# Eurovision 2023 sparks debate over provocative acts and family suitability



The Eurovision Song Contest, renowned for its extravagant performances and bold artistic expressions, faced a wave of criticism this year as some viewers deemed the acts too provocative, sparking calls for a reevaluation of the event’s suitability for family audiences. Staged in Basel, Switzerland, this year's contest showcased a series of eye-catching performances that left many fans questioning whether the line between entertaining and inappropriate had been crossed.

Among the most talked-about entries was Finland's Erika Vikman, whose performance of “Ich Komme” drew substantial attention not just for its energetic beats but for the singer's daring costume and the suggestive lyrics that prompted much debate. Vikman’s black latex ensemble and flamboyant choreography ignited discussions across social media, with some fans openly expressing their distaste. Comments ranged from playful jabs—such as references to sponsorship from lingerie brands—to more serious critiques, with one viewer remarking, “Sorry Finland, it’s a no. The outfit just doesn't work for me.”

Even Finland's own president, Alexander Stubb, seemed less than impressed, reportedly favouring fellow Finnish group KAJ's comedic entry for Sweden over Vikman’s more risqué act. Stubb stated, “If KAJ wins Eurovision, in the end, it is Finland and Vora that win,” indicating a division in national sentiment regarding the direction of their Eurovision representation.

Yet, Vikman herself voiced disappointment at the lack of support, lamenting, “It would definitely be nice to see one day that the greats of the nation stand behind women like me.” Moreover, her act faced scrutiny from the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), which requested alterations to make her performance less sexual in nature. Vikman mentioned in an interview that this intervention extended to her wardrobe and stage movements, further complicating her artistic expression. This situation reflects broader conversations about artistic autonomy versus regulatory standards, particularly in contexts known for their celebratory zeal, such as Eurovision.

Similarly, Malta's entry by Miriana Conte thrived in its theatricality, though it also attracted controversy. Her performance, which featured a dramatic outfit transformation and eye-catching choreography, was marred by alterations to her song title. Originally called “Kant,” it was changed due to concerns that its pronunciation could be misinterpreted, showcasing the precarious balance between creative expression and the sensitivities inherent in an international competition. Conte expressed her frustration over the decision, noting that the term holds significant meaning in Maltese culture, translating to “song.” “I had incredible feedback when it comes to my song,” she reflected, underscoring the complexities that arise when cultural specificity meets global scrutiny.

Spain's Melody also added fuel to the fire with her sizzling performance during the Grand Final, dramatically shedding a black gown to reveal a leotard, a move that further solidified the night’s theme of provocative artistry. Comments on social media echoed concerns about the overall trend in this year's Eurovision, with some fans questioning the appropriateness of performances that prioritise shock value over musical merit.

Meanwhile, Armenia’s entry, featuring a topless performer adorned in leather, rounded out the evening's discussions on ideal presentation within the contest. The backlash from some quarters points to a growing concern that Eurovision may be straying from its roots as a celebration of music and culture into a spectacle of sensationalism.

Critics of this shift argue that the essence of Eurovision lies in its ability to unite diverse cultures through music and creativity, rather than relying on explicit performances to garner audience attention. As debates about the competition's future unfold, a clear division emerges — one that juxtaposes traditional values with contemporary expressions of freedom and sexuality.

Thus, as the contest evolves, it faces the challenge of balancing flamboyant performances with audience expectations for decency. The conversations ignited by this year's events underscore the pressing need for a dialogue surrounding cultural expression, contemporary performance art, and the expectations tied to family-friendly entertainment.

### Reference Map

1. [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14724069/Eurovision-needs-18-rating-Disgruntled-fans-say-contest-no-longer-family-friendly-raunchy-performances-likes-Finland-Malta-toned-versions.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490)
2. [[2]](https://www.hercampus.com/school/leeds/eurovision-2023-a-roundup/)
3. [[6]](https://tribune.com.pk/story/2541021/eurovision-faces-backlash-over-controversy-and-problematic-acts)
4. [[4]](https://ariadnereviews.com/2023/05/19/eurovision-2023-grand-final-part-1-not-like-other-girls-reflex/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14724069/Eurovision-needs-18-rating-Disgruntled-fans-say-contest-no-longer-family-friendly-raunchy-performances-likes-Finland-Malta-toned-versions.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.hercampus.com/school/leeds/eurovision-2023-a-roundup/> - This article provides a comprehensive overview of the Eurovision Song Contest 2023, highlighting standout performances and memorable moments. It discusses Finland's entry, 'Cha Cha Cha' by Käärijä, noting the unique and energetic performance that stood out during the event. The piece also touches upon other notable acts, offering insights into the diverse range of performances that characterized the contest.
3. <https://today.rtl.lu/entertainment/news/a/2295155.html> - This article delves into the controversies surrounding the Eurovision Song Contest 2025, focusing on the participation of Israel amid ongoing conflicts. It also highlights Finland's entry, 'Ich komme' by Erika Vikman, which faced criticism for its provocative performance. The piece discusses the European Broadcasting Union's response and the adjustments made to the performance to address concerns.
4. <https://ariadnereviews.com/2023/05/19/eurovision-2023-grand-final-part-1-not-like-other-girls-reflex/> - This review offers an in-depth analysis of the Eurovision 2023 Grand Final, focusing on Finland's entry, 'Cha Cha Cha' by Käärijä. It provides a detailed breakdown of the performance, discussing the unique aspects that made it memorable. The review also touches upon the song's themes and the artist's approach to the performance, offering a nuanced perspective on the act.
5. <https://www.wusf.org/2023-05-11/where-the-stage-is-littered-with-glitter-the-top-10-acts-of-eurovision-2023> - This article ranks the top 10 acts of Eurovision 2023, with Finland's 'Cha Cha Cha' by Käärijä topping the list. It discusses the song's energetic and unique style, highlighting its appeal and the performance's impact on the audience. The piece also provides insights into other notable acts, offering a comprehensive overview of the contest's standout moments.
6. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2541021/eurovision-faces-backlash-over-controversy-and-problematic-acts> - This article discusses the controversies surrounding the Eurovision Song Contest, focusing on Finland's entry, 'Ich komme' by Erika Vikman. It details the performance's provocative nature and the backlash it received, including the European Broadcasting Union's intervention. The piece also touches upon other contentious acts and the broader discussions about the contest's direction.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/entertainment-arts-65447815/page/4> - This live coverage of the Eurovision Song Contest 2023 provides updates and insights into the performances, including Finland's entry, 'Cha Cha Cha' by Käärijä. It offers real-time commentary and analysis, discussing the impact of various acts and the audience's reactions. The coverage also includes behind-the-scenes details and expert opinions on the contest's developments.