



Melbourne band Asleep in the Park (Simon Newberry, Max Harman, Marty Xenoff and Naomi Brockenshire) will bring its energetic live show to the eastern suburbs this week.

Ukraine to Ruby's

Music | Shaun Campbell

Grunge punk group set to shake up the lounge again

NAME a hall in Maroondah and there's a good chance Marty Xenoff has played in it.

The guitarist fondly remembers cutting his musical teeth with local band *Liquid Crystal* while growing up in Ringwood and Heathmont in the late 1980s to early '90s.

"I went to Norwood High and we used to play anywhere there was a hall," Xenoff recalls.

"All the kids got involved with

costumes and lights; towards the end some of the guys who were doing architecture would set up the stage with amazing lighting.

"I honed the craft in pubs such as Daisy's and the Coach and Horses before playing further afield and it was a great testing ground."

Nowadays Xenoff is one-quarter of grunge punk band Asleep in the Park. The group formed in 2003 after

Xenoff and long-time friend Max Harmon (keyboards, vocals) recruited Simon Newberry (drums) and Naomi Brockenshire (bass, vocals) from a musical comedy trio.

The band has since released two albums and a new EP, *Adios MF*, entertained Australian troops at the Solomon Islands and returned from their third European tour in June.

Xenoff said the band had built up

a particularly strong following in ex-Soviet countries.

"It is a very different place culturally," Xenoff said.

"What we do find with places like Ukraine is audiences have no apprehension and get right into it; there are not many people there with their arms crossed."

So surely Asleep in the Park will be expecting a different crowd when

they play at Ruby's Lounge in Belgrave this Friday?

Not according to Harmon.

"The last time we played there it was such a bloody raucous crowd," Harmon said.

"The local football team was there and they were more like an eastern European audience."

► **Asleep in the Park, Ruby's Lounge, 1648 Burwood Highway, Belgrave, at 8pm, September 4. Entry: \$12. More details: 9754 7445 or rubyslounge.com.au**