

NIGHT MOVES

4AM, CLUBLAND, CAMERA, FLASH, CLUBKIDS, BEARS, MESSY MAYHEM, BACKSTAGE, WHEREVER,
TO PHOTOGRAPHER **DARRELL BERRY** IT FEELS LIKE HOME



Far left: Performers A Man To Pet, Dickie Beau and Ingenue St. John tag-teaming DJing at Helen Noir's club night Film Noir, at Bar Music Hall, March 2008. "You're more likely to find these scene superstars on stage then behind the decks these days, but whatever they're doing, it's worth hunting down." Left: I Scream Sunday's at The Macbeth, July 2008. "ISS was promoted by club-land legend Buster Bennett, and like all his nights, pulled a dressed-up, friendly crowd. For some reason, 2008 was the year that the club kids reclaimed the swastika -- over the year they became a recurring theme around London. It makes me happy to see these beautiful people staring down fascism iconography at the level of street and club style." Right: Bistrottheque Annual Drag Ball, 2007 at Shoreditch Town Hall. "An amazing night -- and this is my favourite image from it. To me this says everything about the London scene when it all comes together..."



The depth, breadth and quality of Darrell Berry's images go far beyond the moniker of a 'scene photographer'. Darrell's photographs are a world apart from the endless parade of images taken at clubs and parties, they have an enduring timeless quality, that can only be achieved by a photographer who really understands the subtleties of the scene. To get pictures such as these you have to be right in the thick of the action and engaged with the situation as it unfolds around you.

A straight 40-something Australian in a suit may, at first glance, seem to be the last person you would expect to feel an affinity with East London's fashion punks and trashy trannies. But for him discovering this new queer scene was something of a homecoming. As a teenager in the 80s, back in Tasmania, he would head off to the sole local club *The Hideaway* which attracted all the art students, goths and gays under one roof. The disparate groups thrown together out of necessity and a solidarity that comes from being different in a cultural back water. "When the club closed at midnight we had to run the gauntlet of the local thugs cruising the city in their cars looking for kids to beat up."

After some time in Tokyo, where he started going out seriously (to clubs like Gold and Maniac Love) he moved to East London in the mid 90s, but it took the new disco, Shoreditch electro and new performance scenes with their supply of weird and wonderful subject matter and anything goes attitude to really get him out all night with his Nikon. He has documented the East London queer cabaret and

party scenes ever since.

The fact that Darrell is straight has never stopped him being accepted in even the most extreme clubs. "I might be straight sexually, but I hope my pictures show how these nights FELT, and that's queer, regardless of my own sexuality... its about being where you should be, whoever you are. I think people 'get' that"

The experience of documenting London's alternative queendoms such as *Disco Bloodbath*, *Film Noir*, and the *UNDERCONSTRUCTION* performance nights (to name just a few), has allowed him to fine tune his technique of working in low light. This combined with his amenable and low key approach has allowed him to capture so many engaging off guard moments from even the most image concious of East London's queer socialites. ☺

You can see more of Darrell's work on his regularly updated Flickr page [flickr.com/darrellberry](https://www.flickr.com/photos/darrellberry/) and look out for his frequent contributions to our website outtheremagazine.com/blog

WORDS BY MARTIN BERRY



Top left: Horse Meat Disco Fifth Birthday Party, 2008. "The once and future world of disco -- this could have been taken in 70s NYC or London 2050. I've had extraordinary support from the Horse Meat crew, and I was touched that they commissioned me to shoot the photos to accompany their very first CD release!" Top right: Slave to Fashion at BBB, January 2009. Middle far left: Club Foreign, Bar Music Ball, October 2007. Middle left: Disco Bloodbath, Dalston, June 2008. "Bloodbath has gone from the deepest of underground scenes to fantastic success. I still miss the early nights, in a crowded pink basement in Shacklewell so steamy with sweat that my camera simply stopped working after about an hour downstairs." Middle right: Horse Meat Disco Drag Ball, 2008. Bottom far left: Nuke Them All at Images, March 2008. Bottom left: Nando Messias at UNDERCONSTRUCTION, October 2009. "Over the past few years, UNDERCONSTRUCTION at Bistrottheque has provided a fabulous platform for emerging and established artists to present and develop performance works-in-progress -- I'm usually at the front, on the floor, with my Nikon and a pint..." Bottom right: Jonny Woo's Birthday Party, 2008. "Amidst the mayhem, some great looks..."