

For immediate release

barbican

Dirty Weekend: Barbican celebrates fashion and filth with a weekend of dirty talks and sweaty nights

[Dirty Weekend](#)

Talks, screenings & events

29 – 30 November

Barbican Centre

18+

The Barbican announces Dirty Weekend – a bold, immersive celebration of fashion, rebellion, and radical self-expression. Inspired by the major new exhibition [Dirty Looks](#), this weekend-long takeover pushes ideas of sex, sweat, protest, and pleasure to the forefront through performances, talks, screenings, live art, and late-night club energy. Blending fashion and filth with unapologetic joy, Dirty Weekend invites audiences to revel in the power of style, body, and community.

Susanna Davies-Crook, Curator of Public Programmes at the Barbican, said: “Dirty Weekend transforms the Barbican into a space for connection and community, where fashion, art, and desire come together to spark conversations on identity, subculture, self-definition and resistance. With newly commissioned live performances from some of the most exciting designers pushing the boundaries of fashion, alongside curated talks, screenings, workshops and club nights, this weekend is an open invitation to explore the body and the way we inhabit and express ourselves in relation to it, in all its glorious forms. We want to welcome new voices in a shared, vibrant celebration of creativity, and artistic freedom – and underpin the urgency of shared advocacy around bodily autonomy and sexual liberation”.

Dirty Weekend is part of the Barbican’s autumn season, marking a new chapter in fashion programming. The season also features [Dirty Looks: Desire and Decay in Fashion](#), the major exhibition at Barbican Art Gallery running until 25 January 2026.

Across the weekend & beyond

[Club to Couture Installation](#)

Wed 19 Nov – Wed 10 Dec 2025

Level G

Free

Club to Couture invites audiences into an expanded archive where club culture and fashion intersect to illuminate how style has served as a language of identity, resistance and reclamation.

This free foyer exhibition showcases icons from fashion, art and music, revealing the subcultural moments that shaped them. From leather to latex, each garment and object traces how style evolves from underground communities into the mainstream, and in doing so, charts shifting codes and desires of queer and underground scenes.

As part of the Dirty Weekend Level G takeover on 29 & 30 November, an adult-only (18+) segment of the archive will be accessible, encouraging deeper engagement with the provocative intersections of fashion, sexuality and subculture.

Dirty Weekend: Level G Takeover

Sat 29 – Sun 30 Nov 2025, 12-6pm

Level G

Free

Throughout the weekend, the Barbican's Level G foyer is transformed into a vibrant exploration of desire, style and subculture, featuring an intimate installation, workshops, a fashion archive and an erotic literature and ephemera market.

Artist and filmmaker **Vex Ashley** presents **Four Chambers (18+)**, an installation combining erotic cinema and live performance. Visitors can also encounter **Club to Couture**, an archive tracing the influence of sexual subculture on fashion. Curated selections by leading figures from art, music and fashion highlight the creative dialogue between underground scenes and elevated design.

Elsewhere, **Dirty Books & Bits** brings together a market of erotic literature and objects, while workshops offer opportunities for reflection on sexuality, embodiment and connection.

For full details of the free programme, please visit [the website](#).

Saturday 29 November

Dirty Weekend Live: Di Petsa, Sinead O'Dwyer and more (18+)

Sat 29 Nov 2025, 5pm

The Pit

Tickets from £22

This evening of boundary-pushing live presentations brings together two celebrated independent designers redefining the relationship between fashion, performance and the body.

Di Petsa and **Sinéad O'Dwyer** place the body at the centre of their practice – celebrating its complexity, tactility and imperfect perfection. Through themes of wetness, leaks, intimacy and form, their work challenges conventional ideals and expands fashion's expressive potential.

Commissioned especially for Dirty Weekend, these new works bridge the gap between runway and live art, exploring gender, desire, intimacy and identity. The result is an unmissable evening that offers a fresh, embodied perspective from two of contemporary culture's most compelling voices.

Club Stamina Presents: Mina Galán + Merca Bae + CRYSTALLMESS + New York (18+)

Sat 29 November 2025, 10.45pm-3am

ClubStage, Level -1

Tickets from £12

Founded by DJ Mina Galán, Club Stamina fuses high-fashion glamour with underground club culture, connecting dancefloors from London and Paris to Bogotá and Ibiza. Described as a “cultural movement,” it serves as a platform for a new generation of trans-femme DJs and Latin club innovators, reshaping how nightlife is experienced and understood.

At the Barbican, as part of Dirty Weekend, Club Stamina arrives in step with Mina’s breakout year – headlining Glastonbury’s Genosys stage, performing for Marc Jacobs and YSL, and celebrated by Vogue, Dazed and i-D as a force redefining global nightlife. With her debut EP forthcoming, audiences can expect runway energy, uncompromising club sounds, and a night that dissolves the boundaries between fashion, identity, and music.

Sunday 30 November

Dirty Weekend: Pleasure Garden (18+)

Conservatory Takeover

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 12-6pm

Conservatory

Tickets from £8

On Sunday, the Barbican Conservatory transforms into a relaxed, setting for talks, readings, workshops and pop-up performances exploring sex, desire, intimacy and the perception of the ‘dirty’.

Across the day, six performances and readings take place on the hour, offering audiences moments of reflection, play and provocation.

A new collaboration between artist **Sophie Cundale** and author **Izabella Scott** inhabits the overlapping realms of fiction, fashion and disguise. ‘Doubles’ unfolds as a staged tableau and live reading of two interwoven texts exploring themes of facelessness, forbidden desire and transgressive play. Scott reads from her forthcoming book ‘The Bed Trick: Sex and Deception on Trial’ (Atlantic, February 2026), delving into legal and theatrical ideas of anonymity and performance, while Cundale presents ‘RED’, a work of fiction investigating the aesthetics of fantasy, airbrushing and self-invention.

Elsewhere, writer and critic **Hettie Judah**, following field research in the United States including at the Kinsey Institute, shares insights from her forthcoming project examining female desire and representation. **Ruby Rare** and other guests will also host discussions.

Dirty Weekend Keynote Panel Talk (18+)

with Vex Ashley, Helena Whittingham, Samuel Douek, Matt Skully, Adele Brydges, chaired by Dirty Weekend curator Susanna Davies-Crook

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 12.30pm

Frobisher Auditorium 1

Tickets from £11

Participants from across the Dirty Weekend and special guests join to discuss contemporary concerns around sex, intimacy, desire, policing of bodies and censorship on screen.

Together they consider rights around bodily autonomy including the intersectional fight for access to abortion and other healthcare for femme, trans and queer people. The discussion will reflect on the new moralism and the economies of technology, sex work and porn, and what wider implications this might have for the time we are living in and the direction of socio-economic agendas in the UK and beyond.

Participants include **Vex Ashley, Helena Whittingham, Matt Skully, Samuel Douek, Adele Brydges**, chaired by Dirty Weekend curator **Susanna Davies-Crook**.

HOWL X Dirty Weekend: T-shirt Screenprinting Workshop (18+)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 12.30pm

Garden Room

Tickets from £15

In this unique collaboration, sexual wellness brand **HOWL** host Dirty Weekend's Sunday workshop programme, kicking off with vintage T-shirt screen-printing. Participants can bring their own T-shirt and transform it into an iconic piece, screen-printing vintage nightclub poster designs inspired by 80s and 90s queer culture.

HOWL is a sexual wellness platform revolutionising intimacy through innovative sex tech products. They leverage the power of experiential events and their viral media channel to dismantle shame and champion pleasure.

SHINY by Content Warning (18*)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 2.30pm

Frobisher Auditorium 1

Tickets from £11

Curatorial duo **Content Warning** bring their distinctive mix of lo-fi, DIY vintage erotica to the Barbican, this time turning their lens toward the worlds of fashion and fetish.

SHINY takes audiences on a deep dive into the gleaming surfaces of 1990s and 2000s magazine-order porn VHS tapes. This screening offers a glossy, time-capsule view of fetish fashion – rubber, PVC, latex, masks and boots – drawn from the archives of underground British publishers **G&M Fashions**, producers of *Shiny International*, *Dressing for Pleasure*, *Rubberist*, and *Leather Obsession*. The result is a sartorial feast of fetishism, tracing how desire was stitched, zipped and laced into the garments of the era.

Curated by **Helena and Harlan Whittingham**, the sibling team behind **Content Warning**, the programme continues their ongoing exploration of queer, fetish and DIY erotica. Alongside their acclaimed *Late Tapes* series at the ICA in collaboration with the **UK Fetish Archive**, the pair have presented screenings at festivals including **Leiden Short Film Festival** and **London Short Film Festival**.

HOWL X Dirty Weekend: Sex in the age of AI (18+)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 2.30pm

Garden Room

Tickets from £11

A panel of industry experts and creatives tackle the question of what the future of intimacy looks like now that we have AI.

With ChatGPT offering sex advice and a revolution in new apps that offer to replace human interaction with mediated experiences including virtual partners or teledildonics, this panel asks how technology is changing the face of sex and desire. What does the future of intimacy look like as we prepare to make the next technological leap?

HOWL is a sexual wellness platform revolutionising intimacy through innovative sex tech products. They leverage the power of experiential events and their viral media channel to dismantle shame and champion pleasure.

Dirty Queers: Amelia Abraham and Bryony White In Conversation (18+)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 4.30pm

Frobisher Auditorium 1

Tickets from £11

In this uncompromising and timely conversation, writer **Amelia Abraham** and scholar **Bryony White** unpack the etymology and implications of “dirty queers,” tracing the term’s cultural lineage and exploring how queerness responds to notions of dirt, transgression and belonging

Amelia Abraham is a journalist and author from London. She writes for *Art Review*, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *Dazed*, *AnOther*, and other titles on arts, culture and more. Her books include *Queer Intentions: A (Personal) Journey Through LGBTQ+ Culture* and *We Can Do Better Than This: 35 Voices on the Future of LGBTQ+ Rights*. Her first edited photography book, *Sex, Clubs, Dissent: Visualizing Queer Nightlife* will be published in Spring 2026 by MACK Books.

Bryony White is an Assistant Professor of Theatre and Performance at the University of Warwick where her research sits at the intersection of performance studies and art history, focussing on gender and sexuality in performance and visual art. Her non-fiction book, *Dirty Queers* is forthcoming with Serpent's Tail in 2026.

Getting Intimate: Participatory Panel (18+)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 4.30pm

Garden Room

Tickets from £11

This participatory talk brings together a panel of leading practitioners to explore intimacy as both an artistic and social practice – asking what it means to connect, communicate and create with care.

In an era marked by censorship, loneliness and increasing digital isolation, the conversation turns to the urgency of intimacy, consent-forward culture and sexual freedom. While intimacy and ways of relating are rarely taught, connection remains a fundamental human need and a vital framework for how societies function.

Intimacy Coordinator **Tommy Ross-Williams** will share insights into body language, boundaries and safety, offering perspectives on how to build trust and creative collaboration through openness and care.

HOWL X Dirty Weekend: Speed Dating (18+)

Sun 30 Nov 2025, 6.30pm

Conservatory

Tickets from £5

HOWL X Dirty Weekend Speed Dating welcomes everyone for a night of new possibilities. This event is a chance to meet new friends, lovers and partners in a relaxed, inclusive setting that encourages easy conversation and a safe and playful space to explore authentic connection.

HOWL is a sexual wellness platform revolutionising intimacy through innovative sex tech products. They leverage the power of experiential events and their viral media channel to dismantle shame and champion pleasure.

ENDS

Notes to editors

For further information and interviews, please contact:

Summayah Sheikh, Communications Officer – Arts & Participation

Sumayyah.Sheikh@barbican.org.uk

Hannah Carr, Senior Communications Manager – Arts & Participation

hannah.carr@barbican.org.uk

Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), our Resident Orchestra, and a London base for the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our Artistic Associates the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Arts, Cultural and Heritage Trust](#), and [Serious](#), who produce the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), alongside other associates and partners including [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)