

## Strong slate allows Wienerworld 'to face challenges of the future'

THE COLLAPSE of the long-established UK independent distributor Pinnacle in December 2008 sent shockwaves through the music industry, with many companies suffering financially as a result.

One survivor of the debacle, however, was the music DVD and CD company Wienerworld — established 27 years ago and a long-time MIDEM attendee — which managed to dust itself off and is now, according to managing director Anthony Broza, in a stronger position than ever before. "It was a disaster at the time but everybody pulled together and, since then, we have signed a new distribution deal with Sony," Broza said. "That, plus a strong slate of releases both last year and planned for 2010 ensures that Wienerworld is strong enough to face the challenges of the future."

Wienerworld's latest titles include *The Woodstock Diaries 1969*, with concert footage from the legendary event; *The Trials And Triumphs Of The King Of Pop*, released a week after Micheal Jackson's sudden death; and *The*



Spectacle: Elvis Costello With... (Wienerworld)

*Beatles: Rare And Unseen*, originally made with VH1 and with co-operation from their former publicist Tony Barrow.

Also among Wienerworld's flagship releases is a five-DVD box-set entitled *Spectacle: Elvis*

*Costello With...*, filmed at New York's Apollo Theater. The set features interviews with, and live performances by, such artists as Elton John, Tony Bennett, Norah Jones and James Taylor.

## Soft Cell sold to Cherry Red

CHERRY Red Records has acquired the rights to former Soft Cell frontman Marc Almond's solo catalogue and will be launching a programme of re-issues over the next few months. The deal includes a 'best of' collection and Almond's new solo album, which marks his 30th anniversary as a performer later this year.

Cherry Red managing director Adam Valasco said: "We are very pleased with the Marc Almond deal. Soft Cell sold over 30 million records worldwide and Marc has had a very successful solo career. We are anticipating a lot of interest in his catalogue at MIDEM."

Valasco added that Cherry Red has managed to buck the economic trend. "Across our labels, including CDs, DVDs and books, we were involved in around 500 releases during 2009 — and double that if you include downloads," he said. "We also launched several new labels last year, including Big Break, Tune In and Shrunken Head, and there will be more during 2010."



Marc Almond (Cherry Red Records)

## Jam today from Backstage Music



BACKSTAGE Music Publishing is at MIDEM with the rights to the Michael Jackson song *Jam*, which first appeared on Jackson's 1991 *Dangerous* album. The track was also featured in the hit documentary film *This Is It*, which documented Jackson's rehearsals and preparations for his final, ill-fated tour.

Written by Rene Moore, Teddy Riley, Michael Jackson and Bruce

Backstage's Steve Thomson: "a great message for today's fractured world"

Swedien, *Jam* mixes funk, dance and rap with socially aware lyrics urging peace and solidarity.

"The song has a great message for today's fractured world," said Steve Thomson, Backstage's founder and CEO, who is looking for licenses — in particular sync licenses — for *Jam*. "The lyrical content is about nations speaking to nations and striving to communicate on all levels. From a music-publishing point of view, it's a great copyright to have and we are honoured to represent it."