

Something Curated

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Full article:

<https://somethingcurated.com/2016/08/23/londons-nightlife-personalities/>

Part article:



A History of London's Nightlife Personalities

Intro:

London's nightlife is reactionary, revolutionary, and diverse. At the forefront of each generation's most innovative music and fashion, London clubs have marked the cultural force of Britain's colourful and continuously evolving youth scene. The club has historically provided safe, inclusive spaces for otherwise ostracised groups and subcultures in British society. Though recent figures have suggested that almost half of the UK's nightclubs have shut their doors in the past ten years, contrary to fear-mongering belief, London nightlife still thrives. DJ Dave Haslam, in his book *Life After Dark: A History of British Nightclubs and Music Venues*, writes that 'Clubland has an ability to rejuvenate itself.' Whereas London's club scene was once powerful

but factional, it is now more widespread and eclectic. Something Curated looks at the pioneers behind London's biggest clubs and bars from the 1960s to the present.

(part of article relating to Jeremy Norman)

Jeremy Norman II The Embassy Club (Soho) and Heaven (Charing Cross)

Though the Sexual Offences Act legally decriminalised homosexuality in 1967, for a long time it was still socially taboo. But in 1978, after a visit to the ground-breaking New York nightclub Le Jardin, Jeremy Norman launched the Embassy Club in Old Bond Street as a London equivalent to Studio 54. Norman has said, 'For gay men the dance floor was truly a place of liberation; a place where we could feel free to express our sexuality and the unity of our tribe. The dance club was, in a sense, our cathedral.' Following the Embassy Club,

Norman created Heaven in Charing Cross in 1979 in a former run-down roller disco. The interiors were designed by his partner Derek Frost, whom he married in 2006 on the first day it was legal in the UK to do so. Heaven was the rival to New York's The Saint, and became the world's most famous gay club. It also launched a new music style, Hi-NRG, and its original resident DJ, Ian Lavigne, was a pioneer of beatmixing. Norman later set up Embargo and Leopard Lounge and was the founding trustee of Aids Ark.



Neonaturists painting a new recruit at Heaven

