

MUSIC FASHION YOUTH THE SLAMMER IS BACK 09-04-09@09PM



“Some feelings are so apodeictically real and nothing can bring those feelings back as powerfully as music does when recalling our memory’s of good times with friends.”

I learnt late in life a valuable lesson, one that I'll share with you because its very relevant to the memories of The Slammer and the unbridled excitement on Facebook of the gig being re-launched again this coming Easter Thurs 9th April. The lesson - *“in life people don't really remember what you say to them or what you do with them, but they do remember how you made them feel”*. Like your driving test, you won't recall the instructions from that day but you'll still be able to feel your apprehension from the situation or your best concert you won't remember the song order from the night but you'll easily re-visit the excitement you shared with friends. The Slammer lives on in this manner - the way it made people feel amongst like-minded music fans from all corners of the South East of England, all buzzing on the music and collective feeling of being at something out of the ordinary that was built on the spirit of the people attending. The Slammer gigs won awards as Kent's Best Night of the Year two years running, '88 and '89, in the county press and Radio. It was widely written about in the music magazines of the time and helped launch the careers of many DJ's who are now internationally renowned including Oakenfold, Tong, Giles Peterson, Norman Jay, Westwood, The Scratch Perverts. It had an attitude that grew from an acorn of an idea into something that helped inspire the underground UK club scene which went on to sweep around the globe from Gravesend to Ibiza to Bondi to Thailand to South Africa to Hawaii to Goa to Rio and Dubai amongst the planets most exotic places as well as the less fashionable countries stretching from Poland to Russia

I know because I've seen it in those places and every time watching I knew where that seed had started - in the mid to late 80's when there was a huge shift away from the beer drinking chrome and mirror venues with tin-pot sound systems and jokey-chatty DJ's into the venues where the sound system took preference over the disco lights, the DJ's played ground-breaking music both old and new, the dress code was be 'impress', people could dance to express themselves and meet similar new people, the door-staff were there to keep people from coming in who would ruin your night - not to throw you out for dancing like your life depended on it or sneer at your individual sense of fashion. In a word it was liberation. A creative expression of liberation as a result of the era's suppressive economy. And yes, its happening again - the economy has lost its abundance and so music fans want to go out and feel free to liberate themselves from the gloom and depressive media by getting together to dance. Dance to the music that made them feel so good, with the people that felt it with them, at the venue where that very special collective seed of history began.

The Slammer is back at the Red Lion in Northfleet on the 9th April for a night that will be all about relighting those feelings and raising money for the MacMillan Charity trust on all floors. Make sure you get a ticket early because the availability is already down to half due to advance tickets having sold. I'll be in California, wishing I was there too, looking somewhat different to the Slammer originator pictured above 22 years ago so please put a step forward for me on that dance floor and raise a glass to that incredible ability to feel great together because of the joys of music. Join Terry, Lance, Lisa, Colin, Jamie, Matt and Myra and all the DJ's for a night to saviour. By Eddie Gordon