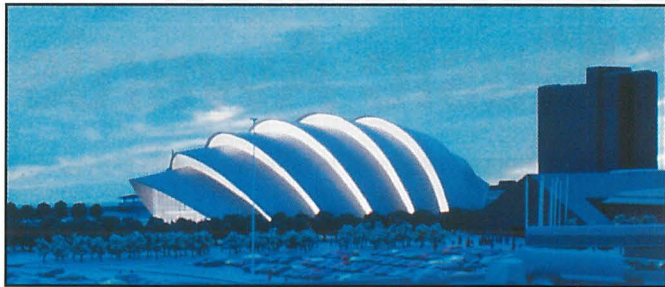


## SECC builds new hall



The Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow is constructing a new 3,000-capacity hall on its site, due for completion in September 1997. Built to replace the present 2,000-seater conference hall, the new hall has also been designed as a multi-purpose venue for concerts, launches and musicals as well as conferences and exhibitions. It is being funded, in the main, by Glasgow's District Council, as a potential source of jobs, tourism and business expansion for the city. The new venue was designed by Sir Norman Foster, also responsible for the new stadium proposed for Wembley. The interlocking shells are designed to evoke the hulls of ships, to mirror the area's historical link with ship building. Robert Eynon, the SECC's marketing director, told *Live!*: "We are looking to have a comprehensive spectrum of events." The old 2,000-seater conference hall is being converted into a 620-capacity auditorium and an additional eight smaller meeting rooms.

■ Fiona Harley

## Forum fights licence cut as Live! Awards switches venue

The Mean Fiddler Organisation is to 'strenuously fight' Camden council's decision, taken at the venue's yearly licence hearing application in October, to reduce the capacity at the MFO-run Forum venue in Kentish Town from 2,100 to 1,200. Since the cut also slashes seated capacity, the *Live!* Awards (January 30) will switch to the Kilburn National Ballroom.

Until the appeal is heard sometime this month, the venue continues to operate at its current capacity. Forum manager Neil Mackie told *Live!* he was at a loss as to the council's reasons, although they are said to have pointed to 'traffic problems'.

Mackie, however, is adamant that the venue follows all its licence conditions strictly. "We have adhered to the licence regulations to the letter", he

says. "We are required to provide car spaces - we do. We provide marshalls, we have road signs to the parking. All our tickets hold the information that parking is restricted and we suggest public transport. We pay our own staff to tidy up people's gardens - even when it is not caused by us." He continues: "We are appealing and will fight it as strenuously as possible. Our attitude is, we don't envisage becoming a 1,200 capacity venue."

• *Live!* editor Mike Lethby confirmed that the *Live!* Awards on January 30 will now be held at the Kilburn National Ballroom: "Since we are now selling dinner seats we clearly needed to confirm a good alternative venue. The National Ballroom fits our needs and it's a few minutes from the Roundhouse and our hotels." ■ Fiona Harley



## Pio Nahum heads up Martin Pro Southern Europe

Danish effects lighting giant Martin Professional surprised some at September's PLASA show by announcing the launch of Martin Southern Europe. Situated in the heart of the Italian effects lighting industry, Bergamo, the new company will be headed by former Clay Paky marketing chief Pio Nahum.

The Southern European operation will assist in supporting Martin Professional distributors in Turkey, Greece, and Spain, as well as former Eastern

European territories such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, the Czech and Slovak Republics.

Although neither Pio Nahum himself nor Martin Professional boss Peter Johansen were available for comment, sources have said that Pio Nahum missed the effects lighting business very much, and although he had successfully gained employment outside of the lighting industry, he jumped at the chance of getting back in it.

## Live! Show and Awards 1997: NOW BOOKING

1997's *Live!* Show and Awards are booking now for the end of January in north London.

The 1997 *Live!* Show will be staged at that historic crucible of psychedelia and punk - the legendary Roundhouse in Chalk Farm on January 30 and 31.

Meanwhile, Day 1 also sees the Show join forces for the first time with the PSA's 1997 AGM and Conference.

And the evening of Thursday January 30 sees the live performance industry's most stupendous annual party - the '97 *Live!* Awards.

### THE 1997 LIVE! SHOW

The *Live!* Show will offer the fabulous, cavernous interior of the Roundhouse - which has hosted Pink Floyd, Jimi Hendrix, The Doors and most of the big names of the punk era - for exhibitors across the whole spectrum of concert and event production, promotion and management. Featuring a central bar area and separate seminar/conference area, accept no substitutes - this will be a show like no other in the industry!

Inside, audio, lighting, video, projection, drapage, inflatables, stages, structures, comms, specialist services and key industry bodies including the PSA and ILMC will all be on show.

Outside, the cream of touring and festival services including trucking, power, security, mobile recording and video, flooring, fencing - and more - will be showing what they've got.

Day 1 sees the PSA's 1997 Annual General Meeting and Conference, bringing the industry's top production people to

north London for a day of discussion and sessions.

Day 2 sees special seminars - full details will be announced next month - featuring more leading industry people and key bodies.

The *LIVE!* Bar is literally central to the Show, adding to the event's unique nature with a convivial meeting place. With good food and drinks available all day, this is the place to sit down, relax, talk and do business.

Multi-media is a feature too, with the Motorola Cyber Café multiple video screens showing off some of the best Web sites from around the industry - including the launch of the forthcoming *Live!* OnLine News within the ILMC's AXIS Web site.

### THE 1997 LIVE! AWARDS

Presented for the second year by Jools Holland, the '97 *Live!* Awards, in aid of War Child's Mostar Music Therapy Centre appeal on January 30, will provide a full sit-down dinner and a limited number of individual balcony seats at special discount prices for bona fide freelancers via the PSA and other key industry bodies, complete with a buffet supper.

### VENUE: THE NATIONAL BALLROOM, KILBURN

THURSDAY JANUARY 30 1997  
DOORS AT 7.15PM  
DINNER AT 8.00PM

For details and booking applications please call Andy Lenthall or Dan Jago on:  
Tel: +44 (0)1322 660070  
Fax +44 (0)1322 615636