

YAT-KHA

May 12th 2003 sees the UK release of the new album from Yat-Kha, 'Tuva Rock' on Yat-Kha Records (Cat No. YAT003). Led by the irrepressible Albert Kuvezin, Yat-Kha's current incarnation - drawn from an ever-morphing regular group of collaborators - features vocalist & igil player Radik Tiuliush, Evgeniy Tkachev on drums & vocals and Mikhail Skripal'schikov on bass.

Yat-Kha most recently toured the UK last year, shortly after taking the prize for best artist(s) in the Asia/Pacific category at the first Radio 3 Awards for World Music.

The release of 'Tuva Rock' precedes another trip to Britain, for a nationwide tour, plus two - very different - shows in London. The first takes place at The Barbican on May 26th when they will play the music they have improvised for the 1928 classic movie 'Storm Over Asia' (further details below). This will be followed by a gig at the Spitz on June 6th, when they will be showcasing both material from 'Tuva Rock' as well as tracks from their previous album releases - including their last studio recording 'Aldyn Dashka' (The Golden Cup).

Yat-Kha's unique sound revolves around the marriage of the traditional - 'khoomei' throat-singing, endemic to the group's native Tuva (the smallest and most remote republic in the Russian Federation), which allows the singer to hold more than one note simultaneously - to the modern - the (then-underground) rock and punk which inspired Albert to pick up his first electric guitar. Albert's bone-shaking double-bass growl, coupled with his high harmonics, provide the foundation while the music is driven along by a mix of traditional instruments which contrast with Albert's beloved electric guitar.

The songs featured on 'Tuva Rock' include old and new. Tracks such as "Come Along", "Dorug Daiym", "Teve-Khaya", "Khandagaity" have already become staples of their live set - with the title track 'Tuva Rock' the unofficial anthem of Tuvan youth. There are arrangements of traditional songs, including "Eki Attar" - which was played spontaneously and recorded live in the studio - plus several new compositions by Yat-Kha. The song "Uzhur-La Bar" began life as a melody composed by Albert for a musical fairy tale, with vocals added by the late Tuvan singer Kan-ool Mongush. Radik Tiuliush wrote new lyrics to the tune just a month before the band went into the studio in France to record 'Tuva Rock' with producer Paul Corkett, whose previous credits include Placebo, Nick Cave, The Cure, Cooper Temple Clause, Snuff and Sixteen Horsepower.

YAT-KHA UK DATES:

21	May	BIRMINGHAM	MAC THEATRE	0121 440 3838
22	May	GLASGOW	RENFREW FERRY	0141 353 8000
23	May	EDINBURGH	QUEENS HALL	0131 668 2019
24	May	ABERDEEN	LEMON TREE	01224 642 230
25	May	HULL	ADELPHI	01482 348 216

26	May	LONDON	BARBICAN - with STORM OVER ASIA film 0207 638 8891 part of the X-Bloc Reunion
Festival			
28	May	LEEDS	WARDROBE 0113 245 4470
29	May	BRISTOL	ST GEORGES 0117 923 0359
30	May	LEICESTER	Y THEATRE 0116 255 7066
31	May	NOTTINGHAM	LAKESIDE ARTS CENTRE 0115 846 7777
1	June	SHEFFIELD	CITY HALL BALLROOM 01142 789789
3	June	BRIGHTON	PAVILION 01273 709 709
4	June	NORWICH	ARTS CENTRE 01603 660 352
6	June	LONDON	SPITZ 0207 771 2000

STORM OVER ASIA

Yat-Kha's performance at The Barbican on 26th May will see them provide a live improvised soundtrack to the 1928 masterpiece of early Soviet cinema 'Storm Over Asia': The Heir of Genghis Khan. The movie was filmed in Buryatia, Tuva, and Mongolia by Soviet director Vsevolod Pudovkin shortly after the terrible civil war of the 1920s.

This print of "Storm Over Asia" is the only existing example of Pudovkin's 1928 release cut; it has been restored to its original running time by Realityfilm and The National Film & Television Archive and is presented in association with Marek Pytel for Realityfilm. It also features new full size English language title cards throughout. This print is unique and has been restored for the use of Yat-Kha only.

Yat-Kha have taken the movie around the world, performing alongside the classic silent movie, in the three years since the film was restored to its full 140 minutes. Previously only heavily censored versions had been available, due to years of mutilation (when it was not banned outright) by the governments of countries it has offended. There are quite a few, as the film has been described as "A direct, frank, deadly blow to American, British, Soviet and Tsarist Russian imperialist perfidity."

The show is part of the Barbican's X-Bloc Reunion Festival - a revolutionary mix of ethnic and urban music from the former eastern bloc; the performance will be in the Barbican Theatre (NOT the Hall) at 5pm.

Visit the band's websites at : www.yat-kha.com

For additional information on the film and show visit: www.barbican.org.uk/xbloc or www.realityfilm.co.uk

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