

"STOP THINKING - Joinstart a cult - However, if you'd rather have a cult of your own, all you need is a symbol, preferably some sort of distinguishing feature of appearance (hairstarts come in useful here), and an encyclopedia of the Strange and Supernatural (oh yes, and an efficient PR person of course.)" **Survival Tip, The Health and Herpes Issue, Issue 11, 1983** "How to spot a Billy Wizz Head? Users tend to talk about their early childhood, their Gran, their inner most desires and other such gibberish that no one else is interested in. If you get caught with a group of them it can sound like a Samaritans switch-board Steven Dixon. **The Love and Romance Issue, Issue 12, 1983** "1983 is supposedly the year of 'information technology'. This glib phrase is marketing jargon for shiny junk with knobs on. Cable TV is just round the corner. You know, that means freedom of choice **Nuclear English article, The Wet a' Wild Issue Issue 13, 1983** "Right now, fourteen year olds are going to youth club dances in leather studs and straps. The style is safe as milk **Steve Dixon, The Wet a' Wild Issue, Issue 13, 1983**

## #238 A full moon always helps - DAN BEAUMONT, Disco Bloodbath

My first time at Disco Bloodbath was a pure accident. It was a Saturday night in summer 2007, and we'd been at an evening party in town. A friend was getting a cab east to go to something called Disco Bloodbath. It was on our journey home, so we shared a lift with him. Obviously, as we got nearer, we thought we'd pop in. What was going on in that dark grotty basement was an utter revelation. Disco Bloodbath is a monthly night run by three friends - Dan Beaumont, Ben Pistor and Damon Martin - that is low on trimmings but overloaded with atmosphere. They put on the sort of party that seems utterly simple in its components but which takes real canny instinct to pull off. Named after the infamous James St James memoir (now sadly out of print), Bloodbath began in the basement of a Caribbean restaurant of questionable legality. Now a roaming party, it creates its own atmosphere wherever it alights, be it a car park, football pitch or another newfound grotty basement. I should give full disclosure here: I now run a weekly party called Macho City with Dan, but I came to them as an unknown, became a fan and remain one to this day. Here are six things that make them brilliant.

1. The music is 'disco' only in that it's the right music for the right party at the right time - a quality which made disco great and which connects together certain phases in music ever since.
2. The Bloodbath boys are two parts straight to one part homosexualist: a potent disco mix.
3. There's generally a tranny or two there in some state of dishevelment.
4. Door ladies Leanne and Loulou are a maestro of pandemonium and glamour.
5. Guest DJs lured into their basement so far include Todd Terje, The Cosmic Truth, Richard Sen, Frank Tope, Nadia Ksaiba, Ben Rymer, Andy Blake, Dave Kendrick and Horsemeat's super-handsome Severino.
6. Their flyers are amazing, and are made by someone called Dan.

Oh look! Here are those Disco Bloodbath boys to answer a few questions especially for i-D...

Hi boys, how did your shared love of disco culminate in Disco Bloodbath? **Ben: Damon and me used to DJ at Dan's old bar where we'd all get a bit excited about records so we decided to put on a night. Dan: We all loved records that we just didn't get to hear in clubs so decided to do our own party where we could give them an airing. Describe each other and your relationship... Damon: Ben is really laid back and calm, while Dan and I tend to be a bit more excitable. Dan: Ben is the nicest man in disco. Damon's an evil genius. I'm basically a nightmare. What are the vital ingredients for a good night out? Ben: Great crowd, dingy venue, good music. Dan: A full moon always helps. What is your favourite Disco Bloodbath memory? Damon: There are certain special moments at each party, usually around 4 or 5 in the morning when everything - music, crowd etc - just seems to come together. What has been your favourite Disco Bloodbath venue? Damon: Our first venue Passion was in the basement of a Caribbean restaurant. It had an atmosphere that has been pretty difficult to match anywhere else and I think it really helped to define what our parties were all about. Who choose the name? Ben: The name came up in a conversation Dan and I had over a couple of beers. I'd say we've all had a long time interest/obsession with clubs and nighttime activities and the Michael Alig story captures a side of that. What do you think James St James would make of your parties today? Dan: We'd love to find out! He's always on our guestlist. How do you choose your guest DJs? Dan: Rather than book people who play specific types of music we tend to go with our gut instinct and invite people who we think will bring something special to the party and 'get' what we're doing. Describe Disco Bloodbath in five words... Ben: Screams, cowbells... Dan: ... Sweat, poppers, danger. In a dream world who would you most like to play at Disco Bloodbath and why? Damon: It's always difficult to answer these questions without resorting to the obvious clichés so I'm going to have to go for one of those clichés and say Ron Hardy. Dan: To have an actual dead person play would be quite an achievement. What do you think is the secret to Disco Bloodbath's success? Damon: The fact that we're a music led party with three residents who love what they play. Dan: Plus we have a loyal crowd who are open to different types of music and don't turn up with a set of expectations of what they want to hear. They let us lead them astray!**

**THE TOP 10 TUNES CURRENTLY ROCKING DISCO BLOODBATH'S WORLD**  
**The Aliens Sunlamp Show** The Disco Bloodbath Effect Is it big headed to put a Disco Bloodbath remix in our top ten? This is a slo-mo psychod out chugger with perfectly out of tune piano. **Doves Push Me On (Playgroup Megadub)** The Hi NRG revival continues. Suitably banging Cowley tribute. **Richard Sen & Cazbee 2Up 2Down** The perfect combination of screaming lady and stock space noises. **Kris Menace Metropolis (Day Version)** Good for warehouses and basements. **Running Channel 83 Edit** Mid-tempo sleazy funk rock with a killer guitar riff. **Idjut Boys Droid 3** Dubbed out acid genius from local heroes The Idjuts. **Wayne St John Something's Up (Love Me Like The First Time)** A proper disco banger on Salsoul. Dancefloor destroyer! **Sylvester Band of Gold Wildlife mix** The sleazy saxophone sets the tone perfectly late at night. **Leo Zero Message of Love (Glories)** Leo Elstob digs out a Freddie Mercury acapella and creates a lost classic. **Billy - No Face (Ben's Pistor & Rymer edit)** A mellow one, sounds like a Goth on a trippy beach holiday

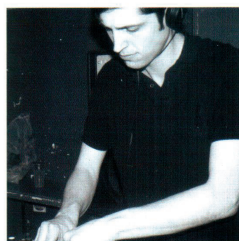
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Ben Pistor



Damon Martin



Dan Beaumont



(design clothes for people who have forgotten their clothes and are getting on with life **Katherine Hamnett, The All Star Issue, Issue 14, 1983** "Sex is good for your appetite and helps cure indigestion - the best time for sex is before breakfast and after inner. **Stephen Lizard, The Scenecase Issue, Issue 15, 1984** "i-D: Have you ever visited St Martin's Art College? St Martin: "Are you joking or what? I went spare when I heard they'd named that pit after me. In France there are five hundred villages and four thousand churches named after me" - in England I get one posy art college! **St Martin, Patron Saint of Fashion, The Enne2 Issue, Issue 16, 1984** "It's true, the sock can and does impress, even the muted pink and yellow argyles of the King's and are impressing more and more in Dalton Junction, as is the righty sock in Cowart **Gordon Dylan Jones, The Enne2 Issue, Issue 16, 1984** "With stars, stripes and bras" - bushes and slashes and wigs and dancing jigs. essential for '84. Accelerated sly-map style. We will win because the stars and hearts are in our favour and we bring you the spirit so you should find happiness **Stevie & David from Bodymag, The Language Issue, Issue 17, 1984**



## #237 Fashioning an identity that can evolve as our customers do - DAN BEAUMONT, Dalston Superstore

Positive signs for the future: rather than expand into superclub monsters, Disco Bloodbath is committed to its grotty Dalston basements, spreading its tendrils instead through remixing, re-editing and recording their own party music. Meanwhile, Dan from Bloodbath has his own offshoot project just opened in the neighbourhood. It's called DALSTON SUPERSTORE, a new bar for the gays, run with Mikki Most and Dan Pope from Trailer Trash, that is determined to push things forward as far as they can. No more converted pubs, no more hiding behind irony - Dalston Superstore takes the brilliant simplicity of the Bloodbath and Trailer Trash parties and turns it into a nightly bar. It feels like The Cock in New York or a dive in Berlin, a shop space that they've gutted, converted and moulded exactly how they want it. "I think we all felt there's a real lack of interesting bars in London," says Dan. "I love pubs but so many have become so slack and smug in recent years since the gastro" template was adopted by all and sundry. They've lost a lot of excitement. Starting with a totally raw space has meant we've been able to begin fashioning an identity that can evolve as our customers do." Adding, "Both Bloodbath and Trailer Trash have roots in slightly 'under the radar' parties and we wanted to reflect that in the feel of the venue." And so, beneath its raw concrete ground-floor bar, Dalston Superstore has its own grotty basement. Except it's got air conditioning. And an actual licensed bar. And soon it'll have its own tranny toilet. That's a toilet to be used exclusively by transies. They plan to give it a doorbell. "We want people to drop in without any expectations of what they can expect from us other than that they will have a fabulous night with a soundtrack of amazing music," says Dan. "We don't really want a million invites for nights whizzing around Facebook, we just want people to come down and see what we're doing. I love bars where you never quite know what to expect apart from a good time, and where you might see an amazingly huge DJ doing a secret gig or some local heroes on the decks - either way it's all part of the fun."

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