

Ladyfest Manchester

2003



Ladyfest Manchester is an independent, feminist-based, not-for-profit music & arts festival which aims to challenge dominant patriarchal systems and promote a DIY ethic as well as networking different communities by showcasing the musical, artistic, organisational and political activities of women.

It will take place in late summer 2003. Ladyfest Manchester will forge partnerships between a wide range of groups and individuals from all over the country with shared aims. This partnership also stretches to Europe and the States.

We plan to do this by putting on a programme of music, theatre, spoken word, visual art, workshops, panels & club nights all of which will be fronted by women. Those attending Ladyfest should not expect to be passive observers, participation is an essential part of the whole experience. Our intention is that women will leave the festival challenging patriarchal systems which influence all of our lives, and being inspired to engage in empowering activity in their own communities.

History of Ladyfest:

The first Ladyfest took place in Olympia, Washington in the United States in 2000. It was inspired by "riot grrl", a punk-driven movement from the early 1990s which introduced feminist ideas to many young women in the US and Europe.

Many women who attended the inaugural Ladyfest were inspired to hold Ladyfests in their own hometowns. As a result, Ladyfests took place all over North America in 2001 and the first Ladyfest to be held in the UK happened in Glasgow. The pattern continued the following year, with Ladyfests taking place not just in the States, but in London, Amsterdam and Belgium. In 2003, Ladyfests will take place not only in Manchester, but also in Bristol, Devon, Hamburg, France, Italy and Melbourne. A Ladyfest Indonesia is being planned for 2004.

Each Ladyfest is organised independently of the others, but there is co-operation if parties involved will benefit.

Ladyfests share some common values:

- Even though most performers, speakers and organisers of Ladyfest are women, anyone is welcome to get involved in or attend Ladyfest.
- By "woman" we mean anyone who identifies or has identified as a woman. By doing this, we want to help overcome the prejudices and discrimination which transgendered people are subjected to.

Role of Men in Ladyfest Manchester

Some workshops will be women-only to allow women to learn skills in areas traditionally dominated by men or will specifically have women in mind.

Men are welcome to get involved in the organisation and share their skills with women, but won't take leading roles in any aspect of the organisation.

Similarly, groups of performers with men will perform, as long as they consider themselves to be woman-fronted. No men-only groups will perform at Ladyfest Manchester. While Ladyfest Manchester aims to entertain, its political foundation will remain visible throughout. Without it, its effect diminishes.

In true DIY spirit, we are raising money by holding Ladyfest benefit concerts and club nights. We are also relying on partnerships with individuals and local organisations, on donations and on non-corporate sponsorship.

Both the organisation of Ladyfest Manchester and the festival itself will be an energetic networking opportunity, a chance for a wide range of groups and individuals to forge partnerships with Ladyfest Manchester and each other and to maintain them after the festival is over.

Any profits made will be ploughed back into projects which will benefit women. We hope, after the festival, others will be inspired to organise a Ladyfest in their own city.



**Want to get involved? Perform? Exhibit
your work? Run a workshop?**

E-mail: Ladyfest_manchester@yahoo.co.uk

Visit our Website:

www.ladyfestmanchester.org

**To join on our discussion group: [groups.
yahoo.com/group/ladyfest_Manchester](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ladyfest_Manchester)**

**Ring Heena on: 0161 226 0325 /
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