

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Booed for Defending Gypsies

Madonna confronts prejudice on tour

(AP) -- At first, fans politely applauded the Roma performers sharing a stage with Madonna in Bucharest, Romania. Then the pop star condemned widespread discrimination against Roma, or Gypsies — and the cheers gave way to jeers.

The sharp mood change that swept the crowd of 60,000, who had packed a park for the Aug. 26 concert, underscores how prejudice against Gypsies remains deeply entrenched across Eastern Europe.

Despite long-standing efforts to stamp out rampant bias, human rights advocates say Roma probably suffer more humiliation and endure more discrimination than any other people group on the continent.

Sometimes, it can be deadly: In neighboring Hungary, six Roma have been killed and several wounded in a recent series of apparently racially motivated attacks targeting small country-



Madonna performs during her concert last week in Bucharest, Romania. (AP photo)

side villages predominantly settled by Gypsies.

"There is generally widespread resentment against Gypsies in Eastern Europe. They have historically been the un-

derdog," Radu Motoc, an official with the Soros Foundation Romania, said Thursday.

Roma, or Gypsies, are a nomadic ethnic group believed to have their roots in the Indian

subcontinent. They live mostly in southern and eastern Europe, but hundreds of thousands have migrated west over the past few decades in search of jobs and better living conditions.

Romania has the largest number of Roma in the region. Some say the population could be as high as 2 million, although official data put it at 500,000.

Until the 19th century, Romanian Gypsies were slaves, and they've gotten a mixed response ever since: While discrimination is widespread, many East Europeans are enthusiastic about Gypsy music and dance, which they embrace as part of the region's cultural heritage.

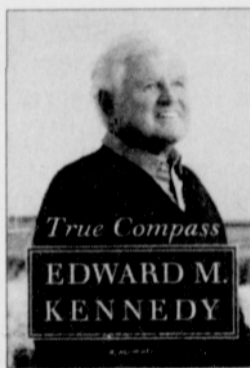
That explains why the Roma musicians and a dancer who had briefly joined Madonna onstage got enthusiastic applause. And it also may explain why some in the crowd turned on Madonna when she paused during the two-hour show — a stop on her worldwide "Sticky and Sweet" tour — to touch on their plight.

Kennedy Memoir Just Finished

(AP) -- Sen. Edward Kennedy did not live to see his dream of universal health care passed, but he did complete a cherished and more personal project: his memoir.

"True Compass," the greatly awaited summation of his life and career, comes out Sept. 14 with an announced first printing of 1.5 million copies. Kennedy, diagnosed with a brain tumor in May 2008, just months after his book deal was announced, died Aug. 25 at age 77.

"He worked valiantly to finish the book and make it the best it could be," publisher Twelve, an imprint of the Hachette Book Group, said in a statement. "As always, he was true to his word. The result is a great and inspiring legacy to readers everywhere, a case study in perseverance." Kennedy collaborated with



Ron Powers, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and co-author of "Flags of Our Fathers," but "every word" is Kennedy's, according to his literary representative, Robert Barnett.

"Happily and amazingly, he was in good enough shape to finish it," said Barnett, a Washington attorney whose clients

include President Obama and former Presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. "It's his book. He wrote and approved every word."

Barnett said he had known Kennedy since the 1970s and for years had discussed a possible memoir. In 2007, Kennedy was ready.

"He told me that he very much wanted to tell his story, not so much because of him, but because of his family, his kids, the causes he championed and fought for," Barnett said.

Oregon State Fair -- There's fun for all ages at the Oregon State Fair, now underway through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at the State Fairgrounds in Salem.



Oregon Birthday Tribute -- Hometown favorites Pink Martini and the 234th Army Band take the stage for a special performance of "Oregon! Oregon," celebrating the state's 150th birthday year. The Saturday, Sept. 5 performance begins at 7 p.m. at the Oregon Zoo.

Keith Sweat & Tina Marie -- In concert, Friday, Sept. 4, 8 p.m. at the Spirit Mountain Casino

ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Event Center. For tickets go to starticketsplus.com or call 1-800-585-3737.

Northeast Farmers Market -- The new Portland Farmers Market in the King Neighborhood at King School Park take place each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Sept. 27.

Battle to Vote -- The Clark County Historical Museum, 1511 Main St. in Vancouver, hosts a free women's suffrage exhibit through the end of the year. Washington was an early

leader in giving women the right to vote.

Circus Coming to Town -- An all-new Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus comes to the Rose Garden with shows Sept. 16 through Sept. 19. Tickets on sales at the Rose Quarter box office and all Tickets West outlets.

Norman Sylvester Band -- Blues great Norman Sylvester presents the First Wednesday Blues Showcase every month at Tillicum in Beaverton as a way to feature different music friends. On Saturday, Sept. 5, the band plays at Gemini in Lake Oswego; on Sept. 10 at 720 Nightclub in Portland; and Sept. 19 at the West Linn Saloon.

MTV Awards Lineup Set

(AP) -- Beyonce is set to give a dreamy performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced last week that the superstar singer will sing her latest hit, "Sweet Dreams," at the Sunday, Sept. 13 event. Beyonce is nominated for nine trophies, tying Lady Gaga for the most nominations.

Rapper Wale is also set to perform with the band UCB as the official "house band" at the VMAs.

Among the performers already announced are Jay-Z, Green Day, Taylor Swift, and Lady Gaga.



Beyonce

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