

**GENTLEMEN  
FEST**



*programme*

# GENTLEMANFEST



tonite proudly presents for your

Delectation and Delight,

**THE BALKY MULE** (9.30pm)  
to gently woo you and win your  
hearts right open.

**MY TWO TOMS** (8.45pm) backyard  
legends taking on the horse form  
of the apocalypse.

**VASE** (10.20pm) the purveyor  
of eloquent cool. singing and  
swinging.



**fake blood** (8.20pm) their first show since forming  
two weeks ago in a noise and flurry and a lust for  
vanilla cola.



Doing the DJ tonite is Matt Jones  
from beat combos Crescent and M<sub>o</sub>vietone, and little  
George McKenzie, Lisa Cupcake and Michal Cupid from  
tuff noiseniks Headfall.



Gentlemanfest is a benefit for  
for Ladyfest Bristol, which  
will be taking place in venues  
around Bristol between the  
14th and 17th of August 2003.

Gentlemanfest is a benefit for Ladyfest Bristol. People were like, have you heard there's going to be a Gentlemanfest? Is it someone taking the piss? Well yeah, it is. We're taking the piss out of the whole situation - the whole situation that thinks that Ladyfest is part of some kind of Battle Of The Sexes bull. We're taking the piss out of ourselves. We're taking the piss out of the whole set-up of 'gender' - the whole notion that gender is ~~anything~~ this natural-state-of-affairs - that it's not just this totally constructed idea, bi-polar opposites and nothing inbetween - that your body in some way defines yr 'gender', and that yr gender in some way should define yr life. tonite is a celebration of gentlemanliness and ladynesses as absurds - because 'gender' is absurd.

The truth is, Gentlemanfest came about because we planned a benefit show where all the bands happened to consist mostly of boys - it was a pun that kind of ran away with itself. a play-on-words - a play on the reasons behind ladyfest - a play on the fact that most gigs (most gigs in bristol in particular) are total boyfests anyway. It's just that no one points it out. It's just that most ~~men~~ people don't notice. it's already taken for granted that the music industry is a pissing contest. it's already acceptable so long as a girl's there to singthewordsorplaythekeyboards, so long as there's a Women In Rock issue every year or / so.



notice.

pissing

A bland tokenism. A lazy excuse made too often. please do not mistake ladyfest bristol for a token gesture. tonite is not a MenInRockissue anymore than it's a BattleOfTheSexists. we're not just taking the piss out of the contest, we're taking the contest out of the piss.

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# ALIEN (S)HE

- remarks -  
of a  
gentleman  
feminist....

by James Reich

Recently, a biography of Frida Kahlo - one of the ~~xxx~~ two most recognisably iconic of 20th Century painters, along with Andy Warhol - had it's cover replaced. Just like Iris Murdoch, whose image on the cover of memoirs of her was replaced by the images of actresses Kate Winslett and Judi Dench, Frida Kahlo has been replaced by the image of actress Salma Hayek. To add insult to injury, Hayek's image replaces Kahlo's within the context of one of her self-portraits, as though Hayek has forced her face through the back of the canvas. Both women have been replaced by inauthentic, seductively reconstructed versions of themselves in a Stepford Wives style necrotic exercise in anti-feminist surgery.

Unlike Frida Kahlo, Andy Warhol's face will almost certainly never be replaced by that of a 'better looking' actor. You will not find any biography of Van Gogh that has Kirk Douglas on the cover, or that superimposes him on a ~~xxx~~ 'self-portrait'. Ed Harris does not appear on the cover of any books on Jackson Pollock that I have seen.

In the twenty-first century, most men and women cannot name five female visual artists (here are six more 'famous' ones to get you started: Cindy Sherman, Barbara Kruger, Georgia O'Keefe, Yoko Ono, Romaine Brooks, Tamara de Lempicka). This is one aspect of what Ladyfest and Ladyfest Bristol is about: to redress the reality that women, girls, grrrls, indeed ladies, and pertinently those who produce art, face censorship so insidious that they may even be erased from works that propose to be about them. And hardly anyone notices.

I am a feminist because I believe that any culture based upon gender privilege is inherently weaker than one that does not use sex ~~x~~ to prohibit access to it, because I oppose the mediaeval paranoia, the Victorian biological lies, and the ~~ix~~ existential art-myths that create male cultural privilege. We live within a culture so sexually and aesthetically distorted that it takes the paedophile murder of children to get Kylie Minogue's child-like ass off the front page of our most influential newspapers, and where the fame of women depends upon the frequency of their being photographed for retro-porn or gossip based articles, for the hysteria surrounding their failures, and the vapidness of their commercial value as images, rather than as image-makers and cultural pioneers. Ladyfest demonstrates ~~x~~ that beneath the surface of this culture is a radical underground of feminist artists, musicians, poets, writers, designers, and philosophers that you may have never heard of, people with ideas, guts and integrity, people who might change your life.

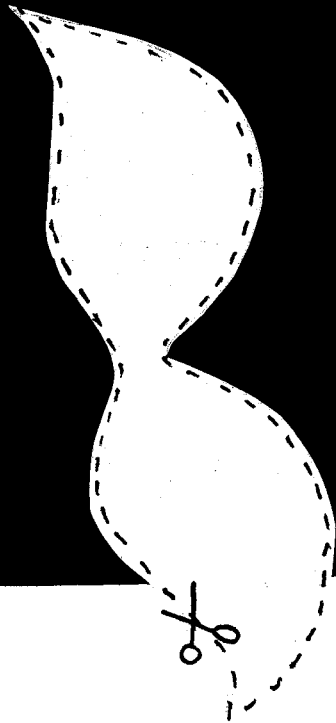
Gentlemanfest might be a funny, ironic concept, but it is also a display of the solidarity and inclusiveness that will make Ladyfest Bristol a success we can all benefit from.

james reich is a writer, and member of the  
band The Orphans.

....more information can be found at

[www.jamesreich.com](http://www.jamesreich.com)

Sophisticated



an interview with Stephen

# Vase

have

by Michael Cupitt

*Michael:* I know that riot grrrl, and Huggy Bear and in particular were quite an influence on you when you first started making music, but did the feminist stance that these bands took also have an influence on your personal ~~polit~~ politics?

*Stephen:* Yes it did, though I'd already started thinking this way. My friends at the time were quite reactionary. They were not on the same wavelength at all - they were going off going regular things - macho things - drinking and chatting up girls - following the way of their fathers.

When I discovered Huggy Bear and similar bands - what you might call riot grrrl - I felt a kinship. It was liberating feeling part of something instead of... irregular.

*Michael:* What kind of reaction did you get from your friends at the time?

*Stephen:* Well I kept my thoughts private - it ~~was~~ just all built up inside. I dealt with it very badly - I purged them all, I just stopped being their friend - I couldn't go on with this façade.

I wrote a lot of songs about it - that's how I dealt with it.

*Michael:* Do you still address these things in ~~you~~ your songs?

*Stephen:* At first, they were more angry - ~~physi~~ physically angry. More recently the music -



the words - have been more introspective rather than political. but they're inherently political - it's what's inside me, this attitude.

*Michal*: Have you been writing a lot of new songs recently?

*Stephen*: Um, not so much. I've been playing a gig a month all this year - which is a lot for me - so I've been concentrating on that... rather lazily!

I'm going to be releasing a compilation on CD of previously released songs from Vase tapes - from the five tapes i put out between 1997 and 1998 - plus one new song - a publicity stunt really, to shift more units! - and some live songs maybe.

*Michal*: Can we expect any special supprises tonite?

*Stephen*: We're going to be doing a cover version, but I think I'll keep it a suprise...

*Michal*: Is it a Justin Timberlake song?

*Stephen*: No.

*Michal*: Is it an Avril Lavine song?

*Stephen*: No. I think I'll keep it a suprise. But we'll do a few shuffles... maybe I'll put my foot on the - what's it called? - monitor!



*my songs are introspective but inherently political*



....thanks to the Cube, the bands  
& djs, Zuleika & Miranda (for  
the decor), the cake makers and  
the booty shakers....

hey...buy a raffle ticket kid.  
such cool prizes.

win a 'gentleman-kit', a lonely  
ponies lp, vase stuff, a my two  
toms cd and more.

we also got cakes and mustaches for sale...

look up your debutantes....

ladyfest bristol will be putting on the most  
fun and kickass shows in town between now and august  
august. coming soon: Sarah Dougher at the Arc Bar  
7th April, Barbara Morgenstern at the Cube 1st May,  
Katastrophy Wife at the Thekla (espionage) 24th May.

Very Informal

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Become a part of rock history.

Get yr best colouring pencils out...

Design the cover art of  
the Vase compilation CD.

Send your drawings  
or photographs to:

Hand Idiom records  
1 Deansway  
Chippenham  
Wilts  
SN15 1QY

Deadline for entries

is the end of

May 2003.

goodluck!

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# LADYFEST ★ ★ BRISTOL

2.0.0.3

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*ladyfestbristol@yahoo.com*

*August  
14th-17th*  


*ladyfest bristol, 4 Princess Row,  
Bristol, BS2 8NQ*