

It's a Choice

WOMEN OFTEN go into stripping through *lack* of choice, as single mums or with student debts.

AND OF COURSE, young women chose lap dancing without knowing any of the negatives of the industry - so it is certainly not an informed choice.

I'd fallen for the myth that lap dancing is a good way of making a lot of money very quickly

Lucy

As a vulnerable and impressionable young female I was not aware of the damaging implications this would have upon my development and self image over the years

Anon

IN FACT, given the incessant sexualisation of women it is almost impossible for young girls *not* to aspire to be glamour models, lap dancers or porn 'stars' – emulating all their hyper sexualised role models. How is that real 'free choice'?



I thought, well, I'm a sex object anyway .. Everywhere I look I'm being told that my main source of power is my sexual power, my body is the best thing I have to offer and so to use those things in your job is empowering

Elena

I went into that job mistakenly believing that it was in some way going to be – for me as a sexual being – empowering. What I didn't realise of course is that my perception of female sexual identity was entirely framed and formed of objectification

Vicky

MOST CONCERNING of all, are the testimonies from many women that suggest a significant number of lap dancers have come from abusive family backgrounds or are in abusive relationships. This doesn't just indicate a total lack of genuine free choice but that a great many very vulnerable young women are entering into a very damaging industry.

Every dancer I met had experienced some kind of abuse in life .. emotionally, physically or sexually

Sammy

Many of the women I have met whilst working in the industry were in abusive relationships and often forced in to work and their earnings confiscated

Anon

After the first dance I was physically sick. I rang my husband and told him I wanted to come home but he said I needed to make more money before I came home

Helen

Find Out More

Sammy, Lucy, Helen. Read their testimonies and more at <http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>

Anon. Testimony submitted to Sheffield's Spearmint Rhino Licensing hearing 2018 p 584:
<http://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/documents/g6975/Public%20reports%20pack%20Tuesday%2019-%20Jun-2018%2010.00%20Licensing%20Sub-Committee.pdf?T=10>