



**Notes and Links on coverage of the
2012 Eurovision Song Contest
from ESC Insight**

Compiled by Ewan Spence, Friday June 1st, 2012.

Introduction

ESC Insight is an independent website that covers the world of the Eurovision, including this year's Eurovision Song Contest.

Set up in 2010 to act as a new home for BAFTA nominated podcaster Ewan Spence and the two year old "Unofficial Eurovision Podcast", it promised to deliver in-depth content, analysis, commentary, and knowledgeable articles around the Contest. The approach can be linked to a weekly periodical, contrasting it with daily news sites such as EscXtra.

For the 2012 Contest, ESC Insight expanded to a core team of four journalists (Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, and Steven Newby), as well as a rotating number of contributing writers (including John Kennedy O'Connor, Dr Paul Jordan, Roy Delaney, and others).

We had two major additions to this year's coverage.

The first continued our "in-depth" focus with a on a long-form daily video show (running to around 20-25 minutes per day) anchored by Ross with contributions from the whole team. The show featured interviews with the Eurovision performers, it took viewers around the Crystal Hall, the Press Centre, and the Euroclub, and finally exploring the host city of Baku.

The second was Terry Vision, our puppet based former commentator forced out of retirement to cover the Contest. Operated by Ewan Spence, this customised Henson Muppet had his own popular series of short interviews lasting around 90 second to two minutes (with a few exceptions, including the 20 minute show from the Red Carpet of the Welcome Party).

Thank you for support during this year's Contest, and the whole ESC Insight team look forward to working with you in the future. There now follows a detailed breakdown of our coverage.

Ewan Spence
ESC Insight

ESC Insight Ebooks

The ESC Insight Guide Book

[Our third guide book to a Eurovision Song Contest](#) proved a popular download both in [PDF form](#) and [via Amazon](#). Featuring all 42 countries performing at this year's Contest, as well as thoughts on each song from the ESC Insight team, it provided the popular mix of information and opinion we're proud of to everyone. It was also a handy reference for us while we reported from the Crystal Hall!

Eurovision: Beyond the Sequins (Guardian Short)

In conjunction with The Guardian, ESC Insight's Ewan Spence published a book looking at the Eurovision Song Contest from a different angle. Taking place between the end of Eurovision 2011 in Düsseldorf, and flying off to Baku for the 2012 Contest, '[Eurovision: Beyond the Sequins](#)' looks at how Eurovision 2012 came together, touring round Europe visiting a number of National Finals, and discussing popular topics from the finer details of the Contest to the myth of political voting.

The book is available for [Amazon Kindle](#), and [iBook compatible Apple devices](#).

ESC Insight - Written Articles

Articles, Editorial and Insight around the 57th Contest

- [Nine things the grown-ups can learn from Junior Eurovision.](#)
- [Ten classic Eurovision National Final songs that never made it.](#)
- [Make love not war at Eurovision.](#)
- [How far can you push the Eurovision rulebook?](#)
- [How do you solve a problem like Barrowman?](#)
- [Who said nationalism was dead?](#)
- [From Anneke to Gaitana: Race and Ethnicity at Eurovision.](#)
- [Double-Dutch: Choosing the right language for Eurovision.](#)
- [An Open Letter to America about Eurovision.](#)
- [The Myth of the Jury Vote.](#)
- [Let's Go Azerbaijan: Visas, Hotels, and Money.](#)
- [Let's Go Azerbaijan: The Must-see sights of Baku and Azerbaijan.](#)
- [Raising the bar ever higher as Eurovision heads to Baku.](#)
- [The Minipop Invasion of 2012.](#)
- [The Problem of Spoilers in Australia.](#)
- [We Are \(Eurovision\) Family.](#)
- [Spotter's Guide to Tuesday's Semi Final.](#)
- [Spotter's Guide to Thursday's Semi Final.](#)
- [Spotter's Guide to the Grand Final](#)

The Eurovision Lists

ESC Insight is not the only website covering the Contest, and we like pointing out the big stories and opinions from around the web. That's why we have the Eurovision List, pointing out some of the best stories on the web. You can step back through them in our [Links and List index.](#)

ESC Insight – Audio Shows and Commissions

SBS Eurovision Radio

The ESC Insight team worked alongside Australian broadcaster [SBS](#) to create content for their website, and for broadcast on their SBS Eurovision Radio station. 13 standalone thirty minute programs were commissioned and aired during May, while daily news bulletins were produced in Baku during the contest (sbs.com.au/eurovision)

The Alternative Commentaries

Now in their fourth year, our Alternative Commentaries are an integral part of the Eurovision experience for many of our readers and listeners as the download the commentaries to watch alongside the Song Contest, either live or synced with the on-demand streams of the Eurovision Song Contest (via www.eurovision.tv/esctv). This year Ewan Spence was joined in the commentary booth by Luke Fisher, from [EscXtra](#).

- [Semi Final 1 commentary track](#).
- [Semi Final 2 commentary track](#).
- [Grand Final commentary track](#).

Juke Box Jury 2012

In the eight weeks running up to the semi-finals and finals, we previewed each country's song in our [Juke Box Jury](#) format, with discussion between two judges and host Ewan Spence before rating each song as hit, miss, or maybe.

- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #1](#)
(Albania, Finland, Moldova, The Netherlands, and Turkey).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #2](#)
(Macedonia, Hungary, Latvia, Iceland, and Slovenia).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #3](#)
(Estonia, Greece, San Marino, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Ireland).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #4](#)
(Switzerland, Cyprus, Denmark, Malta, and Norway).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #5](#)
(Slovakia, Belarus, Belgium, Croatia, and Russia).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #6](#)
(Serbia, Austria, Georgia, Romania, and Lithuania).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #7](#)
(Israel, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Portugal, and Sweden).
- [Juke Box Jury 2012 #8](#)
(Germany, Azerbaijan, France, Italy, Spain, and The United Kingdom).

The Daily Podcast Chat Shows

Following on from the successful run of our morning chat shows in Düsseldorf, the regular ESC Insight podcast switched to a daily schedule, allowing us to provide our trademark in-depth coverage and analysis from backstage at the Crystal Hall, bringing all the news and opinions of the 2012 Contest as it happened, though a rotating guest line up who joined host Ewan Spence.

- [Monday 14th May](#)

(with Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, Steven Newby, and Luke Fisher).

- [Tuesday 15th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, Ervin Juhaz, and Ryan Wilson).

- [Wednesday 16th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Samantha Ross, Liam Clark, Michael Lowther, and Anton Kulakov).

- [Thursday 17th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Liam Clark, and David Elder).

- [Friday 18th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Samantha Ross, Emma Backfish, and Alec Parkin).

- [Saturday 19th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, Emma Backfish, and Roy Delaney).

- [Sunday 20th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Luke Fisher, and John Stanton).

- [Monday 21st May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Samantha Ross, Steven Newby, Luke Fisher, and Ervin Juhaz).

- [Tuesday 22nd May- Semi Final 1 preview](#)

(Ewan Spence, Steven Newby, and Luke Fisher).

- [Wednesday 23rd May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Samantha Ross, Steven Newby, Garrett Mulhall, and Elaine Dove).

- [Thursday 24th May - Semi Final 2 preview](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, and Luke Fisher).

- [Friday 25th May](#)

(Ewan Spence, Samantha Ross, and Steven Newby).

- [Saturday 26th May - Grand Final preview](#)

(Ewan Spence, Sharleen Wright, Samantha Ross, and Steven Newby).

ESC Insight – Video and Multimedia

Video Insights

During the first week of rehearsals at Eurovision 2012, the ESC Insight team worked on our Video Insights show. Switching to a traditional 'magazine' style format and a long-form show of between 20 and 25 minutes allowed us to take time with our guests and explore Baku itself, and the various Eurovision fixtures in the Azeri capital city.

- [Monday May 14th](#)

(Anmary, Rona Nishliu, and a walk round the Press Centre) .

- [Tuesday May 15th](#)

(The Trackshittaz, Soluna Samay, Ivi Adamou, and a tour of the Crystal Hall arena).

- [Wednesday May 16th](#)

(Kaliopi, Kurt Callejah, Zjelko Joksimovic, and introducing the Euroclub).

- [Thursday May 17th](#)

(Extended interview with Greta Salome and Jonsi, and Loreen).

- [Friday May 18th](#)

(Eleftheria Eleftheriou, Pernilla Karlsson, Eva Boto, and Donny Montell).

- [Monday May 21st](#)

(Nina Zilli, Ott Lepland, Can Bonomo, and exploring the city of Baku).

Terry Vision

Our 'Senior Interviewer' spoke to many of the big names at this year's Eurovision Song Contest, as well as meeting up with some old friends. Having retired after attending 176 Contests (by his count), ESC Insight lured the puppet back to the world of Eurovision, giving him the chance to bring his unique view of Europe's Favourite TV Show back into the public eye.

- [Florent Boshnjaku](#) (composer of Suus)
- [Izabo](#)
- [Valentina Monetta](#)
- [Compact Disco](#)
- [Edward af Sillen](#) (SVT commentator)
- [Tooji](#)
- [Eva Boto](#)
- [Donny Montell](#)
- [Mandinga](#)
- [Greta Salome and Jonsi](#)
- [Kaliopi](#)
- [Terry Vision on the Welcome Party's Red Carpet](#) (highlights reel also available)
- [Christer Bjorkman](#) (Melodifestivalen Head / Swedish Head of Delegation)
- [The Trackshittaz](#)
- [Eleftheria Eleftheriou](#)
- [Joan Franka](#)
- [Marty Whelan](#) (RTE commentator)
- [Kurt Calleja](#) (and his brother, Kevin).
- [Scott Mills and Sara Cox](#) (BBC 3 commentary team)
- [Ken Bruce](#) (BBC Radio 2 commentator)
- [Nina Zilli](#)
- [Pastora Soler](#)
- [Sietse Bakker](#) (Eurovision Events Supervisor)

Contact ESC Insight

ESC Insight runs around the year, while coverage will slow down over the summer months, we'll be watching out for the start of the National Finals and our trip to Sweden for Eurovision 2013. You can get in touch with the team at any time:

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