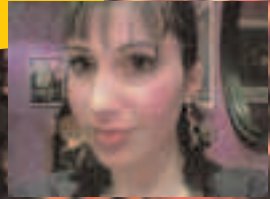


The Works

VALENTINE'S NIGHT

REVIEW BY
LAILA AL-AYOUBI &
NATASHA PATEL



We were fairly early and happily skipped the long, angry queue of people standing in the cold. "V.I.P please – we're with the magazine" and I cheekily blew a kiss to a boy that was giving us evils for going in before him.

We had to be searched before entering the Works and although the lady searching me was very nice I still felt angry. Having been underage clubbing before, I felt insulted (on behalf of all under 18's) that they weren't half as cautious with me when they thought I was an adult! At the same time however, I did feel safer knowing that I wouldn't be confronted by someone with a knife or anything like that, but they do seem to take so many more precautions with a young people. I do agree that this event should have been like that safety-wise, but they should take the same precautions with adults as well. This is part of the whole system that give young people a bad name! (That combined with newspaper headings like "Youth Yobs" etc. when some 14 year old does something wrong. If it was people in their 30's and had done something wrong you wouldn't hear anything like "troublesome adults" in the headlines would you!?)

On entering the club the base line of the music was so strong it seemed the building was vibrating with it – which gave you an instant 'into it' atmosphere. I was surprised by the huge amount of people that was there so early – it was only 7:30 pm! There were crowds of people around the entrance eagerly waiting for their friends to come

through. Me and Natasha held hands to stay connected while weeding our way through the crowd to find somewhere to sit. We thought we'd chill out a while before hitting the dance-floor – get a feel for the place...

First focusing on the music – dance music – mainly hip-hop and R&B mixes with a fierce beat. I wasn't sure who the DJ was but he was brilliant! Mixing the tunes together so well, they flowed like liquid. I had a go at DJing myself once so I guess I appreciate it more because I know how difficult it is.

The girls there seemed well confident and were very revealing clothes – mind you, in a mini-skirt and low-cut top I can't exactly say anything myself. Most of those girls had perfect legs and a gorgeous figure (note to self – go on diet!). I found the boys funny, they were blatantly putting on an act to be all J.Q Smooth. People were mainly sticking to hanging out in their groups – which was kinda intimidating. But sod it, the DJ and the Music was too good not to get up & strut my stuff...

It's a shame. With the quality of the tunes being played I'd normally be 100% going for it! Hair flipping, body rolling, arms in the air, the funky footsteps – I can't actually dance to save my life, I end up making myself look stupid but to me that's way more fun for me than dancing seriously anyway. Just letting yourself go with the music and not caring what you look like is such an uplifting feeling. There was just no damn room! There were so many people squashed into each other, all you could really do is bounce on the spot and move your arms a little. Even with that I was getting elbowed and

pushed, it's even a struggle budging past people just to get to the dance floor! Although I truly loved the music and the DJing I felt quite disappointed that I couldn't express that through dancing.

I imagined someone hurting themselves in the middle of the dance-floor and how difficult it would be to get them out of there when it was so crowded. At first I thought that The Works wasn't all that monitored, but as soon as I lit a fag in the no-smoking section I was asked to move. That's when I noticed all the bouncers and big men in aluminous yellow jackets – scary!

They had a competition there where you could win an X-box. What you had to do to win it was get on the podium and strut your stuff in front of the crowd. They decide who wins by booin, cheerin, shoutin "off off off" if they want them off the podium and "X-box" if they wanted them to win. (although 'X-box' was shouted for most of the dancers). We had some major booty shaking with some of the girls. Robot dancing, break dancing and a lot of people were dancing as if a concentrated pulse of electricity was moving around their body and they were moving it to the beat – it was amazing! I still can't believe the cheers quality of some of those dancers. A winner was picked and as well as winning the X-box they'll be dancing at the next Works event.

After an hour or so in there I started to warm up to the place & feel more comfortable there. We managed to find a tiny piece of the dance-floor that actually wasn't packed so I got my chance to make a fool out of myself dancing, which was a relief. There was a buff dancer that was on

HERE'S WHAT A FEW OTHER PEOPLE HAD TO SAY:

Message from 'Sexy J':

I love da dreamteam it's heavy, da valantines one has been da best one yet!

Message from 'Frog':

When is da next event cumin up dat is available? I fink there should be more events as they are great!

Message from 'Kelly':

Da works was wel gd last night, luvn da dance off dat boi was heavy n dat gal can shake dat booty 2 gd. Nuff buff bois der but dey all had gals. Dey need more bois ders 2 many gurls

The Works nightclub hosts a variety of events for under 18's. Tickets for all works events are available from The Works reception. For up-dates or further information on The Works visit www.workskingston.com