

Utterly
FABULOUS

Madame JoJo's

Visit Las Vegas and you will see a casino called Paris with a half height Eiffel Tower and a nightclub called 'Risqué' with a Le Folies style show. Opposite is the New York New York casino with a reproduction of the Statue of Liberty and a nightclub celebrating the famous Studio 54.

If a casino was built on the Las Vegas strip called London – the roof would be shaped like St Pauls Cathedral and the nightclub would be called Madame Jo Jos.

No other London nightclub has such a well known name and such a strong image. Jo Jo's neon sign is an iconic London landmark.

However in truth it is many years since Jo Jo managed the infamous venue as a six nights a week drag venue with the leggiest boy/girl waitress's (The famous Barbettes).

Madame Jo Jo's was, in its heyday, an adjoined show bar and piano bar taking the whole corner plot (now a seperated). Owned by Paul Raymond, it was the plaything of his daughter with Jo Jo as floor manager. Every six months a new show was choreographed, sound tracked and costumed to run six nights per week. Saturday was always a hen night crowd but Thursday and Friday in particular would always have a choice clientele of celebrities, business men and smart party people with never a spare seat. Princess Diana and Sarah Ferguson, Johnathan Ross and most of the telly darlings, Bea (Golden Girls) Arthur, Caroline (Tula) Cossey, Des Lynam and sporting friends - and thats just the people I spotted. Each and every one was personally welcomed by Jo Jo herself as she did myself on my very first weekend 'out dressed'. Jo Jo made sure everything was "just so".

Wednesday night in the Show Bar was a little less crowded and the favourite night for the Transsexuals and Transvestites to cruise the bar area. The Piano Bar upstairs was always full of trannies.

When Paul Raymond's daughter died he lost interest in the venue (too much of a reminder of his daughter and good times). The new owners "let Jo Jo go" with new ideas in mind for the venue - indie music, niche music and comedy nights. But the image of what Madame Jo Jo's was has never faded. The drag hen parties continued on Saturdays but without the scale, budget or planning of the infamous shows of the past. UNTILL NOW

Miss Paula Pure who has regularly performs for the 'wannabee wives' recently negotiated a budget with Paris the venues manager to re-create the "full on - Jo Jo's show experience". With the help of a talented team of performers (including recent WayOut Star Search winner Sarah Lee) and the costume skills of Miss Sarah Lloyd. Paula has re-created the classic Madame Jo Jo's formula complete with Barbettes who swell the shows cast in the two half hour sets. The show has received critical acclaim from both the audience and the management.

On the launch night of the show Paula was supported by many drag friends but miracle of miracles Jo Jo herself returned for the first time to witness and compliment the labour of love that Paula Pure and her team have put into re-creating the legend.

Drag Cabaret Hen nights

Every Saturday 8pm to 10pm - doors open at 7pm
Casual discounted entry standing at bar possible.
Dress code classy/disco chic/glam
Book at least 2 weeks in advance for table

Cararet Extraordinaire

First Wednesday every month
From October 2004
9pm to late

Dress code casual but classy/glam appreciated

www.madamejojoes.com 0207 734 3040
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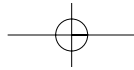
Photo with thanks to Paula Rure - The 1991 Jo Jo's 'Back to Havana' cast with Paula bottom right



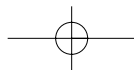
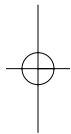
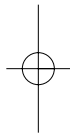
Photo with thanks to Steffan - Steffan with Jo Jo back at the venue after all those years



Photo with thanks to Rick - Miss Paula Pure launches a historic night at Madam Jo Jo's



Re-Vitalised.....



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