

Feel the Love

By David Galic

Crooners Get Top Billing on International Women's Day.

It seems that the best way to show your significant other that you love them, if you are a male in Belgrade anyway, is by showing that your love can survive anything – even two hours of painfully sentimental pop music.

The main attraction this year on International Womens' Day was Zeljko Samardzic, who many consider to be the Serbian equivalent of Julio Iglesias, laying the charm on thick to a full Belgrade Arena of gasping females and their significantly less enthused male escorts.

The middle-aged balladeer, who earlier in his career looked a little like George Clooney with his Caesar cut and silver hair, packed the Arena in this year with his traditional March 8th show, giving the crowd hit after hit of musical melodrama – and the girls ate it up, of course.

Not to be outdone, Vlada Divljan, popular for his role in the influential Yugoslav band Idoli, played Dom Omladine that night.

Divljan uttered just about every cliché possible during the course of the night, from his opening "tonight, it's lady's choice" remarks, to lines such as "how great it would be if every day was March 8th" and an assortment of other shmoozy one-liners.

Both Divljan and Samardzic packed in an impressive number of hits, most of them – not surprisingly – appearing in the form of love songs or ballads, leaving the women in the crowd emotionally fulfilled and the males hoping that they had filled their quota of romantic concerts for the year.