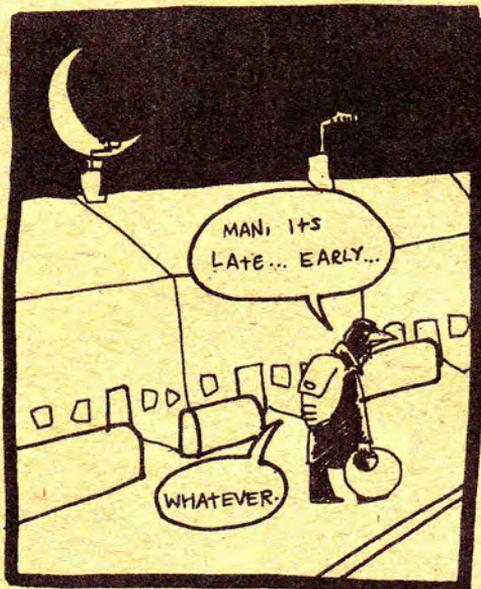


LAOYFEST MANCHESTER

THE ZINE



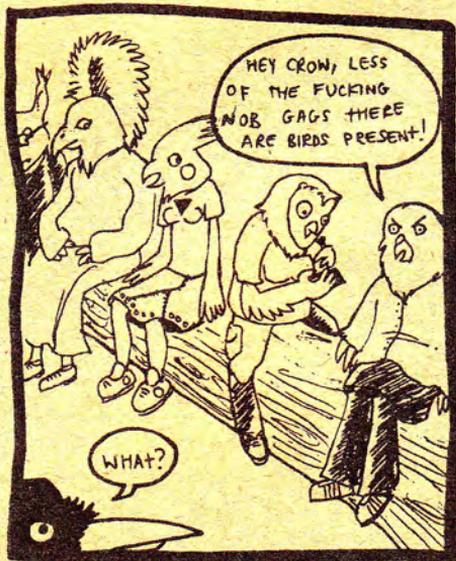
CROW AND PIGEON LEFT THEIR NEST
TO GO OFF TO THE BIRDFEST



THEY STARTED TO HALLUCINATE
AND TRIP OUT ON THE FOOD THEY
ATE



AND THEN THEY FOUND A LOVELY TREE
WITH LOTS OF THINGS TO DO AND SEE



THEY MET A LOT OF PUNKY BIRDS
AND SAID A LOT OF NAUGHTY WORDS.

Fri 05 Sept

LADYFEST MANCHESTER

07 Sept

16:15 Mrs Pigg
QUIBILAH MO

16:30-17:00 Film
Body

What are we doing tonight?

a not-for-profit festival designed to showcase, celebrate and encourage the artistic, organisational and political talents of self-identified women

13:00-14:00
quality question
quickly quiet
sexual identity

16:30-17:00 Film
Punk pretty

"Insanely awesome"

12:00-13:00
Self Publishing Panel

16:15-16:45
RADICAL PANEL

"SHODDY"

MICHELLE

13:00-14:00
performance

four days

Caro Shatch

12:30-13:00
Drumming workshop

spoken word

comix

5:30-6:00
alice and the

1:00-1:30
practical feminism workshop

5904

bands

5:30-6:00
Bernardine

1:00-1:30
practical feminism workshop

workshop

6:30-7:00
Herbalism

including Heena the...

...a PR plugger who'd make a better sultry rock star...

...ngelic elfin dancer, a jolly girl convinced of granny mentality...

...erent films, workshops, zine and CD stalls...

...ned cartoons to while away the day...

WORKSHOPS

djs

00-00:00

Arzana of club-V

00:00-02:00

this zine is brought to you with contributions from:

jo, marion, heena, sarah, clare, annie, kathleen, valerie, roxanna, gin granny, karen and anna

neaps

18:45 Film

16:00-17:00
Identity Panel

it's taken the putting together of this zine for me to realise exactly what an amazing thing ladyfest manchester was.

when people say that ladyfest has become a franchise, i used to want to argue against that 'how dare you say that when it is such a positive thing!' etc etc. but then came the organising and that unleashed the cynic within, lfm burnout bred a scowling monster that had no perspective left and dismissed the entire thing as unrepresentative, stagnant and, yes, an all too common franchise.

reading all the contributions in this zine have laid the monster to rest. looking at all the pictures and reading over the evaluation forms, the blurriness that was 4-7 sept comes into a little more focus. (but *not* that much focus because my memory of it is still pretty sketchy)

i've lost count of how many ladyfests there have been across the globe since the inaugural event in 2000; it's like the ultimate accessory for d.i.y. leaning grrls everywhere. for us, (i think, though i can't presume to speak for everyone involved), we wanted to take the idea of ladyfest and reapply it, take the essence of the festival and put it into our own words, making it relevant to our own community. we wanted to change the template a little. i have mixed feelings about using the name 'ladyfest', i wonder if as many people would have travelled to the event if we'd given it a different name. i wonder if we would have attracted more diversity if we'd given it a different name. because no matter how much you try to break the mould, there are certain *expectations* from a ladyfest that come from it being the child of riot grrl that was born in olympia. namely that it is mainly a 'feminist music festival' with lots of other great stuff going on. but manchester is not olympia, and it makes me happy to look at our programme and see that instead we had a 'feminist arts festival'. all the bands that played were from the uk, which just shows that there is a formidable wealth of talent and supportive music community in this country. proud that we balanced the band focus with the other ladyfest elements and had a whole night devoted to spoken word, rather than expecting performers to slot themselves in between bands. and especially proud that we had so many workshops over the weekend with such variety of focus.

my favourite pictures are those of people hanging round reading zines and looking at the stalls. or eating falafel in the café chatting to (new?) friends. it was amazing to hear someone from frock on say that at ladyfest manchester there was a real sense of community, that there were people from all over the country there, many of whom were connected through some feminist /diy /queer /punk /activist /insert your own / network or other. if they weren't already connected, they were getting connected. people from ladyfest bristol, ladyfest london, queeruption and frock on were there, all having a good time; which is extra special for me since i've had such amazing times at their events, and it feels like we added something to the melting pot of fun times.

i don't think the burnout would have hit me so hard if i hadn't cared about and truly believed in what we were doing and what we were trying to achieve. which is why it does really matter to me that we didn't manage to reach as many people as we wanted to, (in heena's words, 'to bring feminism to the masses'). to me ladyfest manchester was a manchester festival in a lot of ways but we didn't get loads of manchester people, and i just wonder why not. we flyered so much and spoke to so many people involved in different community/activist groups who sounded interested, but where were they that weekend? it was this absense that made me feel for ages that we had failed, but i think i realise now that it just means we have more work to do in different places. what im not sure of is that this work can be done under a ladyfest banner. i think probably not.

ladyfest seems to consistently attract mostly white women in their 20s, probably because you get to ladyfest through riot grrl, which is where ladyfest came from, and that's a great heritage in itself and one im proud to be connected to. but i guess what im trying to say is that maybe its time for a feminist arts festival that doesn't come from riot grrl, that will be more representative and move things forward one more step..

anyway. im glad we got this zine together. at times it looked like it might not happen, but here it is. and its pretty shit hot. it's been a good excuse to hang out with some of the organisers again, and so nice to read everyones contributions and see that we all went pretty insane. it feels even more important because we can't expect mainstream culture to document what we're doing in diy and activist communities. when they do document it, we're often misrepresented. so this zine is our documentation and representation of ladyfest manchester. it did happen. and it was great. so ends my zine-o-therapy.

(my funnest fun of lfm:
the sissyboyz, bernadette,
dancing on saturday night,
having happy birthday sung
to me by flamingo 50 - not
sure they knew who they were
singing to but it made me
cry anyway, getting to hang
out with karen and anna rubins
who rock immensely, how much
everyone loved gin granny,
people not holding it against
me when i lost the plot, having
some of my bestest friends come
and enjoy it, ah the list goes
on...)



SARAH'S DIARY

Ladyfest Manchester was one of the most emotional experiences of my life. At times I was close to a nervous breakdown; in the month or so leading up to it I went through moments of panic, total insomnia and utter despair. But it was also the most inspiring, rewarding and positive event I have been involved with. I cried at least three times during the festival; and after four days without sleep was exhausted and mentally drained. It took me a good couple of weeks to get over the experience and ease myself back into normality. I was totally overwhelmed by the scale of what we had achieved. Looking back now, it seems like another lifetime and I still have no idea how we pulled it off.

During the festival I kept a kind of diary - just random thoughts and ramblings. When we first talked about doing this zine I was just gonna print it; but looking at it now it's totally incomprehensible and mixed up with weird personal stuff so I've copied out my main thoughts:

THURSDAY:

Spent the day hanging round setting up stalls and art exhibition. Felt like I was drifting round aimlessly in a daze. Can't believe this is actually happening. We're here in Hulme - a bunch of clueless kids putting on our own festival.

I've been waiting for something to go wrong; but it's seven O'Clock - all the spoken word performers are here, the stalls are set up, we've taken over this amazing building and oh my god people are turning up!

Caught some of Rosie Lugosi doing her compering. She's got this really powerful, if slightly terrifying presence. The audience is loving it it seems like we're actually pulling it off.

Went and met Lolita Storm from the station. Was a bit nervous, they'd always seemed so cool and unapproachable; but they're all really sweet and chatty. The first band is here - argh - it all kicks off for me tomorrow - I'm so scared.

Just got in from C@ts ass - met up with Billy and Kay from the electroluvs who are staying with us - had a bit of a dance - seem like the spoken word was a success - phew!

FRIDAY

It's 8am and am just gonna set off for the Zion - I feel completely sick with nerves - I really hope people turn up.

Me and Lee just put up the stage - it was a lot easier than I thought - it all kind of slotted together. It's absolutely massive - it looks like a bloody arena stage! Can't wait to see Josie leaping around it. All the backline's arrived as well - so all seems under control.



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It's 11am and nobody's here including Taz - our sound guy - argh! Think i'm gona have to try and set up the gear- hmmm am a bit clueless.

Phew - thank goodness for Cath from Baba Yaga - she's just turned up and helped me set up the drumkit and stuff. she's such a sweetheart - has saved me from a panic attack! A couple of other bands and Taz have arrived so it's all go.

Oh my god - it was all going so well - halfway through sounchech and two of the amps have blown. Have just tried to phone Pete from the tour company and he's not answering his phone..... doors are supposed to open in an hour!!!!

What a total star - Pete has just turned up with two new amps - he's just saved my life!

Yeah it's all okay - doors are open - No Problems disco are rocking out - a bit quiet but I guess people are at work and stuff.

Back home at last - am totally exhausted but can't sleep. All the bands were ace - particularly Bernadette and Baba Yaga - they really got everyone dancing. Valerie were pretty subdued which is a bit weird; but I guess after their Gossip performance they're taking it easy. Not many people stayed around for Lolita Storm which was a shame but they seemed okay about it. Everyone seems to have be having a great time and all the band people were great.

Today was soured a bit coz some people got stuff stolen from backstage... it's really crap - don't expect stuff like that to happen - ah well security meeting tomorrow - fun...

SATURDAY

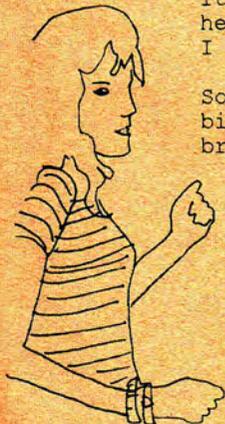
Had a meeting this morning about security and stuff - am really knackered and couldn't take it all in. Hopefully it'll all be okay today.

It all seems a lot less hectic today. The bands are all here except Gertrude - but they're getting later train and I know they'll be here.

Soundchecks going okay - nothing broken! Taz is getting a bit stressed with soundchecking everyone - he didn't get a break at all yesterday - poor guy!

It all seems to be running okay. gertrude have just arrived - is nice to see them again - but haven't really had chance to chat - I keep loosing band members today!

Blah - just had a really stupid fight with Lee which is pretty horrible. Think i need to stop being so bossy - I can feel myself turning into some horrible controlling bitch! Am gona hide outside and smoke for





all the coolest
people were
always outside
Smoking.

bit!

It's all okay - have kind of made up with Lee and McWatt and Mrs Pilgrim have just played which has totally chilled me out - really gorgeous stuff. My mum's turned up as well which is cool - she really likes Mrs Pilgrim - it's definately her scene today - nice to have her around as well - it's brought me back doen to earth a bit.

Wow - Rosie (Ithaca art Ensemble) was amazing - it was total silence for the whole of her set - even while she took 15 minutes to retune her guitar in the middle of the set!

I'm so exhausted - all the other bands were great - and the Sissyboyz totally blew me away - they were so funny - everyone was going totally mad like they were Take That or something! I felt so proud tonight - everyone was dancing like mad at the end - there was such an amazing atmosphere- haha I cried a bit - think it might just be exhaustion or relief that it's all okay.

SUNDAY

Ha ah poor Louise - she's just had to do a soundcheck and then run off to do her drumming workshop.

Bollox - one of the bands blew a PA speaker last night - just soundchecked RVF and it sounded dreadful - Strangely I didn't notice with F50 soundcheck - maybe it's coz I'm used to hearing them over a crap PA! Taz is on the case but he's been trying to fix it for the last hour and it's not happening...grrr here we go again - stress.

Two hours later and the PA speaker's been swapped for one that works. Everyone's getting a bit impatient coz they've been hanging around for ages, but it's all under control now - just a bit late.

Just seen the Zero pretties and they're really scared - bless - i'm sure they'll be great.

Well it's all over - feels really weird. Flamingo 50 were great - I'm really glad they finished the festival - it was totally the right mood for the night - we all danced and jumped around like fools - yeah!

I went to the party at Sophie's but lasted less than an hour. I'm so exhausted - I can't believe it's happened - Ladyfest Manchester has been and gone - no great disasters and people actually came. Everyone seemed so positive and happy. I cried again - i'm really sad it's over - I need another project - right after i've slept for a week!

AFTERTHOUGHT

I'm sure there's going to be a list of people who people want to thank; but these are the one's who made my life easier/ saved me from total breakdown:

Taz; sound guru at the Zion - an absolute star who worked a ridiculous number of hours over the weekend.

Lou and Morgan from Flamingo 50, Jo, Elvis and Vicki from Valerie - for all their support in the months leading up to Ladyfest, playing loads of benefit gigs for us and for keeping me entertained - it's bands like these that made me want to be involved in Ladyfest.
Cath from Baba Yaga: For turning up early on Friday and being so damn calm and nice, and for putting up with my random stressed emails beforehand, and also for your part in Snail Racing (RIP) - which made me look at bass playing in a whole new light.
John - for doing sound at all the benefits and being an all round good guy.
Pete from STS touring - www.ststouring.co.uk - for giving us a cheap deal on the backline and rescuing me when it broke.
The rest of the Ladyfest kids and the band committee - particularly Lee and Jo - for introducing me to loads of cool music (and a few truly horrible hardcore bands)



This is now on sun 14th
be there

MY [LADYFEST] ADVENTURE

BY ROSAMIA & ANVADI

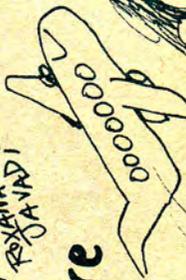
ADVENTURE



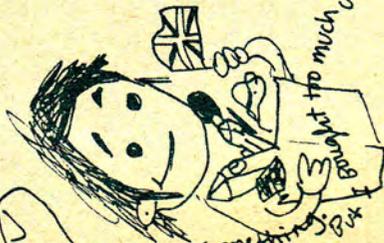
IN L.A. and BORED



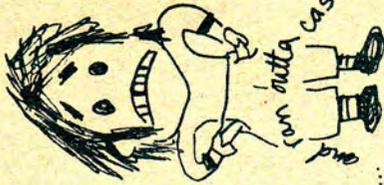
I BOUGHT a cheap ticket



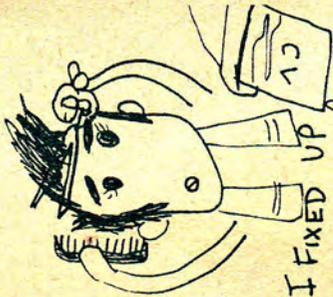
online to travel in Europe



got I something for I BOUGHT too much crap...



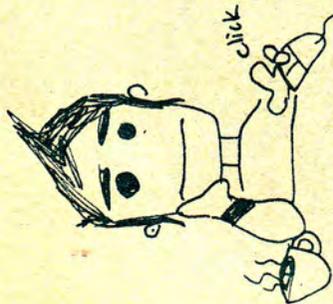
and ran outta cash. So I FIXED UP



and got a job.



but I got BORED AGAIN... NIGGA



And bought another ticket online for Manchester...



and so far it's DAAAA!!!

VALERIE

Superstar Interview by marion (showbiz reporter on the case)

If there's one band that made me sure we could have a Ladyfest in Manchester it's Valerie. We were so worried when, due to a text-message mix up wherein they thought Sarah was Ladyfest Bristol, we thought they wouldn't be playing, that we even thought of cancelling the whole thing. What would be the point of a Ladyfest Manchester without Valerie?!! But righteousness prevailed and Valerie played a triumphant set (though not rambunctious enough for my liking!) and won many new hearts that day. But their true triumph was the Gossip benefit gig the weekend before. If you weren't there well, it's sort of like the 1960s I'm afraid, you missed out! Why they keep apologising for it I don't know, and can only put it down to the typical modesty of reluctant - but inevitable - stars. Since the day I first saw them at the Roadhouse back in... erm, 2001/2002ish, they've captured my heart with their amazing feel for melody, pithy lyrics and punk-rock attitude. 4598 Valerie gigs later and I thought it was time the goddesses of Manchester punk rock spoke back to their adoring fans...

What sort of noise do you make? A lot

Who's Who and What do you do? JO LEAN = Vocals, Stylophone, drum machine and pogo's. VIX = Guitar, Backing Vocals, Concentration and Glamour. ELVIS = Drums, Backing Vocals, Keyboard, Drum Machine, Toys and Mayhem.

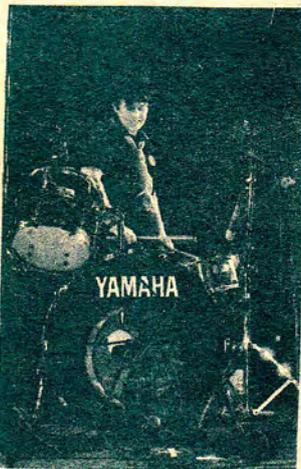
When, where and Why did you form? Blackpool, 1998 in a Bingo Emporium. We were fed up of never hitting the jackpot!

Why the name? Valerie was the Bingo caller.

What are your main influences? Bingo, Disco's, Vimto, Popular Culture, Love and Hate.

Do you identify with any "scene" in Manchester or anywhere else? Elv = "Yeah it's my scene, my scene do you know what i mean". Jo = I don't think we belong to any scene completely. Although there are many "scenes" that have been really good to us and who we do identify with. I think we are one of the agitators who are at the forefront of the disco punk resistance.

Are you in touch with the Tokyo Girls? Yeah totally...Unfortunately (and i don't want to start any in fighting here) but the main Tokyo Girl is back in Japan. She sends us amazing toys and cards...I've wrote songs about Mariella Frostrup and Virginia Braithwaite and they don't send us anything...jeez louse celebrities!! We see the other TG's in Smile and Booze Busters in Chorlton most weekends.



Tell us the story behind "All My Heroes Hate Me"? Well I've had a few bad run ins with my hero's. First off i met Blur's Damon Albarn whilst i was a non singing all footballing Man U ladies player. We were playing at Stamford Bridge, home of his beloved Chelsea and he was playing afterwards as part of some celeb five aside with Chris Evans and Ash from Casualty...oh the glamour. It all resulted in a very embarrassing photo opportunity in which i felt like a "sideshow Freak". As for the Carrie Kinney verse. S-K were playing Manchester Roadhouse, it was a totally amazing gig. They looked like they were in a playful mood when they danced back on stage for the encore. I asked them to play "Dance Song '97" at which point Carrie barked the immortal "Quit Living in the past". Which i thought was pretty uncalled for and as i was at an impressionable age i kind of took it to heart. As for Jo Whiley, well that bit is a tad harsh as i've never met her and she's never done me any harm. I needed another verse and she'd just defected to daytime radio, so she was just in the wrong place at the wrong time. If I ever met Jo Whiley i'd apologise, i'm temping at the moment and her radio show is one of the only things that gets me through the day. Oh the Valerie songwriting process is so multi layered!



What's "Music For Townies" about? It's kind of a picture postcard of Manchester (and probably every other major British city) on a Saturday. It's kind of the whole Townie v's Mosher thing, feeling like the minority. The Arndale and Piccadilly Gardens on Saturday Afternoon's are full of Townies. The only problem with Music 4 Townies is that it's dated badly, all the Clubs that we mention, Royale's and Kick's have changed owners, they're called Infinity and Wave's now...and they don't really rhyme. I suppose it's quite a snobby song really!

You have played quite a few Ladyfests. What does Ladyfest mean to you? Which was the best one? (no pressure...!) Our favourite Ladyfest? We've loved all the Ladyfest's...but our favourite was Glasgow (**traitors! - M**). We didn't play but it was such a great time. Meeting everyone for the first time and there seemed to be a real sense of community...probably 'cos everything was so close together. All our best friends were there and we met people who were to become great friends and influences. We think Ladyfest is a great way of people coming together, sharing ideas and rocking out.

When I first saw you play I thought you were a riot grrrl piss-take! But later realised you have a love for riot grrrl bands... what's your relationship to 'riot grrrl' and would you say Valerie are a 'riot grrrl' band? When we first started out...we did have a huge comedy core element, so i can see why you thought we were a riot grrrl piss take. But then we heard rumours circulating that there was a grrrl in the Manchester area wearing a home made "All My Heroes Hate Me" T Shirt, it was at that point when the four of us realised that we must really mean something to the kids and started to straighten up our act. Only joking lovely Marion. The way we sounded when we started out wasn't meant as a pee take...it was just the only way we knew how to make noise. With Valerie it's always been do it and think later...that's why we love Erase Errata and their ethos of 1,2,3, make a noise. From the start Vix, Nick, Elv and I have always brought very different musical tastes to the band from The Smiths to Kim Wilde from Wet Wet Wet to Bratmobile. There is a deep love of riot grrrl and it's legacy and i think we are riot grrrl band, maybe not so much as we used to be. I think all our songs used to be out and out riot grrrl, but now i think we're moving

in a different direction and are embracing new sounds and ideas...behold the disco punk resistance.

You've supported many of your musical heroes/heroines. Which was your best and why? There have been so many bands who've been amazing to play with and really supportive, like Liars, Erase Errata, Electrelane, The Gossip, Numbers, The Blue Minkies and the bass player out The Rogers Sister's.

What's on your shelf, stereo, tv, video etc? Elv= Franz Ferdinand, Electrelane, Jamelia, Sex in the City and she's reading The National Enquirer. Vix= Is watching Monkey and is listening to Belle and Sebastian, The Rogers Sisters and Moldy Peaches. JO= I'm listening to new Graham Coxon single, Scissor Sisters, Electrelane and Franz Ferdinand. I am watching Shameless, The Bill and while i was ironing the other night i saw this amazing programme on channel 5, called X Rated Ambition about Tracey Lords. Wow what a feminist icon.

Is the Switchflicker 7" still available and do you have any new releases coming up? (I heard about the irrk compilation but don't know if it's out yet). The Switchflicker seven is still available...get in touch and we'll tell you where. The irrk comp is out via Cargo on 16.02.04 we have Tokyo Girls and Electrobeats on it and there is a whole host of cool bands like Lesbo Pig and Flamingo 50 on it...For all you vinyl fiends out there the irrk comp is on amazing 10 inch white vinyl...mmmm. **(Get it at www.irrk.org - M)**

Any other future plans? We are going into the studio next week to record, so hopefully something will be out pretty soon. We want to do an album and open a theme park this year.

Do any of you define as feminists - why/why not? The three of us are feminists. In that in the words of Destiny's Child we are "independent women", just trying to experiment with sounds and have a good time, in a male dominated industry...engineering is a tough occupation for us girls to make it in!

Anything else you want to say? Take Care and much love xx Valerie

Ah, the sweethearts rearranged my questions completely - so precocious! They even totally ignored my invitation to plug upcoming gigs, but that's that showbiz modesty for you. Send fanmail to valerieband@hotmail.com



THE LADYFEST WORDSEARCH....

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COMIX
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 SHODDY
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 CLIQUE
 BITCH
 SISSY BOYZ
 CAKES
 EXPLOSION
 WOMEN
 WOMYN
 WIMMIN
 FEVERS
 FEMINISM

find these words. there are
 some extra ones hidden too x x x

FROM THE MOUTH OF GIN GRANNY



"Mirraht luvv. This is gin granneh.
 Masel' I had a greet time a'
 ladeh fest. It were grand. All them
 lovely lasses runnin round. I wish
 mah Otto (me grandson) could a been
 there to see it. Them Sissyboyz,
 they woulda made him smile, all
 them kids throwing themselves at em!
 It reminds me of seeing the Beatles
 back in mah day. we'd all go crazeh!
 woulda gone a bit more crazeh if
 they'd worn a frock though! I didnae
 get tah play me records but it
 were luvleh havin a dance. It were
 that much fun th' saturday naat
 though. I drank rum for the first time
 an' i'll neer do that agin. Only gin
 for meh luvv okeh!"



LADYFEST 4-7 Septem

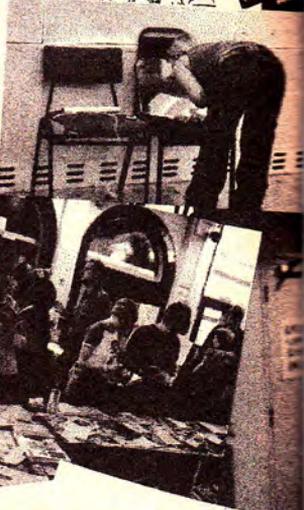
Ladyfest Manchester is a...
Festival designed to celebrate...
and political talents of self-identified...
The festival will...
panel...
live...
workshop...
workshop...



Don't stay inside
September
Historie
Radical
Lamming 50
the Sticky
C2 music

Ladyfest Main stage

←



Sun April 6th
LADYFEST MANCHESTER BENEFIT!
with
BABA YAGA
SARAH
BOUGHIES
LADYFEST
at THE SIS
114-16 St. Manchester
M2, 8pm



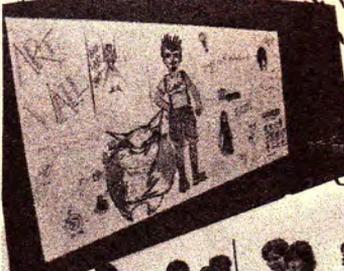
Chirpy Chickpea Cafe ☺

lunchtime menu

* falafel
or refried beans
in pitta w/ s
hummus + greek
salad in pitta
£1 each



Whoa?



leaders
 the Hysterics
 at the fin12 club,
 Bradford



MANCHESTER
 SEND YOUR ZINES
 Art
 Drama
 Film
 Music
 Poetry
 Politics
 Religion
 Science
 Sexuality
 Sport
 Theatre
 Visual Arts
 Writing

LL
 MOUTH NO
 ROUSERS
 ROSIE LUGOSI
 JO WARBUTON
 MËN THOMAS
 LAVINIA MURRA

Ladyfest
AFTERHOURS
 DJ's CLUBMIGHT
 TONIGHT
 13.00-00.00 dj GinGranny
 00.00-01.00 dj Pineapple
 01.00-02.00 Pussy Whipped



LADYFEST
 MANCHESTER



Ladyfest Manchester Benefit...
 the pact
 drums, bass, violin,
 guitar & plaintive
 rosie...
 from Linear Negroes,
 playing solo folk.
 snail racing
 (bbc) 3 bassists, 1 drummer,
 vocal harmonies lovely.
 plus one more...
 tins & cake stall!

Wed 23rd July - 8pm - £5 in
 Mumbo Arts Centre
 (aka The Grubby), 86 Princess St
 79, 5th Ave night club
 www.ladyfestmanchester.org
 to find out more about ladyfest!

ABYSS
 MANCHESTER
 is-workshops-film-performance
 -comic-zines-afterhours-
 SEPTEMBER 20th
 at Zion Arts
 209 - stretford
 TICKETS ON SALE NOW
 FRIDAY/SATURDAY ONLY
 SUNDAY ONLY
 FROEIX FEMINISTIX PO



day 2nd flare
 MINGO50
 VALERIE
 BUGEYE
 WE START FIRES
 Doors at 7.30pm Entran
 et, 016
 r@ya
 chest



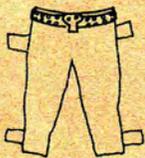
Ladyfest
Manchester
Benefit!



Friday 29th
August!

cut n' colour flyer #4

RADICAL CHEERLEADERS ☆
VALERIE ☆ FLAMINGO 50 ☆
TEXAS PETE ☆ SCIENCE!
BASTARD! ☆ THE GOSSIP ☆
at Mumbo Arts Centre (fka the Granby)
86 Princess St., opp. 5th Ave, Manchester
all ages!
6pm!



£5 (£4 unwaged)

for more info
www.ladyfestmanchester.org

07446540062

LADYFEST
MANCHESTER
BENEFIT

Friday 29.08
6pm £5/£4

SCIENCE!
BASTARD!
FLAMINGO
50
RADICAL
CHEERLEADERS



THE GOSSIP
TEXAS
PETE
VALERIE

all ages!

at the MUMBO ARTS CENTRE
(fka the Granby), 86 Princess St. Manc.



www.ladyfestmanchester.org
07446540062 ring for more info!
thanks to Ladyfest Bristol!

cut n' colour flyer #1

www.ladyfestmanchester.org
for more info → 07446540062

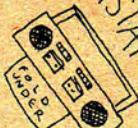
at
Mumbo Arts
Centre
(fka the Granby)
86 Princess St.
opp. 5th Ave
nightclub
Manchester
all ages!
thanks Ladyfest
Bristol! ☺



ladyfest
Manchester
benefit
Friday 29 August
6pm
£5 (£4 unwaged)

THE RADICAL CHEERLEADERS
and get your pom-poms out for...

DIRTY PUNK WITH
THE GOSSIP
SCIENCE! BASTARD!
VALERIE
FLAMINGO 50
TEXAS PETE



cut n' colour flyer #2

LADYFEST MANCHESTER

BENEFIT: 29th August

DIRTY/PUNK FROM.....

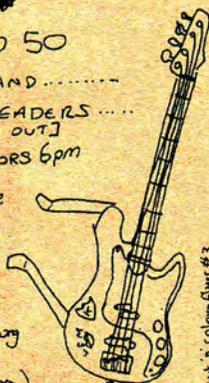
THE GOSSIP ★
★ SCIENCE! BASTARD!
TEXAS PETE ★
★ FLAMINGO 50
VALERIE ★ AND.....

RADICAL CHEERLEADERS.....
[GET YR POM-POMS OUT!]
£5 (£4.00 unwaged) DOORS 6pm

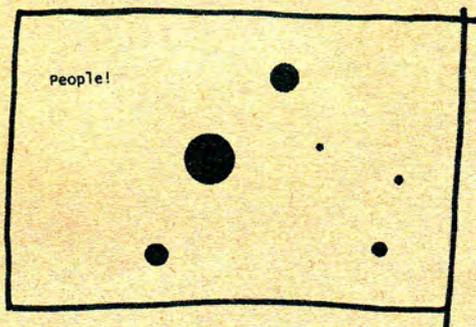
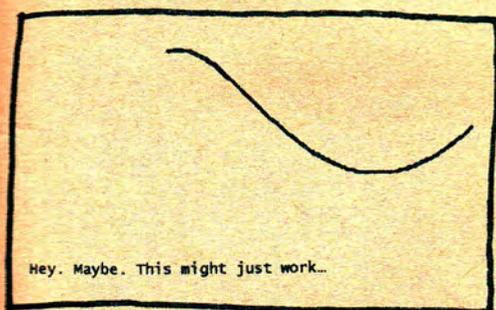
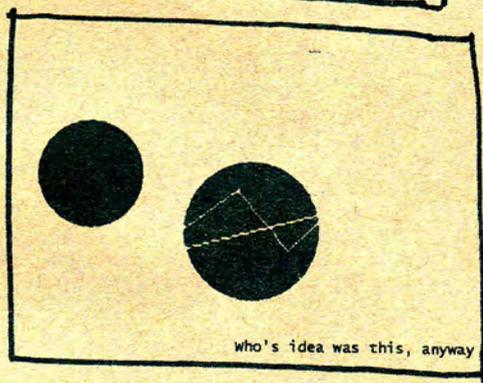
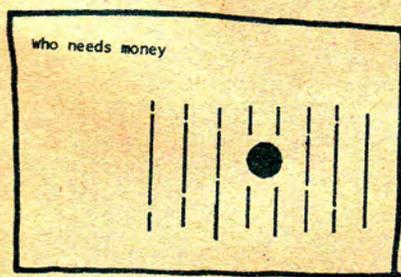
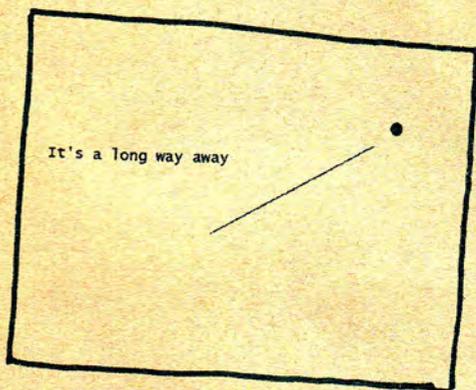
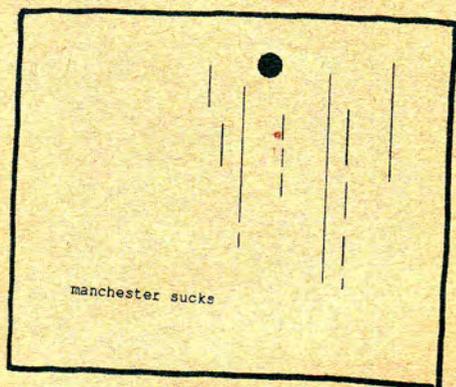
@ Mumbo Arts Centre
(fka THE GRANBY)
86 PRINCESS ST

♡ ♡ ♡ ♡ ♡
www.ladyfestmanchester.org
07446540062

(This is an all ages show)



cut n' colour flyer #3



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. DO IT YOURSELVES. some words from the (not too) wise...

So you've never organised a festival before? Booked DJs? Organised travel arrangements for bands? Overseen catering for muchos people? Written a press release? Don't worry about it, neither had we! It will all become clear!

TIPS FOR ORGANISING BANDS:

FIND OUT THE TECHNICAL SPECS WELL IN ADVANCE:

How many drumkits, amps, PA inputs, mics will each band need. If they have unusual instruments; how do they want to amplify them - through a PA, amp, mic'd up? What equipment will they bring and what do they need to borrow? Are they willing to share equipment (drums can be particularly tricky - most people will insist other people bring their own snare, symbols and bass pedal.)

If you're gona share kit, it's best to use as much stuff as you can from the band playing last - to avoid people going home early with their gear! If bands are bringing their own amps check if they mean a combo or a separate head/ cab - often people will only bring the amp head.

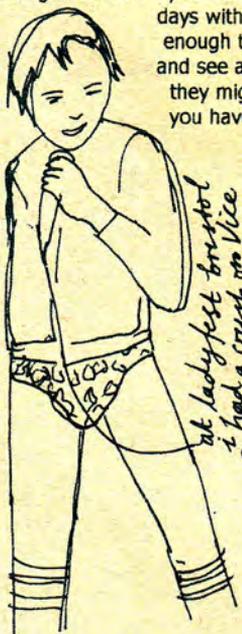
Bear in mind that if you ask people to bring gear, it will probably increase the cost as they'll have to hire a van. We got round this by hiring the whole backline in from a local tour company. This took a lot of stress out of the planning, as it meant we had everything on site for the whole weekend. We were really lucky and got a cheap deal from a really lovely guy. When we blew up an amp he came straight round and replaced it (and didn't charge us!) A lot of companies aren't so great though - they can be costly and often ask for huge deposits - so ask around.

KEEP IN REGULAR CONTACT:

It's no good asking someone to play and expecting them to turn up six months later. Drop them an email/ phone call every so often - let them know what's going on with the preparations for your festival - people will be far more receptive/ keen if they're kept in the loop. If one of the bands you've booked is playing nearby make the effort to go and see them and say hi. Don't be scared - i'm really shy but all the people I went and introduced myself to were lovely - i'd say avoid my trick of getting really pissed before you talk to people although thankfully nobody held it against me!

DON'T BE DOWNHEARTENED BY DEMO TAPES:

It's weird, at first I was really excited about listening to all our stacks of submissions but after a while it can be pretty soul destroying! Listening to bad demos can be really depressing but stick with it and you'll find some gems. Don't try to do it all in one go - if you're not sure about something then come back to it in a few days with fresh ears. Also don't feel you have to ask everyone to play - you won't have enough time and if they're utter rubbish then just say no (in the nicest possible way) Try and see as many people live as you can - not everyone comes across well on tape but they might be amazing live - listen to other people's recommendations and make sure you have a band pannel with varied tastes.



*at ladyfest Bristol
i had a crush on Vice
Cooler. My ladyfest is
Manchester for crugh is
secret!*

TELL EVERYONE TO TURN UP EARLIER THAN THEY NEED TO:

Work out the band order and then the soundcheck times - as a rule last band on soundchecks first. Work out what time you need a band to arrive and then tell them they'll be needed a good two hours before that time! I'd say on average 90% of bands will be late, but don't stress, they'll be there. Make sure you give them clear directions and they have your mobile number/ the venue's phone number. I'm utterly rubbish with directions (I got mixed up and tried to direct someone from Aberdeen in totally the wrong direction coz i thought it was in Wales - hmmm!) However there are some great routefinder sites on the internet such as www.multimap.com so use them. also have a map on hand for when people phone you lost. If people are arriving by public transport, find out where and when they're arriving and send someone to meet them. Give the person you are sending on this errand a mobile number for the band if you have one.

REFRESHMENTS:

Do not underestimate how much alcohol band members can drink! 15 crates of beer were consumed during the festival. Think more beer less orange juice!!

STAY CALM

Things will go wrong, people will pull out, equipment will break; but it'll all be okay. Try not to have a nervous breakdown. Talk to the bands; they'll know the score and will be able to help you, particularly with technical stuff. On the day, be as organised as you can - have a running order and make sure everyone knows when they're on; but don't stress too much if you get behind/ ahead of yourself - it's not the end of the world. Take a deep breath, enjoy the music and keep smiling :)

A NOTE ON WORKSHOPS:

Don't underestimate their importance and appeal! They may not seem cool or fun at first thought, but that's only if you come at it with no imagination... Discuss suggestions with all the other people involved with the event, they will provide you with much needed perspective. You'll be amazed at how many organisations want to be involved with your project; as well as them supporting you, it can give them exposure to a whole new audience. Academics are great for panels, just be careful not to get the uber 'intellectuals' because no-one will understand what they're talking about (even if they're cute)... Loads of amazing people came forward wanting to volunteer their time to facilitate workshops and many offered fresh ideas - just from a few posts on a few message boards. So put the feelers out, there are so many wonderful, enthusiastic people just waiting for your call. There were masses more areas we wanted to have workshops in but there just wasn't space or time (though 18 is pretty impressive, right?). Don't expect yourself to be completely representative, because it's not possible. Equally, it's worth trying to do something a bit different... workshops are one way of explicitly bringing in topics you feel get looked over all too often. As with everything else, don't be too disheartened if people who seemed initially delighted at the prospect of being involved suddenly stop replying to your emails. It happens. Move on to that other idea you couldn't fit in before. Think about the kind of space each workshop might need, like don't schedule a drama type workshop in a small discussion space (oops!), luckily our venue had lots of spaces and was flexible about which ones we used, but yours may not be. If you're having panels in largish rooms think about whether you'll need a PA system - mics etc, don't worry if you're clueless about this stuff, people involved with bands will be able to help you out. Final note - make sure you have a team of people there to help you set the rooms up for each workshop/panel, greet the panellists, facilitators etc, and know exactly what they all need. If you don't you might lose the plot and go hysterical at some point in the day (I still feel the shame...)

GET A VENUE! As soon as possible! As if you couldn't guess, you can't hold your Ladyfest without one! Venues tend to get booked FAR in advance, so i can't stress how important this is. at one point, we had a bold and desperate idea to have LFM outdoors, but that is even more work than having one indoors e.g. weather affecting things more, different licencing etc. Approach venue staff with a good idea of what you want, and make sure you know what you're talking about. Things you might want to ask about: hidden costs- venues may insist on using their own staff e.g. for a bar if they have one; which means paying their wages, there may be opening and locking charges. equipment- it may seem cheap, but does it have the technical equipment you need? If it has a PA system, is it going to be suitable? If a venue keeps messing you around, or can't make up its mind about letting you have the space, MOVE ON! Time is precious, and it might be for the best that you don't use that venue anyway!

COMMUNICATE with your colleagues. Let people know what is going on. If you can't fulfil a commitment, let others know ASAP. It's better to let people know where they stand. If something has come up and it's really hard to explain to everyone, pass the message onto someone else to tell everyone else who may be depending on you. What I'm trying to say is, things must go on and it's not fair to keep people in the dark. Which leads us onto:

DON'T STRUGGLE ON YOUR OWN if you've said you'll do something and you can't manage it alone. Again, communication is the key.



WEBSITE: Invaluable for spreading the word. Buy yourselves an url, i.e. www.ladyfesthell.org and don't go for one of those crappy free webhosting thingies with that shitty annoying banner advertising. Also keep the website updated! Try www.nologic.org for some webspace. They are nice people.

MERCHANDISE IS A GOOD FUNDRAISER. It's true. I saw it on a programme about why U2 are so rich. Merchandise has a high profit margin. Badges are really good and popular. Make sure it gets done well in advance. But...

DON'T MAKE TOO MANY T-SHIRTS. You'll be stuck with them forever if you do. Ditto compilation CDs. Unlike food- it's better that there is not enough merch than too much. less is definitely more.

DECIDE ON CONDITIONS OF PERFORMING: If are you going to pay fees, travel, put people up in a hotel etc...what can you realistically afford to give people? One of the main decisions we made about bands was to treat everyone the same; whether they are big/ small, signed/unsigned. We paid only petrol costs for everyone plus food, a bit of drink and floor space. Make this clear in the beginning; so there's no confusion/ last minute demands. If it helps...

MAKE BANDS / PERFORMERS SIGN CONTRACTS! We were given this advice by all the organisers of Ladyfest Past, but we ran out of time in the end and couldn't implement it. Suffice to say, we had some very mysterious last minute cancellations!

EXPECT PEOPLE TO PULL OUT- at all stages. Life happens, and life happens even more if there isn't a monetary incentive. (Which is understandable sometimes. So don't get too angry.)

MAKE IT YOUR OWN: You don't have to stick to the same Ladyfest template. Try something new!

FINANCES: We know that you are probably a bunch of creative types, but do not ignore the obvious - good accounting makes a massive difference to the smooth running of the festival as a whole. It might help to register yourselves as a PLC if you think you are going to run up a big debt. Nobody wants to be liable for the entire burden if the whole thing goes tits up. There are a lot of grants available to apply for but make sure you do it early. This means you have time to reapply if you fuck up. If none of you have knowledge or expertise in this area, ask your local CVS (Council for Voluntary Services) for help, that's what they are there for. We didn't register as a limited company and would've been up shit creek if we hadn't have landed us substantial funding (which leads onto...)

APPRECIATION:

It's very easy to get caught up in your own targets and dramas but if someone puts in a massive amount of effort and, eg, gets some funding - SAY THANK YOU! Similarly if something bad happens to one of organisers, eg their flat is broken into, ask them if they are ok - DO NOT IGNORE THEM. There is nothing more disheartening then being stuck with a bunch of people that don't give a shit about you especially when part of the message of the festival is about promoting the wonders of female togetherness!

BE CHEEKY (but don't take the piss), if you don't ask, you don't get! You'll be surprised how much stuff you can get for free.

USE IWD/IWW TO PROMOTE YOURSELVES if you are lucky enough to live under a local authority recognises and celebrates International Women's Day/Week.

ASK YOUR LOCAL WOMEN'S OFFICER / WOMEN'S ISSUE REPPOR SUPPORT your local council might have one. The universities or colleges in your area might have one too. (don't worry if you are not studying there, they might still be interested!).

GET ON WOMEN'S HOUR! I would be really chuffed if you did cos we didn't manage to and they have some real crap on it sometimes. If you e-mail us, we can tell you who to contact.

INFIGHTING: It'll happen! Try and remind yourself not to get caught up in it and remember negative feelings are totally destructive to the process.

SLEEP: You won't get any! After 3 days you start to feel pleasantly delirious, (well I did anyway -Annie).

IT'S A LEARNING PROCESS so don't beat yourself up if things don't go exactly as planned. Just move on. There's no point dwelling on the bad things, because if you do, there won't be any good things to reminisce about with a nice glass of port in front of a roaring fire once it's over!

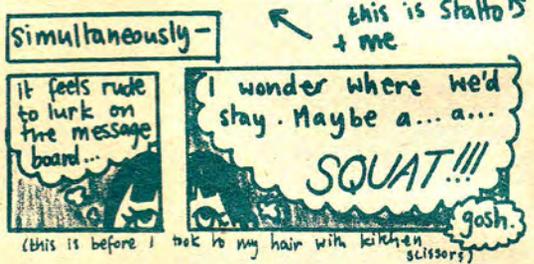
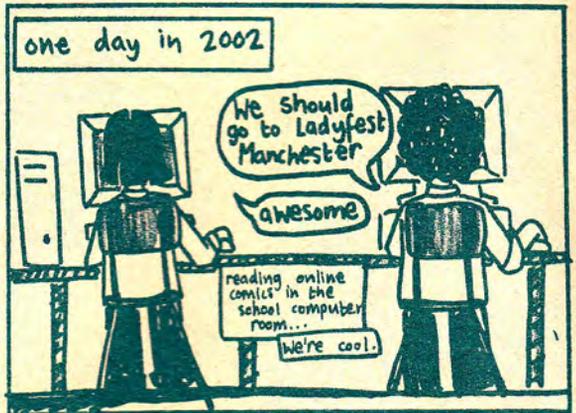
DON'T GIVE UP! You'll still be treated like an idiot by some people you come across just because you are a woman, or with skepticism because you have no real previous experience and you're trying to do it DIY but don't let it get you down. You need determination and enthusiasm! And a bit of sense and sensitivity. You'll be glad you didn't give up! We certainly were!

FINAL WORD?

If someone calls the event 'shoddy', think to yourself, "Fuck you".



Ladyfest Manchester made some money!
It's going to these good people:
Iraqi Women's League
Women's Environmental Network www.wen.org.uk
Saheli Women's Refuge
Sgaurner Women's Refuge
Safra Project www.safraproject.org
Revolutionary Association of the Women
of Afghanistan www.rawa.org
Crossroads Women Asylum Seeker Support



the thing is, although everything scheduled for Ladyfest seemed like new levels of fun, the part of me that gets apprehensive about doing anything even slightly adventurous wouldn't shut up. In fact, if it wasn't for my friend Statto (top right panel) I probably would have stayed at home listening to Le Tigre. As it happens, he organised us to go to The Gossip benefit gig and before I knew it...

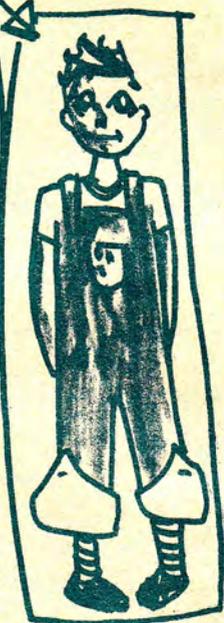


gosh.

Then the gig was Grade-A fun

↳ Lorraine from Planning 50

and Heena let us stay over at hers because we (intentionally) missed the last train (to see the Gossip). In the morning she fed us rice.



back home, I was super excited and played my guitar every day.

When I grow up I want to be a Ladyfest organiser

possibly not real direct cover

disco-disco dick sucking my heart out of my mind

↳ trying to sing + play at the same time

↳ the only things to distract me were...

↳ too lazy to get dressed

my parents getting back from holiday

look what we got you! it's 'peace' in Italian

my mum obviously bought me a massive rainbow flag. Awesome.

a job interview with... McDonalds

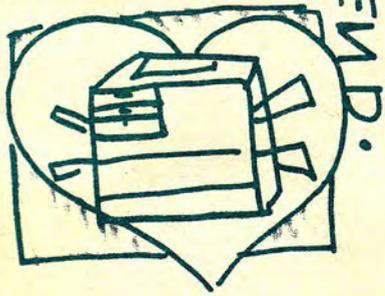
Why do you want to work for McDonalds?

↳ because I hate unions

↳ possibly not real response

and shitloads of photocopying

(the quick page of the comic. You like it deep down)



END.

So now you know why I kept badgering you to fill out one of those pesky evaluation forms. Well, it was for several reasons. We wanted to know what you thought of the programme we put on. After all, we had been working hard on it for over 12 months! And, if we can ever muster all our energy to put on something like this again, we can take your comments into account. We also wanted to know how many people came to Ladyfest Manchester, what kind of people came, whether we attracted the types of people we expected to, or whether we interested other people into coming.

We only had 55 forms returned to us. This is pretty poor, considering we photocopied hundreds! I put this down to you all being far more interested in getting involved in stuff. Most of the forms were from people who had attended workshops and panels, very few from people who were watching the gigs and spoken word stuff. I guess that's because people aren't used to filling evaluation forms out at gigs! We should have had a guestbook. At least we had the art wall, where some of you kindly put down your thoughts.

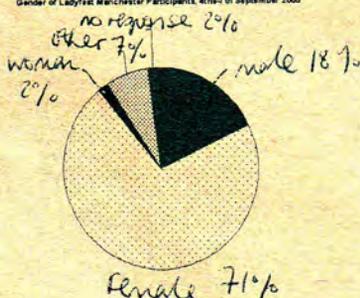
For most of the questions, we didn't include categories for people to tick, because we didn't want to pigeonhole anyone. We were also interested to see how people described themselves.

There were some design and distribution flaws. Some people didn't put down the activity attended. The examples given were workshops and panels, and this might have given the impression that the forms were just for these activities. Where we asked for marks out of 10, people didn't always put a number, they put comments. It might have been clearer if we had put a line of numbers here for people to choose from.

It was a bit ambitious to think that I could have gleaned attendance figures from the forms. We could have found this out better from the wristband numbers / tickets sold. (If we'd have thought to keep proper account of that...)

58% of you had never been to an event like this before, which means that we are reaching out to new people. 42% of you had been to an event which had similarities with Ladyfest Manchester, such as previous Ladyfests, SM conferences and works training. One person even put All Tomorrow's Parties, which was kind of flattering I think!

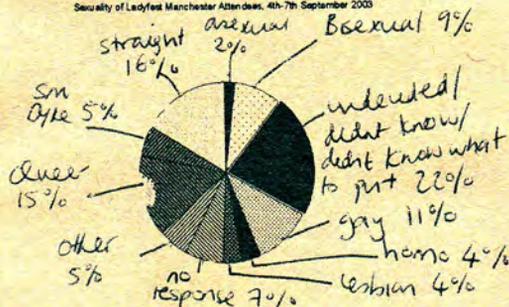
Gender of Ladyfest Manchester Participants, 4th-7th September 2003



Gender

A lot of people got 'gender' and 'sex' confused. Gender is what society perceives you as or dictates how you should act (e.g. only women and girls can wear pretty frocks, men and boys can't); sex strictly refers to your biological/ reproductive characteristics. We asked for you to give your gender rather than sex because we didn't want to dismiss your womanhood / manhood just because of the bits you were born with. There was the occasional 'undefined' and 'genderfuck' amongst us, which was good, because we wanted Ladyfest Manchester to have the kind of atmosphere where this was welcomed.

Sexuality of Ladyfest Manchester Attendees, 4th-7th September 2003



Sexuality

This is my favourite chart, because it has so many different categories. And unlike Canal Street on the weekend, straight people weren't in the majority! My favourite answer was "Burn! Burn! Burn!"



Amie Fanny
lows ya! xx

I ♥ LADYFEST MANCHESTER!

THIS WAS MY FIRST LADYFEST.
IT WAS EVERYTHING I WANTED &
NEEDED IT TO BE - AN ALL
CONSUMING, DIY, PASSIONATE,
EMOTIONAL ROCK 'N' ROLLER COASTER!
HAVING JUST MOVED TO MANCHESTER
VIA AUSTRALIA & BURNLEY (!), I
NEEDED SOMETHING TO GET MY
TEETH INTO & SOMETHING THAT
WOULD GIVE ME A RAPID INDUCTION
INTO THE QUIRKIER SIDES OF
MANCHESTER LIFE. I WENT ALONG
TO MY FIRST MEETING WITH ONLY
4 MONTHS REMAINING UNTIL SEPT
4th + FROM THERE ON IN IT WAS
GO, GO, GO!!... THE BENEFIT GIGS, THE
SLEEP DEPRIVATION, THE PAINTING 7A
BANNERS IN THE HALLWAY, THE
YUM SCRUM INDIAN FOOD, THE PAYING
FOR 20 CRATES OF BEER ON MY CREDI
CARD - IT WAS GREAT! SO THANK U
LADYFEST GIRLS + BOY FOR MAKING MY
NEW LIFE IN THIS BIG CITY SO MUCH A

IT IS HARD FOR ME TO REALLY REMEMBER LADYFEST MANCHESTER. I GUESS IT SEEMS TO BE FOR ALL OF US. MOST TIME I WROTE ANYTHING LIKE THIS IT WAS KIND OF NEGATIVE. I NEED TO START BEING MORE POSITIVE ABOUT THINGS AT THE FESTIVAL ITSELF I DID HAVE SOME REALLY GOOD EXPERIENCES DANCING ON SATURDAY NIGHT, SCREAMING FOR THE SISSYBOYZ WORKING IN THE KITCHEN WAS NICE BECAUSE I COULD JUST GET ON WITH IT + I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON. THE DRAG KING WORKSHOP WAS REALLY AMAZING FOR ME - I HAD ALWAYS WANTED TO DRESS UP AS A BOY BUT I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF. I DID OK THOUGH. PEOPLE DIDN'T RECOGNISE ME. AND I WENT TO THE BOYS TOILET, BUT I HAD MY SOCKS AND I EVEN WENT TO THE FLOOR WAS STICKY. I GUESS THAT'S WHAT'S EVEN BRING A BOY. ON THE MONDAY AFTER WE'D PACKED DOWN MY BEING MY HAIR SO I WOULD MAKE A NICER BOY + READ ITS LIKE AN INTERRUPTION ZINE. THAT WAS A GOOD THING. I LIKE THE BEST THING OF ALL ABOUT LADYFEST MANCHESTER. BUT THE MEETING EVERYONE ELSE ORGANISING IT + THE MEETING WAS WERE ALWAYS PRETTY NICE. SEEING EVERYONE WAS MISS THE MOST. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN STRANGE TO ME BECAUSE AFTER SOMETHING WHICH HAD TAKEN UP SO MUCH OF MY TIME LADYFEST FELL OUT WITHOUT REALLY LEAVING A GAP. I BECAUSE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE WHO SENT ZINES BECAUSE I AM TIME AT SENDING THEM BACK. I GUESS, MOST OF ALL, I WAS BAD BECAUSE LADYFEST + FROCK ON AMAZE + INSPIRE ME EVERY TIME I VISIT. SO IF I AM SORRY ANYONE ENJOYED LADYFEST MANCHESTER THAT MUCH THEN EVERY STRESS



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MANCHESTER

STS Touring PA equipment for your big gigs! They did us a really good deal. Tel: 0161 273 5984
Unit 103/104, 2 Hellidon Close, Ardwick, M12 4AH

MARC (Manchester Area Resource Centre) DIY publicity printing. Cheap.

28 Edge Street, Manchester M4 1HN, 0161 839 0839
info@marctheprinters.org, www.marctheprinters.org

Fred Aldous Ltd

Art and Craft store. Does charity bags of end-of-line stuff. Best to write and ask nicely. Cheaper and more exciting than a trip to Paperchase, so do pop in.

37 Lever Street, Manchester. Tel: 0161 236 4224

Moss Side Millennium Powerhouse

Youth centre, and the kind people who lent us their fantastic stage. Possible venue for your event.

140 Raby Street, M14 Tel: 0161 226 4335

GRUMPY (Greater Manchester Play Resource Unit)

You can hire / buy for cheap tonnes of art and crafty materials. Tel: 0161 223 9730

MERCi (say "murky") Manchester Environmental Resource Centre Initiative

Equipment and Resources to borrow / for hire (cameras, urns, books, magazines). Also does some ace workshops e.g. subvertising, t-shirt printing. (cont.)

22a Beswick Street, Ancoats, Manchester M4 7HR
info@bridge-5.org, Tel: 0161 273 1736

Commonword

The key to Manchester's spoken word scene. Has its pen on the literary pulse. Runs creative writing classes to suit all sorts.

6 Mount Street, Manchester 0161 832 3777
www.commonword.org.uk

Manchester Anarchist Youth / Shortcutz / Kickstart

Anarchy / squatty e'er-do-wells with tonnes of ideas for alternative stuff to do in Manchester.

www.shortcutz.org.uk
www.dosummat.org.uk
www.kickstart.x21.org.uk

Help Yourself Manchester

Ace DIY gigs, like in people's houses. Yeah. No booking fee with this lot!

www.helpyourselfmanchester.org

Mass teens on the run

Monthly riot grrrl night in Manchester with theme nites
mass_teens@hotmail.com

Us!

We're still around!
ladyfestmanchester@yahoo.co.uk

REST OF UK

Manifesta

Leeds grrrl-friendly collective who put on gigs and the monthly Pussywhipped club night.
letsgetwhipped@hotmail.com

1in12 Club

Radical infoshop, social club, caff, gig venue
Albion St, Bradford
http://www.1in12.go-legend.net/

Lembas Ltd

Sheffield-based bulk suppliers of wholefood. Cheap. They deliver to Manchester weekly. Free delivery for orders over £100.

0845 458 1585

sales@lembas.co.uk, www.lembas.co.uk

Queeruption / Ladidah

Alternative, political queer lovelies in London with fun off-shoots and siblings such as Homocrime and WAM (women's anarchist nuisance café)

www.queeruption.com

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LaDiDah

Ladyfest Bristol kids have morphed into Local Kid Games and continue with their arty antics; gigs and art in South West England

Frock On

The Cailleach Collective getting girls involved in Glasgow. 3-4 mini ladyfest-type events a year and many fun offshoots.

www.frockon.org

Youth Club Tape Club

small but perfectly formed music label / distro run by Our Friends in the South.

www.youthclubtapeclub.com

Ethical Threads

Very affordable fair trade clothing (including t-shirts for your merchandise! They print and you can order a variety of colours if you get your shit together and do it well in advance). www.ethicalthreads.org

Fingerbang Distro

"lady-made goods and d.i.y. resources" Excellent zine resource. If you are outside the UK, please e-mail first.
red_chidgey@yahoo.com,

www.geocities.com/fingerbangdistro

ladyfest birmingham

it looks like it's gonna be a winner! 9-11 July 2004
www.ladyfestbirmingham.co.uk

ladyfest northeast

ladyfestNE@aol.com

WHAT LADYFEST MANCHESTER DID NEXT...



