

Reviewed by Aaron Harmer

Iceland inflicts upon us this year a song entitled 'This Is My Life' from a group with the rather ambitious name of Euroband. All I can say to the members of Euroband is this: Yes, this *is* your life, and look how you've decided to spend it, 'singing' utterly atrocious songs at Eurovision. I guess they don't have career counsellors in Iceland.

I'm afraid it's not a good outlook for Iceland this year with this nauseating mix of techno beats and excruciatingly banal lyrics. Listening to this song was like trying to swallow half a dozen dry Weet-Bix (not an easy task if you've never tried it). Better luck next year Iceland.



RUSSIA



Artist: Dima Bilan

Song: Believe

Reviewed by Aaron Harmer

He's back!!! Dima Bilan, Russia's very own Justin Timberlake, makes his second appearance at Eurovision after placing runner-up to Finnish supergroup Lordi in 2006. Popular among the eastern block countries, expect Dima to land a few votes this year. However, without his devastating mullet and piano leaping acrobatics of a couple of years ago, we'll just have to wait and see if he can better his second placing.

The song, although a touch on the soppy side, is delivered with some interesting eyebrow action and just a hint of facial hair. Add some backing dancers, and perhaps a mid-song costume change, and Russia will have a shot at the top five.



UKRAINE



Artist: Ani Lorak

Song: Shady Lady

Reviewed by Aaron Harmer

Shady Lady, perhaps an apt description for this year's entrant from the Ukraine. This country seems to have a penchant for shady ladies, who could forget last year's performance with the retina-searing, cross-dressing antics of Verka Serduchka?

But moving on to the song itself, it's a pretty middle of the road performance, it is lacking that 'WOW' factor we've come to expect from Eurovision (as in 'Wow, I can't believe how bad this is'). There are a few saving graces, the ever-popular Eurovision fake tan, and spangly dress that is obviously a couple of sizes too small, but with an obvious lack of key change, don't expect the Ukraine to reach any great heights this year.

SPAIN



'Baila el Chiki Chiki'

Artist: Rodolfo Chiquilicuatre

Review by Ana López Llandres

This song is a parody of reggaeton music filled with jokes. The lyrics mention some famous spanish people like Fernando Alonso, Pedro Almodóvar or Antonio Banderas who according to the singer dance the "chiki chiki".

Apparently the singer, this kind of fool spanish-elvis character called Rodolfo, played the guitar with great gusto since he was three years old and according to the size of his guitar it is very likely that he still keeps the same guitar since then. But apart from Rodolfo Chikilicuatre it is worth mentioning the two backing dancers, called "disco" and "gráfica"... specially the one who is dressed in fuchsia colours, "gráfica", who dances clumsily without knowing the basic dance steps. The perfect word to sum up the whole video clip is just FUNNY.

I reckon that audience will rapidly connect with this reaggeton theme because of the innovative sense of metrics and rhythm. So I encourage everyone to vote this song! And join Rodolfo dancing "Chiki Chiki" with these four (very graphic) basic dance steps:

1. The Breaking dance (el brikindans)
2. The cross step (el crusaito)
3. The Michael Jackson (el maiquelyason)
4. The Robocop (el roboco)



TURKEY



Artist: Mor ve Ötesi

Song: *Deli*

Reviewer: Anne Gaskett

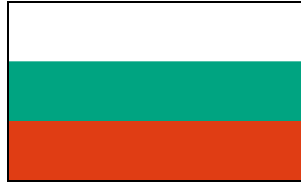
Turkey often serves up a first-class Eurovision treat ... and this year's *Deli* entry is indeed excellent fare.

Mor ve Ötesi is a real band, comprising a quartet of handsome men including Johnny Depp on a blistering lead guitar.

The song, *Deli*, has rapid tempo and driving and melodious vocals enhanced by some classic rock moves including jumping off stuff while strumming a guitar and raising your arms really high between drum beats.

The film-clip employs the ever-popular 'morbid circus' genre and the fashion is spot-on for comfort & style: chic black shirts & slacks and trouser-braces worn with irony.

My pick for 2008 – an absolute winner



BULGARIA



Artist: Deep Zone & Balthazar

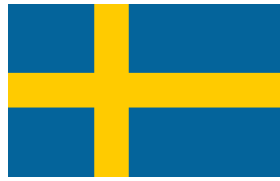
Song: DJ, Take Me Away

Reviewer: Anne Gaskett

Deep Zone & Balthazar solve Bulgaria's lack of notable music style with a little cultural appropriation. Drum n Bass, vinyl scratching and Reggae beats snuggle together cheerily and the film clip is a potpourri of break-dancers, turntable-istas in little hats, and a singer in two different outfits, one of which involves an 80s-era-Madonna bustier & perm. Curiously, they all have Indian mehendi tattoos on their faces.

This song will be an absolute hit on the dancefloors this European summer. It's really pretty good.

Interested in the lyrics? Don't be.



SWEDEN



Artist: Charlotte Perrelli

Song: *Hero*

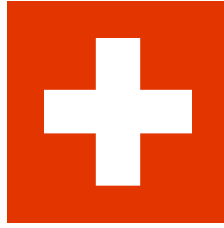
Reviewed by Anne Gaskett

I love Sweden. I love their cheeses, beer, excellent work-homelife balance, education system and men in natty corduroy jackets, but unfortunately, I don't like this.

Sure, the chorus is quite catchy and Charlotte's mermaid-inspired, sequinned, lace-up, algae-fringed tunic is rather eye-catching ... but it all seems a little insipid and insincere.

Highlights:

1. Charlotte's glistening silver shoes and matching diamante microphone.
2. Two backing singers dancing in high-necked woollen skivvies and corduroy blazers. They can't lift their arms above their shoulders, but these men can still high-step like highly choreographed palomino ponies.



SWITZERLAND

Artist: Paulo Meneguzzi

Song: *Era Stupendo*

Reviewed by Anne Gaskett

Paolo Meneguzzi brings us a heartfelt ballad filmed entirely at a Geneva home for unemployed rhythmic gymnasts and breakdancers. As part of his commitment to the Swiss contempo dance scene, Paolo has committed 5% of his profits to a foundation that provides legwarmers, off-the-shoulder windcheaters, ra-ra skirts & trackpants with rolled down tops to disenfranchised and homeless Swiss jazz ballet graduates.

Unusually for Eurovision, Paolo's brooding good-looks are matched with a pleasant vocal timbre. One can only hope his live performance is similarly tuneful and that Eurovision 2008 really does herald an *Era Stupendo* for Paolo, jazz dancers, and Swiss manufacturers of lycra gym and street wear.



BELGIUM

Artists: Ishtar

Song: O Julissi

Reviewed by Emily Nicol

Looking like the cast of a low-budget daytime soap, Ishtar are a talented bunch who could have chosen to perform in any one of over seven different European languages. But, in an unprecedented move, they have shunned all of these in favour of an imaginary one. Well it would have been unprecedented had it not been done several years earlier by another Belgian group.

The song, O Julissi, has a distinct hint of oompah-ness, the lead vocals verge on yodelling and there is some creepy cackling in the middle. The lyrics don't give much away:

O julissi na slukati
O julissi na kotchali
Od nu je dvorian ne si bili
Precko sti budo najali

It rhymes, but that's hardly an issue when you're not constrained by actual words. The song lasts two and a half minutes but promises a warm feeling "for at least three minutes"...

ROMANIA



Artists: Nico and Vlad
Song: Pe-o Margine De Lume
Reviewed by Emily Nicol

This duet is performed by tuxedo clad Vlad (quite a tongue twister!), who sings operatically in Romanian, and Nico who sings in Italian. I speak neither of these languages but from what I can gather, the lyrics are the usual lovey dovey hand holding mushiness – yawn. This song is predictable and boring.

More interesting is the film clip and trying to determine the significance of the dozen or so grandfather clocks on a beach and how they relate to the white grand piano and large pieces of billowing fabric.



SAN MARINO

Artists: Miodio

Song: Complice

Reviewed by Emily Nicol

As San Marino's first ever entry into Eurovision Miodio are disappointing. Despite what their picture might suggest, these cool dudes are not a boy band. Instead, Nicola Della Valle provides vocals for a band playing "state-of-the-art instruments" including drums, guitar, bass and keyboard that both look and sound very much like regular instruments. Maybe some racing stripes could have helped. Never mind – better luck next time.



SERBIA



Artist: Jelena Tomasevic

Song: Oro

Reviewed by James O'Hanlon

About the only thing harder than climbing Mount Everest, is shoving a watermelon up your nose. And the only thing harder than that, is winning consecutive Eurovision song contests. That is the challenge that faces Serbia this year. They've used a similar tactic this year with an emotionally fuelled epic, sung by a woman who looks close to tears. I'm not sure what she's singing about but it must be something serious because it's in a minor key and has bit of an ethnic twang. A risky move by the Serbians, ethnic twangs don't usually go down too well in Eurovision, they're always a bit too... Ethnickey. None the less it's a pretty solid effort from the Serbians and they're likely to do well this year.



IRELAND



Artist: Dustin the Turkey
Song: Irelande Douze Pointe
Reviewed by James O'Hanlon

This year Ireland's entry is sung by a puppet Turkey... Yep, that's right. Dustin the Turkey, loved in Ireland for his witty talkback show 'The Den', croons his way into Eurovision this year with the extremely danceable song 'Irelande Douze Pointe'. I wouldn't be laughing just yet if I were you, remember Agro? Even he had a hit single when he covered Peter Andre's "Gimme Little Sign", remember?

In the past, Ireland has been phenomenally successful at winning the Eurovision song contest. Obviously winning has just become too easy for this lyrical nation as the Irish people have lost all respect for the integrity of the voting public and their fellow performers. As a result they are now pushing boundaries, trying to see how far they can advance in this competition with the most ridiculous songs they can muster up. Good on them too! Should you have a single anti-establishmentarian bone in your body, you would do well to vote for Ireland this year and support their musical mockery of this oh-so-mockable competition.



MONTENEGRO



Artist: Stefan Filipovic

Song: Zauvijek Volim Te

Reviewed by James O'Hanlon

Every year there's a handful of Eurovision songs that stand out from the crowd, be it because of their wacky costumes, catchy chorus lines or abyssal cleavage. These are the songs that are remembered and talked about for years to come (usually by Mariella). Then there are those well meaning but easily forgettable pop ballads that blend seamlessly into the background noise. This song is of the latter. It's not an awful song, but it's not great either. It's a celebration of all things average. It's an attack of the beige bandits. It's a bland tasting soup of mediocrity, with nuggets of neutrality on the side. A glimpse of purgatory. A grey tweed jacket with pockets full of white bread. It's the unattractive daughter of the Eurovision family; I'm sure she's nice once you get to know her but who could be bothered. I don't want to be too harsh on this diet coke inspired limerick though. I'm sure its set to be a hit on the elevator scene but win Eurovision it will not.

LATVIA



Artist: Pirates of the Sea

Song: Wolves of the Sea

Reviewed by James O'Hanlon

Well they've got beards and puffy shirts, but I doubt very much that any of these people are actually pirates, or wolves for that matter. I'm not quite sure what a sea-wolf is but there probably isn't one in this Latvian pop group. Everybody knows that I'm a passionate supporter of modern day piracy, but I have a few problems with Latvia's entry this year. First of all, everyone knows that women are bad luck out at sea, so what's with the sultry she-pirate? I doubt very much any of these people have, or have had scurvy at any stage. They all seem to have full sets of teeth, their clothes seem nicely laundered and there is a significant lack of shouldered parrots. You may think I'm being picky but if you're going to write a song about the fact you are pirates, or wolf-pirates or pirate eating sea-wolves, you could at least try and make it believable. What's next, a Harry Potter themed entry?

LITHUANIA



Artist: Jeronimas Milius

Song: Nomads in the Night

Reviewed by James O'Hanlon

Lithuania's entry this year is a bit hard to interpret. Jeronimas Milius (imagine a hybrid between Fabio, David Hasselhoff and Ozzy Osbourne) hollers out an emotional ballad that, as far as I can tell, is about how he walks around by himself at night thinking about his ex-girlfriend. He's everything you could want in a male performer; leather pants, long flowing hair and a deep, engaging stare that seems to say, "Come with me, I will caress your torso and protect your children". Though despite all the effort he puts in I just can't bring myself to recommend Lithuania's entry this year. Have a listen, is it just me or is he singing out of tune? And why is there a garbage bag hanging out of his pocket?



CYPRUS



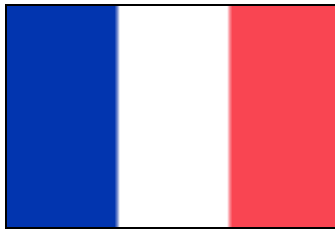
Artist: Evdokia Kadi

Song: Femme Fatale

Reviewed by Felipe M. Gawryszewski

When seeing Evdokia Kadi sing 'Femme Fatale' you might, at a glance, think that you are watching a magic show instead of Eurovision 2008. Surprisingly, you might not be so wrong. In a mix of traditional and modern music instruments the song is fluent and conducts you along a thread of passion and illusion. It is also tacky enough for satisfying the appetite of the audience. As a final spice-up, a group of approximately 146 men exhibit an elaborated choreography demonstrating an insane desire for the femme fatale.

Evdokia also has a strong lobby. An un-official source informed me that Michael Jackson was so impressed by Evdokia that he left a dinner with some (very) young friends to make a call to his favorite Eurovision contestant! For sure she is one of the top 40 this year.



FRANCE



Artist: Sebastien Tellier

Song: Divine

Reviewed by Felipe M. Gawryszewski

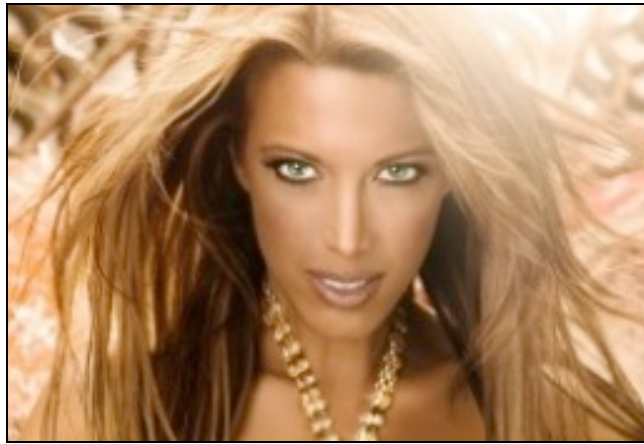
John Lennon? Jim Morrison? Jesus Christ? No, but Sebastien Tellier will certainly captivate millions of ears and eyes this year in Eurovision. His song 'Divine' brings light for a world of darkness. Full of rhythm and with a mixture of electronic, rock and pop the song is beautifully sung by a charismatic voice.

But this is not all. Free of charge the video clip comes with one of the best editing since Stanley Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey. Pay attention to the microphone.

Furthermore Sebastian seems to be extremely motivated for the show. According to an undisclosed source, he has sworn he would start taking a daily shower if won the Eurovision! Definitely one of the strongest contestants!



POLAND



Artist: Isis Gee

Song: For life

Reviewed by Felipe M. Gawryszewski

Resembling a camouflaged crab spider, Isis Gee shows up in her video clip wearing a shining white dress in a bright white house with plain white doors. It remains to be tested whether or not she is UV reflective in a possible attempt to deceive the audience with her sterile song called 'For Life'. Lacking creativity and originality her performance could be easily interchanged with many female singers such as Mariah Carey or Celine Dion with not much gain or loss in any direction.

Tamara Gołębiowska, her original name that means 'the woman from the northern swamps' (free translation), was not born in Poland, has never lived in Poland and does not speak Polish. According to her web site the most important achievement in her carrier was a \$1,000.00 prize when she was 13 year old. She hopes to get more in Eurovision this year...



PORTUGAL



Artist: Vânia Fernandes

Song: Senhora do Mar (Negras Águas)

Reviewed by Felipe M. Gawryszewski

From the very, very, very (one more time?) small country of Portugal comes the big voice Vânia Fernandes. She started as a jazz singer and recently decided to try more popular styles. Last year she won the TV Show Operação Triunfo (similar to Idols) and this year, after a long battle, was prized with the honour of representing Portugal in Eurovision.

Her song, Senhora do Mar, is a moving epic song that reminds us of the great Portuguese navigations during the 15th century. Using the power of her voice to mix the traditional Portuguese Fado with the standardized Eurovision music style she hopes to sail smoothly to the victory. Let's see whether the ocean of spectators will help her or not.



ALBANIA



Artist: Olta Boka

Song: Zemrën E Lamë Peng

Reviewed by Greg Holwell

Olta Boka, at only 16 years of age, is the youngest Albanian singer to ever make it to the stage of the Eurovision Song Contest. In fact she will be the youngest Albanian singer to sing from a stage *sensu strictu*, since the great stage-purges of the Albanian inquisition. Of course, the ever-inventive Albanians have been singing from scaffolding, from wheelbarrows, from horseback, and all manner of stage-substitute for centuries. Olta certainly has a lovely voice and the song is heartfelt, but I doubt if the voters will be impressed this year with "Zemrën E Lamë Peng". Unfortunately the limit of six performers on stage will not allow a repeat of the massive human domino experiment from her filmclip - check it out.



ANDORRA



Artist: Gisela

Song: Casanova

Reviewed by Greg Holwell

Andorra's Gisela is on a role and has high hopes for Eurovision success. Earlier this year she was awarded two silver seagulls at the Viña del Mar Song Contest in Chile, for her song "Two bags of hot silver chips". Unfortunately, Gisela has jumped on the train to Blandville with her new song "Casanova" and she had reserved an aisle seat. She seems convinced of her ability to lure Casanova into a monogamous relationship, which may be possible, given that he has been dead for some time. You never know, stranger things have happened on the Eurovision stage.



ARMENIA



Artist: Sirusho

Song: Qele, Qele

Reviewed by Greg Holwell

Who is Qele? While Sirusho appears to be very popular with the Armenian pop scene and she can hold a tune, I wanted to know more about the mysterious 'Qele' of whom she sings. Yes, I now know that she wants him to stop watching her and start reaching for her, and it is now obvious that in order to end their fight, he needs to hold her tight, but I don't feel I know the real Qele. Where does he see himself in ten years? Does he accept climate change as fact? Does he enjoy cooking? What does he cook? How regularly does he cook?

I'm sorry, I just feel that Qele is too two-dimensional for the Belgrade audience, and I doubt if Sirusho will succeed this year.



AZERBAIJAN



Artist: Elnur & Samir

Song: Day after Day

Reviewed by Greg Holwell

Please completely disregard the photo above. I cannot begin to describe the chasm that exists between the appearance of Elnur and Samir in this photo and the epic feast of metal-inspired majesty that they are going to serve up to us in Belgrade. Eurovision's first entry from Azerbaijan, they are my pick for this year. Elnur (dressed as a goth angel) hurls an accomplished castrati vocal range at us from the word go, and the Samir emerges from the soil as a rock-vampire. When asked about their influences, they stated:

"Our dream is to create a mini zoo at home, because we like animals very much. At the moment, we have a white rat, a python and we are planning to get a cat"

Elnur and Samir. Complex men for a complex world.



BELARUS



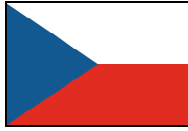
Artist: Ruslan Alehno

Song: Hasta la vista

Reviewed by Greg Holwell

Since Arnold Schwarzenegger first coined the phrase "Hasta la vista, baby" in Terminator 2, offending both the Spanish and English, the words have been slowly migrating east, in search of breeding grounds and abundant foliage.

Eurovision 2003 saw the Ukrainian entry, Oleksandr Ponomoryov, attempt to win the hearts of the Eurovision audience with "Hasta la Vista" and this year Belarus brings us Ruslan Alehno with, you guessed it, "Hasta la Vista". Semi-nude film clip co-stars momentarily break the tedium, but when all is said and done, Ruslan Alenho is boring. Expect to see a Gamelan version of "Hasta la Vista" in Eurovision 2012 from first-time entry, Indonesia. I hope it is better than this tripe.



CZECH REPUBLIC



Artist: Tereza Kerndlová

Song: Have some fun

Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

To be honest, I have no idea how Tereza was selected to represent the Czech Republic because not a single note she sings is in tune. I have two hypotheses that could explain an overwhelming SMS vote by the Czech public to carry Tereza into Eurovision:

- 1) A massive electrical storm over the Czech Republic caused a large-scale malfunction of mobile phones, resulting in an instantaneous discharge of SMS votes.
- 2) The lack of clothing and the buxom demeanour of Tereza and her enthusiastic backup dancers may have dazzled the Czech public for long enough to extract an SMS vote.

Considering point 2 above and the fact that the Czech Republic can count on some geopolitical tactical votes from its neighbours, Tereza may actually make it into the finals.



DENMARK



Artist: Simon Mathew

Song: All night long

Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

I'd like to start off this review by saying a few positive things about Simon: his face is very symmetrical, he is training to become a policeman and according to the video clip he 'celebrates good times' by playing cards and getting a hair cut.

I am struggling to find similar kind words for the song. It is boring and tedious, even after a few bars this song feels like it has been going 'all night long'.



Artist: Csézy

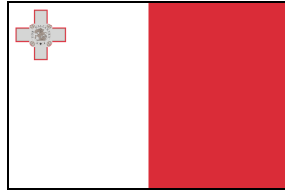
Song: Candlelight

Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

I am a great fan of everything Hungarian, including the Rubik's Cube and the Hungarian half pants (debuted at Eurovision 2005) and I may even have a sympathetic ear for Csézy's schmalzy ballad. After all, it is in tune all throughout, sports a classy key change and there is no piano accordion!

Csézy has enjoyed a classical training at the Béla Bartók Music Department. Luckily, Bartók's influence is not obvious in this song, which aligns itself stylistically with Celine Dione.

It is a big song, entered by a former eastern block country.....I think this could go far.



MALTA



Artist: Morena

Song: Vodka

Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

Morena's energetic and toe-taping song, Vodka, is a beauty. I like it even more after a few shots of said beverage (which I would recommend to anyone planing to watch the broadcast on SBS). Malta is the truest and most dedicated supporter of Eurovision, but as an island, lacks significant geopolitical position. As a consequence it rarely does well in Eurovision and other than reaching the occasional top 10, has never won Eurovision.

This does not stop this proud nation from competing every year, and for Morena's video clip alone, Malta spent its entire GDP! Go Malta, you have my vote!



NETHERLANDS



Artist: Hind

Song: Your heart belongs to me

Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

This year the Dutch are going for an oriental sound, with a song that reminds me of Sertab's 'Everyway that I can' - the 2003 Eurovision winner from Turkey. Only that this one is a bit lamer, tamer and without belly dancing. The Dutch have not had much luck in Eurovision over the last few years, having failed to qualify for the finals since 2004. I am not sure that this song is the answer. Nevertheless, the Netherlands' entry, Hind, hopes to 'touch many with my voice'. There is no doubt that Hind will indeed touch many, which will leave some of us with an unpleasant, awkward feeling.



SLOVENIA



Artist: Rebeka Dremelj

Song: Vrag Naj Vzame

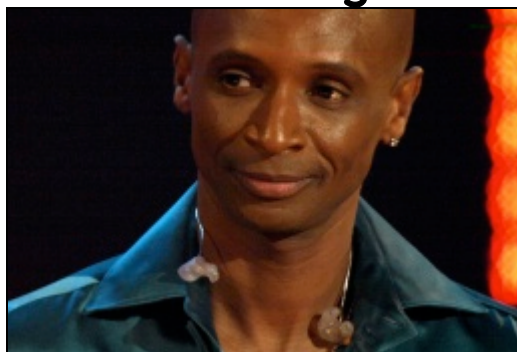
Reviewed by Mariella Herberstein

Cleavage is back at Eurovision, especially Rebeka's. A fact that not even the young man in Rebeka's video could help but notice. All this makes sense, because Rebeka owns her own underwear label, called Rebeka's Dream.

The song, performed in Slovenian, is a classic Slavic ballad unimaginatively underlaid with some stomping beats. I think this will be a hit this summer in discothèques all along the Black and Caspian Seas!



United Kingdom



Artist: Andy Abraham

Song: *Even If*

Reviewer: Rachael Gallagher

Wow. If this were any country other than the UK I would say just give them the first prize now and call it a day. This is without doubt the best UK Eurovision entry for many years, possibly ever. With a great tune and funky production, at last we have a UK contestant that doesn't make you want to stuff your head under the lounge cushions. Andy Abraham looks like he's having so much fun it makes you want to get up and boogie along with him. Of course, Andy has a huge task ahead. He must overcome rabid anti-UK sentiment among European voters to stand a chance of snatching glory in 2008. But if it is ever going to happen for the UK then this is the year.



GEORGIA



Artist: Diana Gurtskaya

Song: *Peace Will Come*

Review by Rachael Gallagher

While watching this I was thinking, Diana looks pretty good, but she really needs to lose the sunglasses! Oh, hang on, she's blind... oops. The arrangement of *Peace Will Come* is somewhat bland, but the song's message (i.e. the futility and inhumanity of war) is sure to tug a few heartstrings and earn extra points. Whether the song's meaning will transfer successfully to the glittering Eurovision stage remains to be seen. Georgia finished a creditable 11th in 2007, their Eurovision debut, thanks partly to favourable voting from other former Soviet countries – an advantage they will enjoy again this year. In brief, Diana stands a good chance of making it to the finals in Belgrade, but I don't think she is a serious contender for the overall title.



GERMANY



Artist: No Angels

Song: *Disappear*

Reviewer: Rachael Gallagher

Don't mention the war! Germany are having yet another crack at European domination with girl group No Angels. These four foxy Fräuleins are kind of like a German Spice Girls; let's call them Busty Spice, Cleavage Spice, Nipple Spice and Hooter Spice. (One also bears an uncanny resemblance to Jennifer Grey from *Dirty Dancing*.) Sadly, Germany is part of the so-called "Big Four" of Eurovision, meaning they get automatic entry to the final, thus relegating other, more musically talented contestants. This piece of plasticised pap is part of No Angels' campaign to rise to the top of the German pop charts through a canny blend of cosmetic surgery and unbridled Photoshopping. The stomping beat and eye candy may attract a few votes but No Angels are destined to "disappear" right to the bottom of the Eurovision points table.



GREECE



Artist: Kalomira

Song: *Secret Combination*

Reviewer: Rachael Gallagher

Kalomira, real name Britney Spiros. But this catchy tune, sung by the young Greek-American pop idol, really should do well for Greece come final night. The songwriters and arrangers obviously know what they're doing when it comes to Eurovision. The melange of traditional instrumentation (here, the bouzouki) and funky pop stylings is a sure bet to win over the fickle Eurovision voters. Also, at under three minutes it doesn't outstay its welcome. I predict at least a top five finish for Greece in 2008!