

TOP PHOTO: From left: Tommy Igoe, Anton Fig, Billy Amedola, John Tempesta, and Rob Farell (Galactic Circus).

First Drumscape event at Galactic Circus

Galactic Circus, part of the Bar Code entertainment complex on Broadway in New York City's revitalized Times Square, was the site of the first Drumscape Interactive Drumming Competition on Devecka's MTV Drumscape drumming simulator. Players could get in the groove for a real studio experience and let loose on the drum pads.

Galactic Circus and Bar Code are owned and operated by the Entertainment Development Group (EDG). The event was hosted by Galactic Circus, Yamaha, Modern Drummer Magazine, Sabian, Pro Mark, Devecka, Hal Leonard Corp., and the Percussion Marketing Council.

A panel of celebrity drummers judged the competition on timing and synchronizing through elimination rounds. Celebrities included John Tempesta of White Zombie, Shawn Pelton of "Saturday Night Live," Billy Amedola of Modern Drummer magazine, Tommy Igoe of "The Lion King," and Anton Fig of "The Late Show With David Letterman." Also on hand was special guest Tony Verderosa, record producer and solo drum artist.

David Levine, executive director of the Percussion Marketing Council, said, "Our goal was to make drumming



INSET: Devecka's Eric Berkowitz (l), Al Roque (c), and John Devecka by the MTV Drumscape.



more visible to the public. Combining drumming with video games is a good medium to promote our message of music participation. Games like Drumscape are ideal because they promote creativity, not violence."

The grand prize winner was 16-year-old Amadeus Morant of Brooklyn, N.Y., who said, "The competition was tough, but the experience was a blast." For more information, call Devecka, (973)455-0400; fax (973)455-7401; Web site (www.drumscape.com).

JLO advises licensees

The Jukebox License office (JLO) advised jukebox licensees in a Dec. 1 letter that the new jukebox license agreement is imminent, following negotiations between the performing Rights Organizations (ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC) and the Amusement and Music Operators Association (AMOA).

The existing jukebox license agreement ended Dec. 31, 2000; at press time (shortly before then) no date had yet been announced for the new agreement's release. This will leave a short window of time to review the document and return the required payment. The new license agreement was scheduled to take effect Jan 1, 2001.

To contact the JLO office, call (800)955-5853 or (615)320-4000; fax (615)320-4004; e-mail (jukebox@edge.net).

Agreement nears on jukebox licensing

"Close, but no cigar" is an apt description of the status of the new jukebox license agreement between the Amusement and Music Operator's Association (AMOA) and the Performing Rights Organizations (PROs-ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC). Negotiations have been ongoing since the surprise announcement early this year that the PROs would terminate the current jukebox licensing agreement effective Jan. 1, 2001.

The current agreement has been in place since 1990.

Play Meter contacted Jack Kelleher, executive vice president of AMOA, for an update on the agreement. "We are very close," said Kelleher, "we are down to the last few points in the language of the draft agreement. We are confident we will have these resolved soon."

Kelleher characterized the negotiations as "cordial" and conducted with "mutual respect" for each side. He commended AMOA Jukebox License/Administration Committee chairman Jim Pietrangolo of AMA Distributors for doing "an outstanding job in spearheading these negotiations and taking over for Jim Hayes of Gem Music, who previously chaired the committee."

Kelleher added, "Jim Pietrangolo has risen to the occasion and done a great job, as has the entire committee." The committee is composed of Mike Leonard of Coin-Op Specialists; Dock Ringo of Wallace Distributing Co.; Don Hesch of A.H. Entertainers; Dick Hawkins of D&R Novelty; Frank Seninsky of Alpha-Omega, immediate past president of AMOA; and Lee Wesson of Peachtree Music & Amusements, current AMOA president. (Check "News Bulletin" for more details.)

