

GIRLZ

> BY JULES



photos by Ange

GIRLZ TRAVEL SPECIAL - LUSH IN CAPE TOWN

WHAT a better way to beat the winter blues than to escape them altogether! Girlz ventured to latest gay hot-spot, Cape Town (CT) in sunny South Africa to check out the local lesbian scene prior to their annual Pride Week (running 18th to 26th February, culminating with the Annual Pride Parade and Street Party through CT). For those of you who haven't been, CT has a small but thriving gay scene. The gender mix is roughly 50 / 50 and due to South Africa's forward-thinking anti-discrimination legislation, all venues are mixed.

Every fortnight, the leading and biggest lesbian clubnight, Lush, runs Upstairs at uber-trendy and probably the largest gay CT venue, Sliver. Guys are obviously admitted as guests. Myrna and girlfriend Olwen have been promoting Lush for just under a year, running fortnightly on a Saturday evening from 9pm, in the Upstairs Bar at Sliver. DJs Mel, Nickey and guests start the night spinning pop/commercial music to 10.30pm, before progressing through Handbag House to vocal trance and trancey house anthems later in the night. By 10pm, the venue was already packed with a predominantly (90%) female crowd and their gay guy friends.

A huge open-air outdoor balcony leads off of the main clubroom, overlooking the main gay street, tastefully furnished with leather sofas (you could never do this in England!) enabling a birds-eye

view to check out the girls arriving. A separate, intimate covered, candle-lit chill-out room provides respite from the packed dancefloor. Olwen warmed up the crowd by offering free-pour Apple Sourz and we certainly didn't see any decliners! The crowd? Some of the hottest eye-candy I've seen in years, both local and international. South African ladies really are stunning. What about prices? Well, once you've forked out to actually get to CT, prices are very cheap, with entry to Lush only 20 Rand (R20), which is about £2! Drinks are also exceptionally cheap by London standards at R17 (£1.70) for bottles of American / European style beer and a range to rival any you've seen in the poshest Soho bars. If you've 'done' Sydney Mardi Gras and are looking for the next 'big thing', give CT Pride a try, you won't be left wanting.

> Lush are holding 2 Women's Parties as part of Pride Week on Saturday 19th and 26th February, Upstairs at Sliver. Check out: www.lushcapetown.co.za for more details on Lush, or www.capetownpride.co.za for more details on Pride Week.

NEWSFLASH

▶ SATURDAY 5TH FEBRUARY FRENCH KISS - THE GRAND FINALE

BID adieu to Doris and FK girls as they aim to bring the house down with the French Kiss Grand Finale. DJs Nikita, Yoko Spinnin', Lisa German, Kath Harding and Kerry James will be playing all the best classic FK tunes. It's also Doris' birthday so you have no excuse not to turn up. 9pm - 3am (extended licence). £6 b4 11pm, £8 after. Members £6 all night. Unmissable.

> **Essence, 2-5 Carthusian Street, Barbican**

▶ SUNDAY 13TH FEBRUARY VALENTINES BALL @ CANDY BAR

FEATURING the legendary Jo Purvis playing tea dance faves from over the decades at this "Strictly Ladies who love Come Dancing" extravaganza. £1 min door donation to Breast Cancer Campaign. 8pm - 2am.

> **4 Carlisle Street, Soho, W1**

▶ MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY FLIRT PARTY @ CANDY BAR

NOT got a girlfriend on this day of romance? Why not seek the girl of your dreams at this special party, featuring Flirt Message Board and Shag-Tag system. DJ Sol provides the old skool and disco faves. 8pm - 11.30pm. **FREE** entry, **FREE** Love Shots and happy hour prices all night long!

> **4 Carlisle Street, Soho, W1**

▶ SATURDAY 19TH FEBRUARY PONY CLUBB @ ESSENCE

EXPERIENCE the legendary Queen Maxine and Vicky Red before they move to take over the French Kiss slot at Essence. Playing the very best sexy underground house on their special Pony Clubb Sound System, for well-groomed girls and their gay guy friends. From 9pm to 2.30am, entrance is only £6 all night. Find out why this club is on the up and up!

> **Essence, 2-5 Carthusian Street, Barbican**

Girlz page runs every first and third week of the month. Next Girlz page appears in QX 552 out 16th February.

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VALENTINES BALL

Sunday 13th February 8pm - 2am

Featuring the legendary Jo Parrot's playing the classic tunes from over the decades, passionate professional performers mingle with complete amateurs for this strictly ladies only love come dancing, dancing party! plus delicious cocktails at discount & donations on door for the breast cancer campaign!

FLIRT PARTY

Monday 14th February 8 - 11.50pm

Calling all ladies of the proud!
 Come find the woman of your dreams at Candy Bar like the thousands of lesbians before you. We're celebrating valentines by making it even easier for you to make that first move with our flat message board and shag-tag system! featuring old school & disco tunes from dj soul, free entry, free love shots & happy hour prices all night long!

Candy bar - forever bringing women together!

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