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FRIDAY 3 AUGUST

GIG Homoelectric @ Legends, Whitworth St
Billed as a nite for homos, heteros, lesbos, don't knows & disko asbos... amazingly I fit into all of those categories. This month the legendary club features The Horse Meat Disco gang plus three further rooms of twisted disco. Bring it on momma!
www.homoelectric.com

WEDNESDAY 8 AUGUST

GIG The Dead 60's @ Manchester Roadhouse
This is Manchester Calling... the spirit of The Clash lives on! www.theroadhouselive.co.uk

SATURDAY 11 AUGUST

GIG Academy Unsigned @ Manchester Academy
See tomorrow's stars today.
www.manchesteracademy.net

WEDNESDAY 15 AUGUST

GIG Skinny Puppy @ Manchester Academy 2
The famed industrial gods are still doing the rounds. www.manchesteracademy.net

THURSDAY 23 AUGUST

GIG Tokyo Police Club @ Manchester Night and Day Cafe
The quirky indie-pop group that's been wowing Europe comes to Manchester. www.nightnday.org

FRIDAY 24 AUGUST

PRIDE Manchester Pride Weekender
Whoopee... its everyones favourite bank holiday Pride weekend! We grubby little queers climb out of our bumming holes to stand on the back of lorries and blow our whistles and shake our bits to fantastically dreadful house and disco. It's not all bad news though - there's a fair few alt events this year with both Poptastic and Popstarz holding shindigs. You'll need to get your mitts on a ticket for the weekend to gain access to the main areas around the gay village so check out www.manchesterpride.com for info.

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

PRIDE Manchester Pride Parade
Winding its merry way through the streets of Manchester from 2pm-4pm. Outrageous fabulousness guaranteed.

CLUB Poptastic @ tbc
Celebrate in true queer indie alt style and shake your tush and wiggle your bush. Unfortunately the Poptastic posse weren't able to confirm their storming Pride line up so check out the w-w-w-website...
http://poptastic.kudoswebdesign.com/

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST

CLUB Popstarz @ The Ritz
For the first time ever, the Popstarz Allstarz make their way north to Manchester with the UK's biggest queer alternative club nite for the 'Popstarz end-of-Pride Carnival'! Three massive rooms of musical madness arrive hot to trot from London's Kings Cross and are slung into one giant room at the Manchester Ritz like a frozen chicken from a tower block. Special guest DJ Anthony Crank and we're very very excited about a live performance from ex Sugababe Siobhan Donaghy. Plus loadsa free games and attractions.
www.popstarz.org for info.

DON'T MISS

Now ladies & gentleman...
F*@K! - the UK's only queer alternative music magazine - is new to Manchester so we're looking for gig reviewers, photographers & general contributors to fill our pages with northern soul! If you fink you've got wot it takes then email
alison@popstarz.org

Manc for it!

our new monthly celebration of everything up Manchester way

Hi
Anthony
where are you and what you up to?

I'm sat in my mate Postcode Mel's apartment in Salford, watching a mini-tsunami happen outside and listening to Siouxsie Sioux whilst nursing six stitches in my right hand after falling through a glass cabinet. If Morrissey were here now he would have made a fantastic song about it all!



voice of manchester

Tommy Turntables talks to our man in the north, Anthony Crank...

So what's your story?

I'm from Warrington, famous for rugby league, *The Hitman and Her* and Kerry 'chip-fat' Katona. When I was 16 the whole Madchester scene exploded, and I was like a boy possessed! I'd spend every spare minute travelling down the M62 and hitting town, wandering round Afflecks Palace with my bowl cut and my Ian Brown 'Co-Op' T-shirt, blagging my way into the legendary 'Beautiful 2000' indie night at The Hacienda on a Thursday, watching the likes of Interstella and Northside at The Boardwalk, a f*@king great era to be out and about in Manchester. At 18 I was selling 'Destroy' jackets in Geese on Police Street, modelling trackies for JD Sports, and doing extra work on Coronation Street, throwing darts in the Rovers Return while Deirdre Barlow wolfed down a hot-pot.

Why is Manchester so great?

"On the seventh day, God created Manchester!" There's a magnificent seedy grandeur to the city that reminds me of parts of New York, like the lower East Side. It's rammed with creative and interesting characters; people. Plus, you can get a double JD and coke on Canal Street for less than £3 in most places!

What sucks about Manchester?

The rain, it's always pissing down and if you hang around Quay Street on certain days you can mingle with the audience from Jeremy Kyle.

What was it like being a gay kid in Manchester?

Like a walking, talking, living, breathing Russell T Davies scene! Manto was the hippest place to hang out and Paradise Factory, three floors of fucking madness in the building that used to be home Factory Records. You could watch the Divine David for £3 on a Thursday at The Atheneum, hobnob with dwarves and clubbreaks at Manumission on a Friday at La Cage. You'd see Lady Miss Kier and Jason Orange downing Mad Dog 20/20 at The Gay Traitor in the Hacienda on Flesh nights, it was truly a blast.

Who's your favourite character from Corrie?

I'd be shot at close range if I didn't dedicate this to the legend that is Karen McDonald, played to perfection by my one of my oldest and closest mate, the wonderful Suranne Jones. Rough as a row of Ordsall terraces and such a twisted, messed up, mouthy slag.

What's your favourite Manchester band and favourite song?

I bow down at the mighty altar of our master Ian Brown. But the one song that takes me right back to the mid-90's is *Shall We Take A Trip* by Northside. It puts me in mind of being absolutely twisted down at 5th Avenue in the early to mid 90s, a big student hangout, in filthy 24" bellbottoms, sweating

like a loon at a time when Manchester and it's music was just going off the radar.

What's the best

alternative club in Manchester?

Homoelectric, it's the only thing that caters for a diverse gay market and does it so well. The back room of Poptastic is a belter as well, especially when Phil Bakstad is playing. Other than that check out 42nd Street and head towards the Northern Quarter, which is getting like a northern version of Shoreditch without the twats.

What are you up to for Manchester Pride?

I'm hosting the 9am to 12pm slot on BBC Radio Manchester, so no doubt will be sniffing around the Village for the majority of it. I'll also be DJ-ing for Popstarz at The Ritz on the 26th, and you can't do Mardi Gras without hitting Essential at some point.

What else shouldn't we miss in Manc?

You can't come to Manchester without visiting the Cornerhouse, an exhibition space and two cinemas showing class films. Check out some of the little boozers in the Northern Quarter or fill your face at The Ox and Noble in Castlefield, which is like the Groucho club of the North! It's worth getting your glad-rags on (by purchasing them first at the amazing Ran in The Barton Arcade) and visiting Cloud 23 at The Hilton Hotel, the massive skyscraper you can see wherever you are in the city, and go watch some of the best contemporary theatre at the Contact Theatre and Royal Exchange. Never mind just popping up for the Mardi Gras weekend, blag a week off work and get yourself an apartment, as there are loads of them! ★