



**Popjustice  
@ Trash  
Palace**  
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## Unskinny Bop

**club review**

With the plethora of gay alternative nights now on offer in the capital it takes something a little special to make a club stand out. We have found such a place. Hidden in Bethnal Green, tucked away within the walls of the dubiously titled 'Pleasure Unit', lies a monthly night of queer indie-pop happenings.

Unskinny Bop was created by Ruth and Tamsin, girlfriends and resident DJs who have created a disco which is spectacularly fun and attitude free; no hipsters or fashionistas rule here. Unskinny Bops' disco politics of any shape, any outfit, and any way of dancing is all encompassing. There's no over the top posing on the dance floor, people keep their tops on and the drug of choice is alcohol. This spirit of individuality and freedom is reflected not only in the music on offer but in the way the whole club feels. The atmosphere is welcoming but also excited, people party hard at the bop and that's because the night attracts people who live and breathe the music they love.

The Bop, as it is affectionately known, is famous for its tour de force music policy, its devoted regulars and variety of now legendary theme nights. It one of those monthly clubs that a lot of people know about but haven't given a try. Experiencing the bop is like stumbling across a fantastic secret.

Not since the inception of popstarz and the days of Club V has a club managed to find a such a perfect balance between uber-indie and quality pop. The Bop, however, goes even further.

Like maggies, the DJ's pick the best songs from a host of genres: riot grrrl, 60s pop, hip hop, 70s disco, 80s hits. There's no cheese, just icons like Cass Elliot, Kate Bush and modern pop heroes like Girls Aloud and Kelly Clarkson. It's one of those clubs where you just wish the DJ's would play a duff song so you could finally go to the toilet.

As the DJ's swing from CSS to the Pipettes to, er, Lionel Richie people rejoice wildly on the dance floor. You really do feel like you're at a kick ass house party where everyone is having a great time. Obscenely fun and more than a little bit addictive, Unskinny Bop is the finest natural high.

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[www.unskinnybop.co.uk](http://www.unskinnybop.co.uk)

Every third Saturday of the month, The Pleasure Unit, 359 Bethnal Green Road, E2 6LG. 9pm-2am, no entry after midnight. £4 entry, £3 with flyer. The next Bop is 21 April.

