

REVIEW

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Elite clubbers: (from left) Scarlett Johansson with Nick Rhodes at the Adam Street Club; Christina Aguilera and Prince William favour nights organised by Tatum Mazzilli; Jade Jagger at Annabel's



LUCY MAYHEW

WHO you know is everything in the feverish world of London's clubland. To avoid the bore of long queues, the whim of a clipboard Nazi and the humiliation of paying an entrance fee (very uncool), there are six names you need to drop. But it's not the owners or the DJs who hold the power these days. Instead, it's a small group of fixers who run specific "nights" in the capital's most coveted venues.

NICK HOUSE, 31

EVERYONE wants to know more about the former Citibank trader who has been dubbed the most important crowd-mixer in London. House (he calls every female he meets "darling") is blessed with the most enviable asset in today's world of party-organising — a colossal database. He oversees 20 "nights" a week in London and has been the man behind the crowds for events hosted by the Rolling Stones and Natalie Imbruglia as well as parties for film premieres, the Mobo awards and this summer's Take That! end-of-tour bash.

So what is the coolest place in London right now? "Silver," he says, without hesitation. "Even by my standards it's off-the-scale cool. The walls are covered in gigantic silver cushions and the VIP room has beds with ceiling screens." Sienna Miller, Diane Kruger and a beefy list of royalty and rock stars are lined up to make it the venue du jour. The music will be dirtyhousehiphoprock — whatever that is.

Every Thursday to Saturday more than 7,000 people are on a Nick House guest-list somewhere across the capital. If you can't wangle your way into Silver, you could try Umbaba on Thursdays, Kensington Roof Gardens and Paper on a Friday and Mamilanjis on Saturdays.

TATUM MAZZILLI, 26

THE half-Belgian, half-Italian Mazzilli family has been dubbed the Addams Family of the fashion world. They own the outré fashion label Voyage, and friends call Tatum a "fun, wild, sexy, aristocratic nutcase". She has acted as a stylist for Johnny Depp, Christina Aguilera and Pink.

Clients soon began asking the madcap Tatum to organise their parties, so she fused her two great loves, "partying and dressing up", to create an evening called Fashion Overdose. "We target the fashion glitterati and the super-glamorous," she says. Her "nights" are held in Aura, Pangaea and Mintleaf and also St Tropez, Paris and New York. Regulars include De Niro, J-Lo, Jade Jagger and Prince William. www.fashionoverdose.net

JAMES MINTER, 36

THIS former Navy officer is behind the renaissance of the Vaults (better known as the Adam Street Club), which inspired Fagin's Den in Oliver Twist and was a hotbed for sinning thespians such as Laurence Olivier, John Gielgud and Richard Harris. "Minter has excelled where others have failed," says one Adam Street regular. "He's got exclusivity but managed to bypass snobbery."

The Vaults have been described as an "entrepreneur's oasis" for anyone trying to escape more poney W1 venues. Everyone from Stephen Fry to Scarlett Johansson has been down to the Vaults. Salman Rushdie has lectured there on free speech, and Jimmy Carr has run comedy nights. Polo-playing, party-loving Minter served in Iraq during the first Gulf War and was involved in the midnight ceremony handover of Hong Kong in 1997. After leaving the service he



Six of the best: if you want to get into the cool clubs in the city, (from left) Nick House, Tim Badham, Tatum Mazzilli, Bethany Russell, James Minter and Lilly Ladjevardi are the names to drop

Don't you know who they are? You should

Everyone wants the entrée to the club nights they organise, their little black books bulge with celebrity names, and they can spot a phoney a mile off. They're the ultimate crowd fixers

joined his father's offices on the Strand to help run the family property company but found it "dull". He then set about rekindling Adam Street. www.adamstreet.co.uk

LILLY LAJJEVARDI, 25

THIS vivacious party girl is behind the success of nights at the notoriously exclusive Mayfair club Annabel's, where she is trying to inject some

chutzpah into the society haunt. Her parents fled Iran during the revolution and settled in New York, where Lilly was educated.

After graduating in anthropology, she worked as a researcher for a US foreign policy think-tank but left when her boss was killed by a bomb in Iraq. She then apprenticed for an interior designer who did "fancy New York apartments and ostentatious country houses in the Hamptons", before travelling to India to be taught by gurus of Indian music and

native dance. "Kathak dancers were my favourite," she says. "It's all about stamping your feet and making beautiful gestures with your arms. I still use the moves when I'm on Annabel's dance floor."

Lilly is now a music consultant. "I advise people on how to build up their music libraries and hotels and public spaces on how to use music." At Annabel's she is the creative brain behind her brother Farhad's Thursday nights.

Lilly's greatest hit so far has been the five Chilean musicians who beat their drums in time to anything from Michael Jackson to Gnaris Barkley. The drumming nights have become a phenomenon. "We were aiming to create a salon-type atmosphere and the percussion brings something extra to the dance experience. These nights attract exactly the kind of diverse crowd we were after — all ages and a greater range of backgrounds than more traditional Annabel's nights."

BETHANY RUSSELL, 25

FORMER model Bethany has spent the past five years navigating London's social landscape. Much of this time was spent in places such as Boujis, Chinawhite and Pangaea. "I met some interesting people — a lot in acting, casting and directing — and I was scouted to work as a hostess for the private members' club The Hospital, in Covent Garden.

"Even though I was never a member,

ROPE TRICKS

NICK HOUSE

Tips to get into clubs: Matthew Williamson's floral prints, big hair and 1980s vintage work well at the moment
Don't say: "Come on, mate, it's a stag night and we won't pay to get in but me and the guys will buy loads of drinks."

TATUM MAZZILLI

Tips to get into clubs: The three Ss — sexy heels, sparkly studded belts and a great smile.
Don't: name-drop unless you know it's the right name. Too much tan and cheap hair extensions are a no-no.

JAMES MINTER

Tips to get into clubs: Find a pet celebrity. I've just got back from Moscow where, if you're with a celebrity, you'll instantly be swept into the VIP section.
Don't: be drunk.

LILLY LAJJEVARDI

Tips to get into clubs: Know the people who count by name.
Don't say: "Do you know who I am?"

BETHANY RUSSELL

Tips to get into clubs: Ask for the person in charge — the host of the night or manager. Quietly and kindly explain that while you're not on the list, you've heard some fantastic reviews of the place and would love to come down to have a quiet drink and a look around. Alternatively, look for the wealthiest older man in the queue, tell him you're going to give him the night of his life and bundle in with him to sit on his table and drink his champagne all night.
Don't say: "I know the owner."

TIM BADHAM

Tips to get into clubs: Get your friend to whisper in the ear of the door person that you are Robbie Williams's base player. Alternatively, wear a hat — a trilby is good at the moment.
Don't: shout, and never lift the rope and let yourself in.

the Kingly Club was always my favourite venue and I was such a regular that the director, Dezzi McCausland, suggested I officially start to draw in the crowds.

Bethany is now the girl to know if you want access to the Kingly Club. This sophisticated spot thrived in the 1960s when it was the scene of trysts between Christine Keeler and John Profumo. Today it has a more international vibe.

"Our members come from London, Stockholm and New York and I'm working on a new venue due to open in the next six weeks." Bethany vets everyone applying for membership. "I'm a good judge of character and if I'm being lied to I can sense it — there's no bull-sh**ing me." www.kinglyclub.co.uk

TIM BADHAM, 32.

BORED with the City, Badham quit four years ago knowing nothing more than that he wanted to start his own company. He spent the next four months gambling and partying in London and New York. Not wanting to restrict himself to membership of one club or pay outlandish fees for a concierge service, he decided to launch his own social-fixing company and built up relationships with clubs in London. If it's variety you want, Badham has connections with just about every bling sophisticated club in London. If you have a burning desire to be in a particular venue on a particular night, knowing Tim could be more helpful than knowing Cinderella's fairy godmother. www.innerplace.co.uk