

The Ladypress

Official Ladyfest Leeds 2007 News
Wednesday 11th April



Hmmm.....

**What's going on
at Ladyfest?**

FREE

Let's get excited!

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Page 6 - Tonight, and for one night only, the Termite Club does Ladyfest! Claire Armstrong tells us to expect the unexpected from this experimental music night!

Page 7 - What better way to show you care than with a mix tape? Well, we couldn't think of one! Take a look at Melanie Maddison's pick of the bands you can expect to see performing at the festival, and make your own perfect Ladyfest Leeds mix tape!

MORE THINGS TO SEE TODAY

'Stitch n'Bitch' at The Art Market

Stitch n'Bitch gatherings are so called because they encourage people to get together, get creative, and have a good old natter! The Art Market in the Merrion Market (part of the Merrion Centre) will hold a Stitch n'Bitch session from 1-5pm, so bring yr sewing, knitting, embroidery, crochet and be prepared for an afternoon of tea, fabric, learning and chatting fun! Entry is free to all and all are welcome.

More info about The Art Market at <http://www.theartma.co.uk/>

'Birds eye view' film night

Ladyfest is proud to present a selection of films from the BIRDS EYE VIEW Film Festival. Starting at 7.30pm in the Carriageworks, the night will be an education in emerging women film makers and will include Abby Epstein's film 'Until The Violence Stops'

'A poignant journey into the hearts of women. In emotionally charged interviews and performances, everyday women and celebrities embrace their bodies; reconcile their past, and bond together to break the silence that surrounds abuse. More than just testimonies and performances, Until The Violence Stops is a film about empowerment and the importance of dialogue in the healing process. A celebration of women reclaiming their bodies and lives, this moving documentary leaves us with hope that change can happen.'

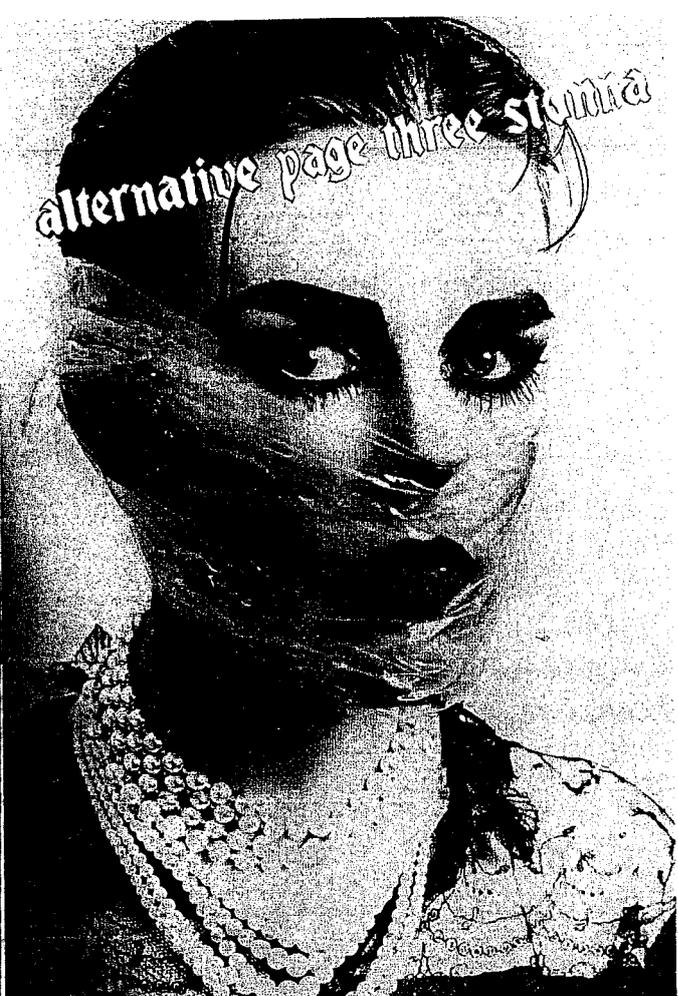
Entry is £5 (£3 conc.) or free entry with a Festival WeekendPlus Pass

more info at: www.birds-eye-view.co.uk



alternative page three stunts

LINDER S*T*er|i g.

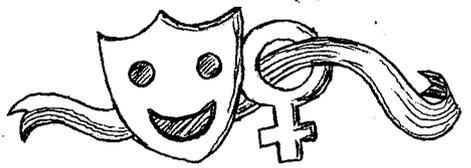


Lovely Linder is one of the ladylike lights on the boy-centric history of Manchester's music scene, as a performance artist and with her melodic pop/indie/jazz band Ludus. A visual artist, magazine editor, singer and musician, Linder lit up the late 70s and early 80s art scene like a match in a gas tank!

Linder's artworks included single covers for The Buzzcocks and albums by Magazine, often juxtaposing images of porn with photos from fashion magazines and domestic appliances. "Men's magazines were either DIY, cars or porn," she told The Guardian. "Women's magazines were fashion or domestic stuff. So, guess the common denominator: the female body. I made these peculiar jigsaws highlighting these various cultural monstrosities."

In 1982 Linder played a famous gig at The Hacienda, putting tampons stained with fake blood on every table and showing her disapproval of Bucks Fizz's Eurovision-winning, skirt-ripping dance routine by wearing a dress made of meat and tearing it off to reveal a large black dildo underneath. "Meat and tampons were supposed to represent the reality of womanhood," she said, "and the dildo was manhood, the invisible male of pornography." Wow, here's one lady who can talk dirty and make you think!

Funny females



On Thursday night Penny Broadhurst will be compering the Ladyfest Comedy Night. Penny has risen to the task of proving that yes, Feminists do have a sense of humour with a selection of some of the wittiest females around, including Isy Suttie, Jo Neary, Lou Conran and Daisy Connolly. And no, it's not all jokes about periods! The Ladypress caught up with Penny to find out what to expect...

So, a female comedy night without squirming male audience members?

I've seen a lot of female stand-ups who have descended into that trap of thinking that they must already be alienating a male audience and therefore they should only speak to the women in the audience about subjects like shoes, shopping and menstrual flow. It's OK to do a bit of that, but it doesn't interest me particularly and it alienates as many women as men. Then it perpetuates the stereotype that women a) aren't funny and b) only have a limited range of things they talk about. While I recognise there is a place for female-centric comedy about perhaps generic subjects, I wanted to show people that there was more out there. In female comedy and comedy in general, there is an alternative to the mainstream and the stereotypes.

As well as being compere, you were the curator of this night. How did you select the performers?

My criteria was people I've seen before who were very funny and I would feel passionate about when describing the show to others. The first half of the night is traditional stand-up, with jokes and talking, and the second half is character comedy and songs. There's more to live comedy than punchlines and I wanted to show that.

Is there any one in particular you are looking forward to seeing perform?

I'm looking forward to them all, but I know that Isy Suttie has written some amazing new songs. Think Victoria Wood, only younger and with an indie bent. I think she's amazing. Jo Neary's no doubt got some new characters to dazzle us too, and her singing voice is to die for. Billie Holiday, anyone?

The Comedy night begins at 7.30pm at The Carriageworks: £5 (£3 conc.) or free entry with a Festival WeekendPlus Pass

humour

Karen Constance at the 'Views From Nowhere' exhibition

In an odd universe

Ladyfest Leeds is excited and proud to present the 'Views From Nowhere' exhibition, an attempt to snapshot just some of the emerging and existing creative energies existant within and available to Leeds at present and is privileged to bring them together within the unique settings of Holy Trinity Church.

The exhibition runs from the 10th to the 14th of April and during that time will proudly showcase the paintings of Brighton based Artist, Karen Constance. Karen's stunning painted artwork represents a mystifying and odd universe. The bright and lurid colours of her work will primarily lure you in, sweet style, but it doesn't take long before the goofed out and bent content takes hold and really snatches you. You are never really sure what is going on in this place populated by acid damaged individuals, seeping wounds, 'knowing' wildlife, feral children, unknown exotic narcotics, strange skin conditions and so much more.

Karen is also performing with her experimental/noise band, Polly Shang Kuan at Joseph's Well on Saturday 14th, alongside her other band members, Moreen Farrell and Maya-Victoria Kjellstrand. The Polly Shang Kuan Band have been playing since 1999. They have a 7-inch released on Thurston Moore's Ecstatic Peace label and have an LP pending on Ultra Eczema.

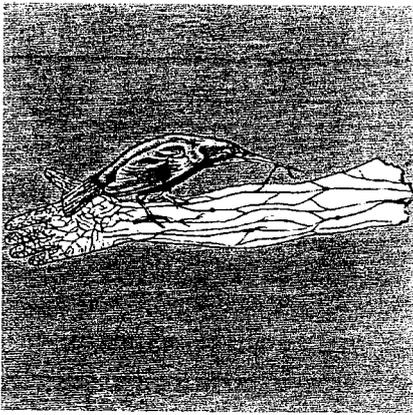
Prior to Ladyfest Melanie Maddison caught the chance to interview Karen for Colouring Outside The Lines zine about her art

Melanie Maddison: I am aware that your band, Polly Shang Kuan have played at a Ladyfest, and you are set to exhibit some of your artwork at this year's Ladyfest Leeds. How important to you are events which celebrate, and importantly, encourage female creativity and expression?

Karen Constance: I'm all for encouraging anyone to express themselves, whether its through art or music or whatever their thing is, be it male or female.

MM: Polly Shang Kuan are primarily a 'noise' band, and your artwork also tackles some quite sinister themes. Both appear to be complex and challenging. What is your view of creating such "difficult"art?





KC: I don't think of my art as challenging or difficult, if people choose to think that way when they look at them then it's whatever is going on in their minds that is setting those wheels in motion. To me my art has a lot of humour in it.

MM: You have worked collaboratively with other artists, such as the 20 double sided card prints in a handmade wallet that you made with Lauren Naylor. How does creating artwork collaboratively benefit your personal creativity?

KC: I love collaborations, I'd like to do more, I find it exciting waiting to see what the other person produces or puts over your input, I'm talking both about art and music.

MM: For me, one of the most engaging pieces you've created, which may be viewed as somewhat provocative, is the painting of a squirrel eating a baby's head....

KC: Actually these images are usually collaged together before I paint them so its not like I decide right, I'm going to paint this squirrel eating a baby's head, it came out that way because it looked good first as a collage.

MM: By creating so many paintings featuring subjects that are half human and half animal (such as human bodies with animal heads), what do you think it says about the interactions between humans and animals?

KC: never really thought about it, though now I look around at my paintings and there is a lot of human/animal content. Maybe its saying "f****" you man, from the animals point of view.

MM: To what degree do you agree that art should depict the reality and honesty of life, regardless of how 'surreal' the portrayal of it may be in your own work?

KC: Art can depict whatever it wants, that's one of the things I f****ing love about it, its like cartoons, anything can happen.

MM: What are the most enjoyable or rewarding aspects of creating art for you?

KC: I enjoy every part of it, the beginning when there's nothing on the canvas right through to knowing that was the final stroke. It's also a good feeling when someone wants to pay you for it.

Entry to this event is free! Some of Karen Constances art work will be available to buy. See the flier below for more details.

View more of Karen Constance's art at:
www.flickr.com/photos/smackmusic7
www.myspace.com/smackmusic7

Check out Polly Shang Kuan:
www.myspace.com/thepollyshangkuan-band

Ladyfest Leeds presents...
views from nowhere

Holy Trinity Church
 Boar Lane, Leeds
 Tues 10th to Sat 14th April
 10am to 3pm



- | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Karen Constance | Yohei Yashi | Bridget Haydn |
| Peripheral - works by Invigilators of the Henry | | |
| Ailsia Casper Bruce Davies Salflove Faye Edwards Holly | | |
| Madelaine Newman Nicolas Burroughs Lina Bentley Lucy Velvick Stephanie | | |
| Frances Bickerdike Gareth Griffiths Amelia Wood Wendy O'Connell | | |
| Mz Sojourn | Lauren Naylor | Kagami Shinohara |
| EXP24 | Jessica Thomas | Lotte Shaw |
| Emma Dexter | Anna Keane | Ellen Burroughs |
| Anna Peaker | Kristian Goddard | Chloe |

www.ladyfestleeds.co.uk

THE TERMITE CLUB

- TONIGHT - for one night only!!!

does Ladyfest...

Termites are a fairly homogenous bunch, you'd imagine. Trampling along and reducing wooden houses to sawdust probably leaves little room to express one's termitey individuality.

But a Leeds-based group have been demonstrating the idiosyncratic nature of the little mischief-makers for nearly a quarter of a century. Born in the improbable location of upstairs at the Adelphi (over a few pints of bitter), the Termite Club have been at the forefront of the city's experimental arts scene for 23 years.

Their original aim was straightforward enough - to provide a platform for a then non-existent alternative music scene. But the club has gone on to encompass a lot more than that and now champions a whole host of creative endeavours, including poetry and performance, as well as any music deemed 'difficult'.

The Termite Club is joining forces with Ladyfest Leeds tonight to offer experimental arts lovers a whole night of treats in the awe-inspiring locale of the Holy Trinity Church.

Here is a sneak preview of some of the weird and wonderful events planned...

7 Hertz are a jazz and folk-inspired improvisational band, playing a veritable rainbow of instruments from glockenspiel and double bass to French horn and broken glass. They recorded their first album in a disused church, so the Holy Trinity will no doubt feel like home to them.

Yaitrei ß will be performing a unique slot for Ladyfest Leeds, combining the commendable activities of music-making

and recycling. Going under the unofficial title of 'Freya and the Glass Orchestra', it promises to be a visual and aural treat, as five performers make any sounds they can out of home-made and shop-bought glass objects.

Freya told the Ladypress: "I got the idea for the glass orchestra one day when I was at a gig at Holy Trinity Church and they had candles in jam jars and as they carried them, they chinked and chimed in a magical way and the sound reverberated across the space and I thought it was really beautiful.

"For a while after that I was threatening to do a performance there on jam jars and strange Freya vocals, which I may yet do one day so be warned!

"I have worked hard the last few days and now have many interesting glass instruments that I have accumulated as "ready mades". This involved a lot of tapping on glass and shop assistants smiling at me as I arrange their glassware in pitch order! We are also going to use heaps of imagination to come up with interesting glass sounds and to make it all work.

"It will be a really special and beautiful sound experience."

Mz Sojourn - Not since Grover did his turn on Sesame Street has a dustbin lid proved so entertaining. The aforementioned musical instrument is combined with the more traditional drums, guitar and vocals to create Mz Sojourn's very own dream music and noir ballads.

Ocelocelot, otherwise known as the Termite Club's very own Mel,

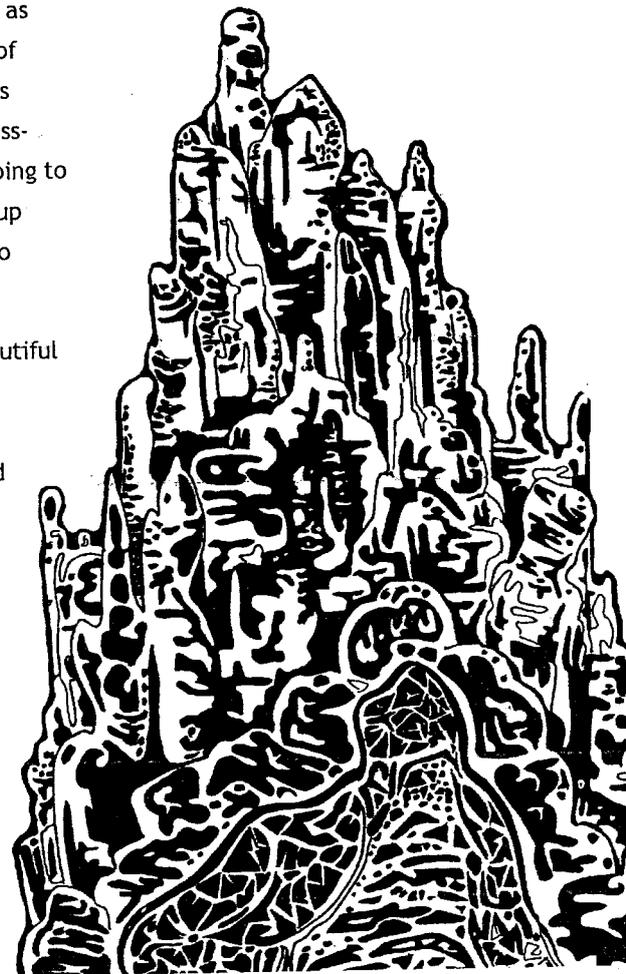
uses only shortwave radios to produce unique - and therefore unrepeatable - symphonies. The signals picked up by her kit all depend on the specific situation, so even the artist herself won't know what to expect.

Other performances include ghetto-blower wailer **Lumps**, the mushroom-obsessed **Kagami Shinohara**, crazy dancing troupe **The Pippits** and improvised guitar duo **CooperJonez**.

The Termite Club Does Ladyfest runs tonight from 7pm to 12 midnight.

Entry is £3 (or free with a Ladyfest Leeds wristband).

words - Claire Armstrong



Mixtape: C30, C60, C90 GO!

There's something ever so special about a mix-tape. As a gift from a close friend, it can't be beaten. It's probably to do with the fact that you know your friend has diligently sat through the entirety of the little cassette spooling it's brown tape around, carefully selecting a track that mixes oh-so-well from the last one. Moods shift as the tape progresses, beats get heavier, new gems are revealed to you, your friend imparts a message to you through some one else's lyrics. You discover your new favourite band.

Melanie Maddison wanted to make all of you Ladyguests that special gift of a mix-tape, but unfortunately C90s are a little hard to come by. Instead she has given you her own list of definitive Ladyfest tunes, and even a cut out cover, so go get taping!

SIDE A!!!

N.R./R.B. ()
 ON/OUVERTE OFF/FERMÉE

1. Phoebe Kreutz - The Ballad of Throat Culture

Playing on the Sunday of Ladyfest at Joseph's Well, Phoebe's track is the ultimate mixtape opener; a grin-inducing song about the fledgling band, Throat Culture, and their rise to fame. Those inspired by Ladyfest to form your own band, take note!

2. Vile Vile Creatures - City Lights

VVC play Joseph's Well on Saturday of Ladyfest. Combining clattering drums, megaphones, and quite impossibly-infec-tious basslines, this starts to feel like the best mixtape ever, right?

3. The Raincoats - Love a Loser

Lady geeks unite and rejoice in the loser-objects of your affections. There need be no trendssetters, hipsters, or purveyors of cool at Ladyfest Leeds - we are all amazing in and of our own selves. Love a loser!

4. Jean Genet - Cumon

Filthy, sordid queer hotties Helena and Bob are playing Joseph's Well on Friday evening, as well as at the Ladysquat au-tonomous space, and the Ladyfest event at SpeedQueen. This song makes hearts go boom and nipples go 'ping'. A mixtape classic that'll make you lust after them! Keyboard demos and guitars, oh it's so easy, so derivative, so simple... right?!? If so, take inspiration and go do it yourselves, that's what it's all about.

5. Hello Cuca - A Medianoche

Five tracks in, surely its time for some Spanish-language joy to make your heart rush up to meet your mouth halfway with delight and excitement. International Ladyfesters unite!

6. The Duloks - Bad Vegetarian

Seemingly channelling the voice, passion and politics of Vi Subversa, this track reminds us all that vegetarianism involves eating nothing with a face, and hey, that includes fish folks! Every good mixtape needs a fun little lecture, right?

7. Wet Dog - Cow Hide

Wet Dog show you that three ladies pick-ing up instruments can make a fantastic clattering noise, and be fabulous fun. Watch and learn and go pick up your own instruments. Wet Dog play Ladyfest on Saturday.

8. Drunk Granny - Let's get physical

Fantastic fall-to-the-ground in a dizzy-ing, dancing-frenzy sorta way. Olivia Newton John has nothing on these barmy lo-fi queers. Show them your chaotic aerobic dance moves when they play on the Sunday of Ladyfest

9. Sow Sow - Feet

Wonderful Leeds/Preston duo who have played two Ladyfest benefit events, and have customised LFLeeds t-shirts into dresses to wear onstage no less! Beautifully serene vocals make this track mixtape gold.

10. Princess Superstar - Perfect

Winner of the Leeds audience award for best independent music video screened at the Ladyfest Leeds film benefit event. Perfect!

11. The Raincoats - No One's Little Girl

A Ladyfest anthem if ever I heard one, and one of the most magical songs I know. For all those who refuse to be anyone's pet project.

12. Bonfire Madigan - Dancing Solo

Madigan's music video for this song, recorded live by Juliana Luecking, pre-miered at the Ladyfest Leeds film bene-fit event on International Women's Day. Cello-tastic!

13. Ill Ease - You Look Like Hell Tonight

The lyrics, 'I guess her life's down the tubes or there's nothing better to do, which ever one it is she says, "you've al-ways been my best friend"' make Eliza-beth-Ill Ease's track about looking out for our grrrl friends an important one on the mixx. Ill Ease played at our Brighton-based benefit event in March.

14. Motormark - We are the public

It's only right to end side a. with a song to disco your pants off to. Motormark were the stars of the first official La-dyfest Leeds benefit event and fit the dance-tastic task to a T.

LFO3

1. Phoebe Kreutz - Love in the 7th Grade

If the world was a just place, every side of a mixtape would open with a Phoebe track! And what better than one as beautifully sweet as this tale of love, aged 11?

2. Ana Da Silva - The Lighthouse

Playing solo at Ladyfest Leeds, this atmospheric song provides listeners with an eagerness to see Ana's set just as much as the Raincoats' one. A song of surprise and discovery, listening to it live Ana's album of the same name as this track might just become your new favourite (re)discovery.

3. Sky Larkin - Somersault Notes

Sunday's headliners make songs perfect for summer, so get making this tape in time for when the summer sun creeps through.

4. Shrag - Mark E. Smith

Mr Smith may not be your average feminist icon to sing about, but Shrag manage to make this delicious homage into one of the most infectious songs you could fill a mixtape with; yelping vocals, bass lines to die for, and every-

body's favourite thing - a good dose of handclaps. Shrag play the Saturday of Ladyfest Leeds.

5. The Raincoats - Pretty

Gina Birch once claimed that, 'Ana and I were doing what we wanted to do: finding our own identity as individuals in this (feminist) movement that allowed people to be people.' Pretty, or not 'pretty', blah or blah, we're all individual people who should be able to access our own identities. Thank god for The Raincoats!

6. Sailor Tongue - Hot and Cold

Played their first gig at a Ladyfest benefit, and are back to play the main festival on Friday evening. Just listening to this makes throats and vocal chords sore. Great loud shouty stuff, thrashed drums, and manic guitars performed almost as an urgent political act; just what a b-side needs.

7. Rae Spoon - White Hearse Comes

Calm yourself down after that last track with a harmonica driven treat by everybody's favourite Canadian cowboy. Rae Spoon plays Ladyfest on Sunday afternoon, and epitomises that time of day beautifully.

8. Manic Cough - London Jungle

More fun than you can shake a stick at. Fun feminists? Hell Yes.

9. Cooties Attack - Boring

This song is anything but boring, in fact this song makes up the hyperactive portion of the mixtape. Is destined to make you fling your limbs about with excitable joy! They play Ladyfest on the Friday.

10. Phoebe Kreutz - Lesbian Cowgirl

There's always room on a mix for a tear-jerker, which is what this wonderful C&W pastiche turns in to. Blub.

11. Fake Tan - Boy's Club

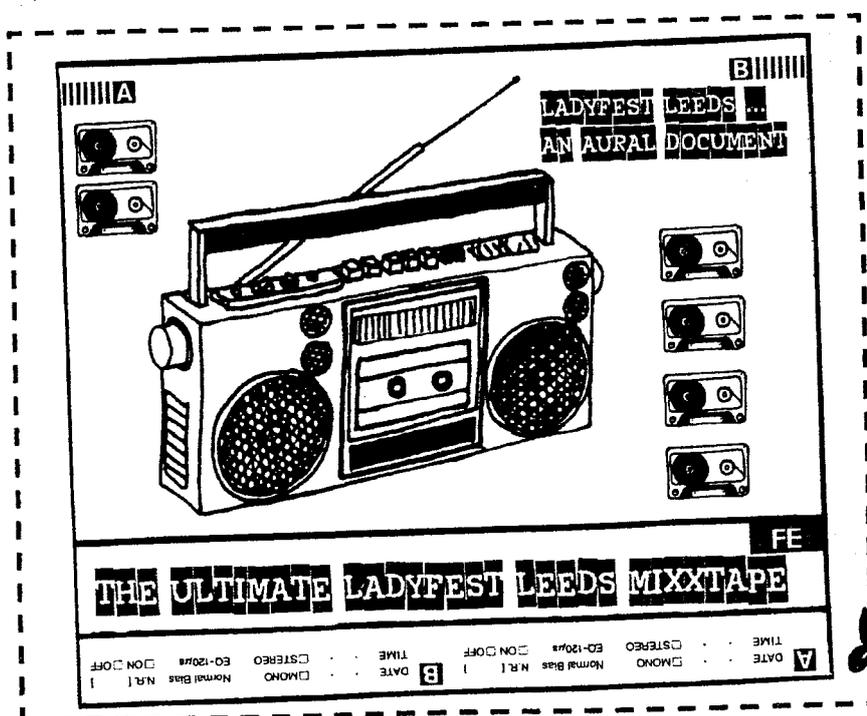
The title alone tells you all you need to know about why this song is a Ladyfest mixtape must-have. These ladies sure aint being kept outta no club; Inclusivity rules okay! Fake Tan play Joseph's Well on Saturday, making alliances and sparking excitement.

12. The Raincoats - The Void

There's some songs that I can't imagine never knowing, cuz it'd make the world a scarier place. This is one of them. I once read it claimed that The Raincoats' understanding of music was grounded more in instinctive, gut feelings than considered responses from trained ears. And if that's not inspiration and encouragement enough to put our personal gut-feelings and creativities out there, whatever our skills or competences, I don't know what is.

13. Mz Sojourn - Rockin' back inside my heart

And to end the tape, a haunting, goose-bump inducing track that'll make your neck hairs stand on end. Check out Mz Sojourn at the Holy Trinity Church as part of the Termite Club's event, and at the Ladysquat autonomous space over the weekend.



For anyone without a tape player, Ladyfest CDs are on sale from Friday at the Ladyfest stalls.