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AGENDA

MOVE OVER, t.A.T.u

Dubbed "the Russian Madonna", Valeriya is launching a full-scale Euro-Pop attack on the UK. In her homeland she's sold ten million albums ("Maybe more!") and has countless fans. But can she do the same here?

"We have a chance. I'm an experienced artist with a ten-year career in my country. I have a very good album, which is also the opinion of western experts. We have an excellent team, who are contagious with our ideas; we all believe in our project."

It's not all been easy. Valeriya has been through several battles – some public, thanks to an invasive press – but, pro that she is, she remains pragmatic: "When they interfere into my private life too much I don't like it, but I can understand it. We can't live without each other."

She's worked with an impressive range of musicians, from one of the Bodyrockers to her childhood hero: "I loved The Bee Gees since my childhood. I recorded a cover of *Staying Alive*, so we sent a letter [to Robin Gibb], explaining that we would like to perform this song and how much I loved The Bee Gees – it was not easy to get their albums behind the Iron Curtain, but somehow their music broke through! I got an answer, and we were very happy that we could sing together." ■

Valeriya's single *The Party's Over* (Vicious Music) is out in April. www.valeriya.net/

VALERIYA