



SINCE 1992

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L.SHARAPOV

## Dynamic Duo

Joanna Stingray and Boris Grebenshchikov, organizers of a concert for Greenpeace at Dom Kul'tury Gorbunova, 7 P.M. Saturday. Tel. 145-8098.

T H E B E A T G O E S O N

## Will Real Russian Rock Please Stand Up?

By Artemy Troitsky  
THE MOSCOW TIMES

Since the beginning of glasnost, Russian rock has been going through an identity crisis. Born in the underground and hassled and banned by the Communist Party, the Komsomol, the KGB and the Culture Ministry, our rock bands were used to playing a certain political and social role. Music here was never as important as the message, and rock stars always saw themselves as spiritual leaders rather than sex or style symbols. So when pressure from the establishment vanished and the big bad enemy was no longer in sight, many rock stars were disoriented, and the whole rock movement lost its cutting edge.

Confused by the new situation, rock leaders went in different directions, seeking new inspiration. Some quit the music scene altogether, becoming serious composers, writers or actors. Others have merely turned

into commercial profit-making artists, leaving behind their rebellious image and street irritability. Several have died. Only the most famous Russian rockers have stayed on the scene, eager to fight for new values or against new vices.

Since the beginning of the 1990s, there has been a string of musician-inspired rock campaigns — namely “Rock Against Terror,” “Rock for Democracy” and the famous “Rock on the Barricades” at the time of the August coup. But the messy, dirty and confusing political struggle in Russia has not seemed to encourage our rock community, as made obvious by the refusal of many prominent artists to participate in the referendum propaganda, despite medals given by Yeltsin to some rock stars just before the event.

One issue that everyone is sympathetic to, however, is ecology. “Clear Water Rock,” a grassroots movement started in the late 1980s

by lesser-known bands from the Urals and Volga region, has grown into something bigger and came of age last Saturday at “Greenpeace Rocks,” staged at Moscow’s Gorbunova Club and carried on

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national television.

The driving force behind Greenpeace Rocks (both the concert and the album) is Joanna Stingray, a Moscow-based American rock singer and a long-time Greenpeace supporter. She managed to put together an all-star lineup for the LP (out on SNC Records) and get some of the busy top performers for the gig.

Brigada S, led by Garik Sukhachov, were the house band, accompanying Andrei Makarevich of Time Machine, Yury Shevchuk of DDT, Joanna herself and others. To the great disappointment of the crowd, neither Kostya Kinchev of Alisa nor Boris Grebenshchikov of Akvarium appeared, despite some promises.

But still, this was probably the messiest and most agitated rock gig I have seen in Moscow in a long time. Hundreds of fans could not get in, and doors and windows of the club got broken. Everything reminded me of the mid-’80s tense atmosphere. The show ended with Yury Shevchuk “Born in the U.S.S.R.,” followed by a version of John Lennon’s “Come Together.” One thing I did not like was the enormous amount of cans, bottles, cigarettes and other trash left by the would-be green crowd both in the hall and back stage.

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