

Strip Clubs: an Unfit Environment for Young Women?

To understand why lap dancing is so harmful you need to understand how the industry is set up – to maximise club profits which maximises the potential for exploitation and abuse:

Lap dancers are 'self employed' – with no employment rights (unlike all other staff, mostly male, at a strip club). They have to pay to work in clubs with many other additional fees and fines then imposed on them. On top of this, clubs pack in far too many performers to punters. This can make it hard for any woman to even make ends meet since the only money she can make is from private lap dancers –which costs just £20 and from which she then has to pay a cut back to the club.

This puts huge pressure on young women to 'provide additional services'.

This is made even worse by clubs carefully cultivating a culture that sex is available to customers who already expect much more than a 'dance'. Drugs and alcohol are rife, consumed by customers and performers alike – making women even more vulnerable. At the same time when more does happen, clubs turn a blind eye, threaten performers to keep quiet or blame the dancer and have her removed.

Taken together it is arguable that strip clubs provide a totally unfit and unsafe environment for the young women (often teenage girls) working there.

Some nights it is possible to actually lose money

Lucy

I have lost count of how many times I was touched, grabbed, assaulted physically and sexually

Sammy

What is a Lap Dance?

A lap dance is supposed to 'merely' involve full nudity and exposed genitals.

Although there is typically a 'no touching rule' and a '3 foot rule' these are almost invariably broken. Because, of course, the club has set things up so that it is often only by 'rule breaking' that dancers can actually make any money:

If one dancer starts breaking the rules the pressure is on the others. Otherwise a bloke would think, 'Well, that dancer charged me £20 and stayed 3 feet away, but that one charged me just the same and she put her breasts in my mouth and sat on my crotch'

Elena

The 3ft rule is a joke You pay someone to get naked and then grind away on your crotch

Lucy

Sexual contact becomes the norm

Vicky

A lap dance is basically paid-for foreplay

So a lap dance also involves naked young women straddling a man's lap and grinding up and down on his crotch. There's a reason it's called 'lap' dancing. If this were in a relationship the next step would be sex. And quite often it is: hand jobs, blow jobs and possibly even full blown sex either on site, particularly in private booths, or at nearby seedy hotels.

In fact through a simple press search we've found over a dozen clubs forced to close because of rule breaking over the last few years. And this, undoubtedly, only represents the tip of the iceberg¹

BIZARRELY, prior to a man paying a woman he doesn't know to strip for him, performers usually have to sit with customers, talking with them as if they were their girlfriends, often for long periods of time.

MANY women say this is the hardest part of the job 'hanging on a man's every word', acting dumb, massaging his ego, feigning interest. All the while encouraging men to buy over priced drinks – putting more money in the club's coffers.

**They wanted
a bimbo
who'd be
subordinate**

Sarah

to make any money you really have to act stupid, admire their tie, massage their ego for hours. I could never go to work as anything near myself and that becomes damaging

Elena

PSYCHOLOGICALLY it is surely also a strange combination to treat someone like your girlfriend and then expect her to strip in public for money for you (or rather carry out foreplay in public for you).

THE REST of the performers' time is spent on central podiums, with some clothing on, gyrating around a pole, in the hopes that she takes the eye of a punter who will then ask her to sit with him and strip for him for a couple of tenners. Again, she is not paid for this but is also required to do this several times an hour by clubs.

If I have a boyfriend now and he said he was going to a strip club I'd consider it an act of infidelity

Lucy

Find Out More

Strip Sleaze: Recent Incidences in Clubs

Liz, Lucy, Sarah .. All Testimonies quoted here, and more, can be seen here:
<http://www.notbuyingit.org.uk/publications#Strip>