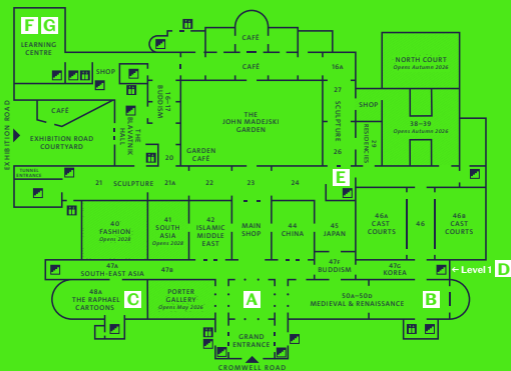


**FRIDAY**

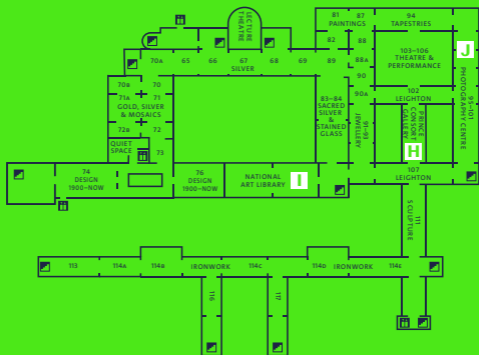


**LATE**

# Level 0



# Level 2



# LOST QUEER VENUES

Friday 24 Apr 2026

18:30–22:00

Gentrification and digital alienation have caused a closure epidemic among gay bars since the mid-2000s. A tragic loss of dedicated spaces for LGBTQ+ people to socialise, find community and express their identity – places that fostered a sense of belonging and community.

But while we commiserate these lost venues, this Friday Late celebrates the grassroots collectives and communities finding ways to save these spaces and to create new transient queer utopias in the capital.

All events are free, and places are designated on a first-come, first-served basis unless stated otherwise. Filming and photography will take place at this event.

Please note if the V&A or any of the activations reaches capacity, we will allow access on a one-in, one-out basis.

#FridayLate

A

## Queer House Party

*The Grand Entrance*

18:30–21:30

Known for beautifully chaotic parties rooted in queer joy, inclusivity and activism, Queer House Party are among the UK's most influential party starters. From lockdown livestreams to packed clubs and major festival stages, the collective delivers international sell-outs for a devoted crowd.

With community at their heart, they push for positive social change. Since 2020, DJs Harry Gay, passer, and host Taali Not Charlie have pioneered the dancefloor, showing new ways to party, connect global scenes, and amplify underrepresented voices to build inclusive nightlife spaces for all.

@queerhouseparty

**B**

## **UK Gay Bar Directory**

*Medieval & Renaissance,  
Room 50b, The Paul and Jill  
Ruddock Gallery*

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Shot over nine months in 2015-16, this film documents over 100 gay bars across 14 cities, distilling each venue's interior character and personality.

Made in response to the rapid closures of LGBTQ venues, it also highlights the consequences of endless austerity: the loss of public space and the dismantling of state infrastructure.

Hannah Quinlan and Rosie Hastings are an artist duo working in film, drawing, installation and performance exploring the relationship between public space, architecture, gender and sexual identity.

@rosiebhastings

@hannah\_quinlan

**C**

## **BGWMC**

*The Raphael Cartoons, Room 48a*  
19:45 and 21:00

Duration 20 minutes

Since 2005, BGWMC has been the heart of East London's drag and cabaret scenes—a retro fever dream venue curating tomorrow's creative agenda. Wherever the BGWMC heart pops up, you know that's where the party's at!

Performances from:

Lucinda B.Hind – an international cabaret and circus drag artist fusing burlesque and circus into a bold, genre-defying spectacle.

Jean – trash-tastic, shape-shifting, gender-bending drag alien, making costumes from discarded materials and wielding humour and hope in the face of environmental and social collapse.

Sarjana – Representing queer Asian cabaret collective The Bitten Peach, this force shaped by nature, not society, blends sensual movement and expressive storytelling to lead you on a journey of self-discovery and liberation.

PMBC – with their fluid approach to identity and creative expression, PMBC is a performance powerhouse, a deep speaker, big joker, ex-professional footballer, proud lesbian and former winner of Lipsync 1000.

@bgwmc

@misslucindabhind

@distressed\_jean

@sarjanasingh

@pbmcpresents

**D**

## **Ring the Bell**

*Medieval & Renaissance,  
Room 64b, The Simon Sainsbury  
Gallery, Level 1*

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Performance at 21:00

Drawing on the typology of religious altars, this installation honours The Bell, a legendary 1980s–90s LGBTQ+ pub in King's Cross that was a haven for alternative music, punk fashion, and radical politics. The work is a memorial and call to protect our queer spaces of congregation today. At 21:00, a eulogy by the artist's drag alter ego Divine the III will be followed by 'the last song' ritual.

Kleanthis Kyriakou is an artist, spatial designer and academic memorialising and celebrating LGBTQ+ spaces lost to gentrification and dating apps.

@kleoldn

**E**

## **...in a pool painted black**

*Room 25*

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Performance at 20:45

Using the camera's lens as a mirror on the everyday, Dani d'Ingeo's work traces the clarity and shadows of oscillating internal landscapes while interrogating the present value of vernacular documentation. This slideshow will be accompanied by a live activation by sound artist Malou van der Veld.

d'Ingeo is an Italian photographer. Their work captures the rich fabric of the queer experience from an insider point of view—the overlapping of simple mundanity, tender intimacy and underground nightlife.

@remainsofd

@malougistics

**F**

## **Out of the Box – Queer zines and print**

*Prints and Drawings Study Room,  
access from Learning Centre*

19:45–20:15

Please note this event has limited capacity. Sign up from 18:30 in Learning Centre

Join curator Danilo Marques dos Reis as we delve deep into the V&A's collections to find queer zines, prints and publications. Rooted in DIY culture, zines are a medium for artistic expression, political commentary and sharing your niche interests through small press. These archives reveal a record of the alternative queer music and club cultures of the 1980s and 90s and how community was created pre-internet. Maybe you'll be inspired to create your own in our flyer workshop (G).

@virtually\_dani

G

## Flyer workshop

*Art Studio, Learning Centre*

Drop in from 18:30–21:00

What would your ideal club night look like? You're invited to design your own club flyer using archive images from the V&A collection. This will be a space to reflect on the concept of joy, community and celebration, creatively exploring how these can be political tools for liberation.

Nan Carreira is a London-based artist working with painting, drawing and participative art. Exploring spirituality and transcendence, reinterpreting images through a queer lens, and imagining new worlds where vulnerability and self-expression are embraced, their art reflects on how everyday experience can connect us to something beyond ourselves.

@nan.carreira

**H**

## **Footnotes for Heros / The Backstreet Slideshow**

*Prince Consort Gallery*

Drop in from 18:30–21:30

Prem Sahib re-stages their 2025 works for Studio Voltaire into a new format, combining image, text, furniture, and sound. These centre around—and depart from—The Backstreet, London’s oldest and longest-running gay leather bar, which closed in 2022 after almost four decades.

Sahib’s work references the architecture of public and private spaces, structures that shape individual and communal identities, senses of belonging, alienation and confinement. Mixing the personal and political, abstraction and figuration, Sahib’s formalism is suggestive of the body as well as its absence.

@premsahib

I

## **Ghosts in the Room: Black Queer Nightlife in London**

*National Art Library*

19:15–19:45

Independent curator Shaun Wallace presents an illustrated talk exploring the history of London's Black queer club spaces from the 1980s onwards. Using photography, archival ephemera and oral histories, Wallace—creator of the 'Reunion 79–21' project, chronicling 4 decades of queer and trans London nightlife—traces these venues' functions as vital sites for performance, community and cultural expression. By recovering overlooked narratives, his work documents the creative networks that shaped Black LGBTQ cultural life, preserving the memory of spaces essential to the city's social history.

@re.union.rbqc

**J**

## **Sex, Clubs, Dissent**

*Photography Centre, Room 98,  
The Kusuma Gallery*  
20:00–20:45

What role does photography play in queer nightlife? And how does the creation of shared joy, protest, and art create sustainable networks of solidarity and resilience?

Amelia Abraham, in conversation with photographer Dani d’Ingeo and hosted by author and queer theorist Prishita Maheshwari-Aplin, explores queer nightlife, archiving space and the transformative world-making power of pleasure as presented in her new book *Sex, Clubs, Dissent: Visualising Queer Nightlife*.

@amelia.abraham

@remainsofd

@prishita\_eloise

# KEEP IN TOUCH

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 [vamuseum](https://www.soundcloud.com/vamuseum)

View photos of tonight's event on [flickr.com/fridaylate](https://www.flickr.com/photos/fridaylate/)

# ALSO ON TONIGHT

## **Schiaparelli: Fashion Becomes Art**

The Sainsbury Gallery

Discount for under 26s

# COVER ARTWORK

Cover image credit:  
Photo by Dani d'Ingeo

# CREDITS

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