

The Myths About Strip Clubs

“It was dehumanising and soul destroying” *Liz, ex lap dancer*

Strippers are Loaded

SOME WOMEN may make good money from stripping but performers only get £20 a lap dance, have to compete against many others for each dance, must pay to work in clubs, must buy expensive ‘House Clothes’, give a portion of takings back to the club & are fined frequently.

Strippers say they’re Empowered

SOME WOMEN may find lap dancing empowering, especially when they first start. After all, society constantly tells us that being desirable is *how* women are empowered. No *man* ever ‘got empowered’ by stripping.

“When I started, I thought I was in control .. empowered. I now see it was a form of sexual exploitation” *ex dancer, anonymous*

It’s a Choice

WOMEN OFTEN go into stripping through *lack* of choice, as single mums or with student debts and, of course, without knowing about any negatives of the industry.

You’ll Put Women out of a Job

PERFORMERS will tend to do much better financially & emotionally working in the bar or café that sets up once a strip club shuts down. Dancers are very capable, intelligent, young women isn’t it somewhat patronising to suggest they can’t get a job anywhere else?

“Some nights it is possible to actually lose money” *Lucy, ex lap dancer*

It’s Harmless Fun

RESEARCH shows that most performers are harassed, or worse, in clubs. A dozen clubs have shut in the last 2 years because of assaults, prostitution and links with trafficking. Undercover journalists reveal a catalogue of abuse. They can create ‘no go zones’ in their vicinity. And they promote hugely damaging attitudes towards women in wider society.

The Truth About Strip Clubs

“You can go in there and shop for a piece of meat” *punter*

Seven years ago strip clubs were licensed like cafes, the industry exploded and we have been dealing with the consequences ever since. They are now licensed for what they are - part of the commercial sex industry.

What is Lap Dancing? A LAP DANCE involves full nudity, exposed genitals and typically straddling punters and grinding on their laps. This often happens in private booths or cubicles.

“There’s only one reason you have a cubicle .. It’s because touching is going on and all sorts” Bristol Club Manager

So? SO even a standard lap dance tells men that they have the right and the power to buy women sexually – peddling the attitudes of Harvey Weinstein and The President’s Club.

“With all this sexual harassment stuff going around these days, men need somewhere to go where they can act like they want” *punter*

Is That All? MEN who go to clubs are often drunk & expect much more than a dance whilst the club gives the illusion that much more will be provided. At the same time women may only make good money by providing additional services. So no, often that is not all.

“Groping at a seedy lap dancing club, isn’t that what you do at a seedy lap dancing club?” Tweet by *H-male, Cheshire*

But Clubs are Regulated THE LAW is supposed to give Councils the power to say no to strip club operators but they are often cowed by a powerful industry, which thinks nothing of court action if a license is not granted or not granted on their terms.

The Unregulated Strip THE LAW allows ‘occasional’ lap dancing without any license, regulation or control. This puts performers at particular risk & turns towns like Cheltenham into ‘walk through brothels’ during race season.