

South London's first gay Wedding Fair



Monday March 8th 2010

Photo by Hazel Du Preez

SOUTHWARK WILL play host to south London's first gay wedding show next month, using one of Britain's top venues to showcase the very best there is on offer for anyone planning to tie the knot, writes Kevin Quinn...

Sponsored by Laurent Perrier, it promises to be an ultra chic affair with top designer names and high-end exhibitors, handpicked by wedding experts at Dulwich's Beauberry House.

This grade II listed Georgian mansion is set in leafy Belair Park, on the edge of exclusive Dulwich Village, and has just been shortlisted as 'Best British Wedding venue' by Wedding TV.

Those attending the event could possibly get to rub shoulders with celebrity gay icons from the world of fashion and TV.

Details of who exactly will be making an appearance are being finalised, but rumours are afoot that party promoter and fashion journalist Henry Conway could be hosting the fair with drag queen du jour, friend to the stars, and hostess with the mostess Jodie Harsh.

Bauberry House has teamed up with its local paper Southwark News to stage the fair - the very first gay wedding fair to be held in south London since the Civil Partnership Act came into force over four years ago.

Despite a flood of weddings from gay and lesbian couples, there are just currently a handful of gay wedding events being held up and down the country. Also helping to organise the event is the Big Gay Wedding Directory, which successfully ran Scotland's first gay wedding fair three years ago.

Top exhibitors include Eskimo Ice, who hit the headlines after they were commissioned

by the German Embassy to build an Ice Wall to commemorate the fall of Berlin Wall and for the stunning 'Ice Chess Pieces' that were used for a globally televised giant Chess match between Russia's Karpov and the UK's Nigel Short at Trafalgar Square.

Local exhibitors include Kamera Obscura - a bespoke dress design company based in Camberwell New Road. Set up in 2003 by designer-maker Martine Abate, it offers a unique wedding dress and occasion/evening wear service tailored exclusively to the client.

Every Kamera Obscura creation is made to measure - the result of a close collaboration between client and designer. "The emphasis is on imaginative use of fabric, exquisitely cut and with details chosen to reflect the client's personality," Martine told the 'Weekender'.

"Brides-to-be come to us for a one-off wedding dress that will make them feel unique and special - so much so that they often don't just wear them on the big day, but at other social events as well," she added.

Bauberry House, with its high ceilings, enchanting chandeliers, grand staircases and stunning fireplaces, coupled with its outdoor terraces and spacious grounds, make it an ideal setting for a romantic and contemporary wedding day.

The South London Gay Wedding Fair is being held on Monday 8th March and is free for anyone to attend. It will feature a Laurent Perrier Champagne Bar. It starts at 12 noon and exhibitors will be showcasing until 8pm, with the bar open til late.

For more details contact Beauberry House on 020 8299 9788 or email info@beauberryhouse.co.uk



Henry Conway and Jodie Harsh are rumoured to be coming



DR LAYLA McCay, who runs www.gaycamberwell.com was delighted to hear that south London first gay wedding fair was happening on her doorstep.



Dr McCay only just tied the knot with her girlfriend Roz Campion on Halloween last year. They held their wedding party at the Design Museum on Shad Thames. She told the 'Weekender'. "It is great that it is happening here. It goes to show how more gay friendly south London is than people realise. Most wedding material is targeted towards heterosexual couples, although the services are usually the same. This goes to show which ones are really gay friendly."