



# **PAULA HARROWING ARCHIVE**

**(HARROWING)**

©Bishopsgate Institute  
Catalogued by Barbara Vesey, January 2019

## **HARROWING Paula Harrowing Archive 1988-2019**

**Name of Creator:** Harrowing, Paula (fl 1988-2019) activist

**Extent:** 3 Boxes

**Administrative/Biographical History:** Paula Harrowing moved to London from her native Wokingham when she was 17 to move in with her then girlfriend, feeling that London would give them the opportunity to live and be who they were. Her passion for music and dancing made for, in her own words, a thrilling introduction to the LGBTQ+ community.

Harrowing spent over 15 years working within the HIV sector, setting up an HIV/AIDS support agency called Body & Soul for women, teenagers, children and families in 1994. As Co-founder/Director, the challenge she faced was to raise awareness of those living with or closely affected by HIV/AIDS. Working with The Body Shop, Comic Relief, Children in Need and MTV helped to bring the conversation of HIV into the mainstream.

Harrowing's early personal experiences of HIV/AIDS started in the world of Queer Clubland in the early 1990s. As a Club promoter/host, she found that life began to change quite rapidly as HIV/AIDS spread throughout the LGBTQ+ community. Friends diagnosed as HIV positive were falling ill and dying. Harrowing spent four nights a week with queer people, who became 'family' over the years. Juggling her work in the clubs and at Body & Soul, she saw that much of the strongest support came from the hundreds of lesbians who cared for their queer siblings – a part of history that she feels has been erased from stories from the period such as the recent television series *It's A Sin*, which portrayed a wholly inaccurate picture of those days. Harrowing feels this is just one example of the issue of misogyny within the LGBTQ+ community.

Harrowing's work as a Clubland Promoter began while she was working as 'door bitch' at Queer Nation. She wanted to try and find a balance for queer women that was neither hard Trade techno beats nor trashy disco. She found some amazing DJs and *Sister Friction* was born. While the music was important, for Harrowing there had also to be an attitude of inclusiveness. Her club nights attracted a mix of queer women, and the flyers and advertising she produced made sure there was a real mix of queer women represented. Over the years these nights included Cruella (at the WKD Bar, Camden); The Fruit Machine (Girl Bar, VIP Area, Heaven); Queer Nation and She's Got to Have It (Gardening Club, Covent Garden); A Club Called Alice and FISH at YMCA.

**Custodial History:** Deposited with Bishopsgate Institute by Paula Harrowing, July 2022.

**Scope and Content:** Archive of activist Paula Harrowing (fl 1988-2019) including: ephemera including audio-visual materials, clothing, and printed ephemera regarding the Bowery club night held at Soho House and Teen Spirit, the youth group of Harrowing's organisation Body and Soul, a

HIV/AIDS children and family support agency [1988-2017]; papers and facsimile press cuttings regarding Body and Soul and its youth group Teen Spirit [1996-2012]; press cuttings, flyers, and correspondence regarding clubs and club nights, and media representations of lesbians and gay men; photographic materials, including photographic prints of Harrowing's own work, and postcards of the work of other photographers [1989-2016]; Emotional Learning cards box set, with commentary and questions exploring sexual identities and intimate relationships [2016]; photographic materials, publicity, and ephemera including leaflets, flyers, and tickets regarding Girl Bar club night, and publicity regarding The World club night at Home Nightclub [1994-2003]; printed ephemera including postcards, tickets, programmes, and leaflets for LGBTQ+ films and cultural events; personal colour and black and white photographic prints depicting unidentified people and events [n.d.]; press cuttings regarding Harrowing and people she was a fan of [1973-1993]; two pairs of handmade Lawler Duffy shoes [1980s-1993], (1988-2019)

**System of Arrangement:**

No further arrangement required.

**Language/scripts of material:**

English

**Access conditions:**

OPEN

**Copying conditions:**

Photocopying, scanning and digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

**Finding Aids:**

Copy of handlist available in researcher's area.

**Rules and Conventions:**

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Audio and video cassette tapes, DVDs and CDs, t-shirts, leather shoes and ephemera regarding the cultural life of Paula Harrowing. Includes items regarding the Bowery club night held at Soho House, and of Teen Spirit, the youth group associated with Harrowing's organisation Body & Soul, an HIV/AIDS children and family support agency, [c.1988-2007]

Includes:

- HARROWING/1/1 - video cassette tape, 'Miami Moist', (Planet Rapido; 48 minutes 32 sec; n.d.)
- HARROWING/1/2 - CD labelled 'Warm Up (Example) with a post-it note reading 'Live recording – please note poor sound – so cut bass up treble for best sound. Jane'
- HARROWING/1/3 - CD with sleeve labelled 'Miss Annik' (2004)
- HARROWING/1/4 - CD labelled 'the dilly canteen – lannoh – 2007.06.01 the pigalle club and CD labelled 'Emma Sulley pics'
- HARROWING/1/5 - DVD labelled 'Soho Sluts Paula'
- HARROWING/1/6 - three CDs in one sleeve, labelled respectively 'Bowery Dandies 26 May 06 jpeg files c[opyright] Nicole Heininger'; 'Bowery web page bits'; 'Bowery night 2 April 06 disc 1/2' (2006)
- HARROWING/1/7 - audio cassette tape labelled 'Sister Bliss demo' (c.1992)
- HARROWING/1/8 - audio cassette tape labelled 'Nikki Lucus 2000'
- video cassette tape, 'Spirit of Youth' – film project 'first thought of when some members of Teen Spirit took part in the LWT [London Weekend Television] youth programme "Love Bites" ... this film hopes to educate and help challenge the stigma that surrounds HIV & AIDS,' (30 minutes; 1998)
- micro-cassette tape labelled 'Fat Tony 28/2/95'
- medal (5cm in diameter) with leaves design on the front and inset 2.5-cm piece in black plastic with white script reading 'Tally Ho Bowery Dandies' with an image of

a galloping horse to the right of the words 'Tally Ho' (2006?)

- black cotton vest-type t-shirt (size M), with white 'Bowery' on the front and 'Bowery People by Instinct are Dissolutely Dandy' on the inside upper back
- white cotton t-shirt with 'Girl Bar London' in black on the front
- small flyer/card (7.5x3.5cm) for Bowery Dandies website and club night
- small white business card (7.5x3.5cm) with purple script: one side says bowerydandies.com; the other Miss Paula (four copies)

**OPEN (Digitised material can be consulted in the Researchers Area)**

**HARROWING/2 Body & Soul**

**1996-2012**

Papers and (photocopied) press cuttings regarding Paula Harrowing's organisation Body & Soul, an HIV/AIDS children and family support agency, and its youth group Teen Spirit (active 1996-2005), [1996-2012] Includes:

- published page quoting Anita Roddick regarding the first time she met Paula Harrowing and Emma Colyer, 'when they approached The Body Shop for help with the Women and Families section of Body Positive'
- press cutting, 'Family Secrets', Positive Nation (c.2000)
- press cutting, 'Huggy Bears: the country's largest family HIV centre, Body & Soul, offers children and teenagers all-round support', Positive Nation (c.2000)
- press cutting, 'AIDS Film "too controversial" for Pupils', regarding the film made by Body & Soul for young people, The Big Issue (30 November–06 December 1998)
- press cutting, 'Schools boycott screenings of young HIV sufferers' film', Independent on Sunday (13 December 1998)
- press cutting, 'Heart to heart ... Body & Soul is celebrating its first anniversary this month. Kate O'Malley spoke to its

founders', Professional Fundraising  
(November 1997)

- press cutting, 'Lessons to learn about  
AIDS and the Invisible Woman', Anita  
Roddick, Independent on Sunday (02  
February 1997)

- press cutting that begins, 'At Teen Spirit,  
up to 60 teenagers from as far afield as  
Dublin, Glasgow and even Saudi Arabia  
meet weekly to discuss everything', Time  
Out (20-27 November 2002)

- press cutting, 'Body and Soul  
commitment', Positive Nation

- press cutting, 'Girl Power: Body & Soul',  
Update

- press cutting, 'Body and Soul starved of  
funds', Time Out (25 March–01 April 1998)

- press cutting, 'Teens with HIV and AIDS  
speak out', Time Out (04-11 November  
1998)

- press cutting, 'Excuse me, what the  
bloody hell is going on?!', Positive Nation

- press cutting, 'Be Sure, Not Positive', The  
Big Issue (30 November–06 December  
1998)

- press cutting, 'Teenagers living with  
AIDS', mizz

- press cutting, 'Learning', Time Out (18-25  
March 1998)

- typescript quotes from the film 'Spirit of  
Youth', spoken by Daniella Nardini, Gary  
Olsen, Richard Blackwood, Samantha  
Janus and others (1998)

- booklet, 'The economic adversity faced by  
families and children affected by HIV in the  
UK: A report from the CWAC [Children with  
AIDS Charity] Hardship Fund 2010-2012'

- leaflet about Body & Soul (c.2000)

- stickers with cartoon drawings of four  
different characters, created by Richard  
Gent for Body & Soul (5 copies of each;  
1999)

- set of four 'Sticker Up for AIDS  
Awareness' stickers produced by The Body  
Shop working with Body & Soul and The  
Terrence Higgins Trust (10 copies)

- programme for 'Celebration of Life' event  
organised by Body Positive (23 June 1996)

- invitation to 'Celebration of Life'

- Teen Spirit booklet, with images of and quotes from HIV-positive teenagers and also patrons including Richard Blackwood, members of the bands Damage, Fierce, Shanks & Bigfoot, the cast of the musical 'Rent' and others (c.2000)
- programme for one-day conference, 'The Challenge Ahead' (17 June 1996)
- letter to Paula Harrowing from Body Positive 'writing to let you know that we no longer require your services as a Volunteer' (27 February 1996)
- three enamel badges created for Teen Spirit, one in original packaging. Two depicts two figures, the third three figures (including a child)

**OPEN**

**HARROWING/3 Clubland**

**1992-2000**

Press cutting, flyers and correspondence regarding Clubs and club nights, and media representations of lesbians and gay men [1992-2000]

Includes:

- press cutting, 'The Third Sex', Eva [magazine]
- press cutting regarding THT [Terrence Higgins Trust] Benefit night at Trade
- flyer for club night 'Unleash the Queen', 196 Piccadilly, London W1 (2 copies)
- press cutting, 'Musts + Maybes', listing various club nights; on the reverse are photos from 'Unleash the Queen' club night
- press cutting, 'The love that has learned to laugh', Evening Standard (06 July 1993)
- press release, 'Attitude II', benefit club night at Subterania, West London, in aid of Body Positive, sponsored by Phase magazine (March 1994)
- press release, 'The Slut Hut' club night at Home Nightclub, Ducie Street, Manchester
- fax to Paula Harrowing from Emma Colyer at Body Positive, regarding the success of the 'Attitude' club night at Subterania (October 1993) and the planned 'Attitude II' club night scheduled for March 1994
- letter from Emma Colyer to Paula Harrowing thanking her 'for all your help for

- the Body Positive fundraiser "Attitude II" at Subterania last week' (25 March 1994)
  - press cutting, profile of Julienne Dolphin-Wilding, furniture designer, Options (May 1990)
  - typescript article, 'Madonna: Time Share Dyke or Lesbian Icon?'
  - typescript list of advertisers in the U.S. gay press and selected quotes from various newspapers about the 'pink pound' and representations of queerness in the media (1993)
  - press cutting, 'Sisters are doing it', The Pink Paper (01 December 1995)
  - entire issue of The Pink Paper (20 December 1992)
  - invitation to Paula Harrowing to the Grand Preview Opening of Heaven (31 July 1998)
  - sticker badge reading 'Queer All Year'
  - laminated VIP ticket to Girls on the Go (3 copies)
  - club flyer/admission pass for Industria, Hanover Street, London
  - business card for Cardozo Hotel, South Beach, with letter on Cardozo Hotel stationery addressed 'Hi Miss P'
  - leaflet and VIP Pass for 'Aqua Girl 2000' festival, South Beach, Florida, (26-29 May 2000)
  - mini-flyer for Club Kali
  - flyer for Pride Launch Party, Women-only Party (18th June) signed 'Comp Miss Px'
- OPEN**

**HARROWING/4 Phase Magazine**

**1993-1994**

- Press cuttings and page proofs regarding Phase Magazine, [1993-1994]
- Includes:
- press cutting, image of Ivan Massow with caption regarding the launch of his 'new, monthly, "gay lifestyle" magazine, to be called Phase', Daily Telegraph (17 January 1994)
  - press cutting, 'New Year's gay', regarding Phase magazine, UKPG (27 December 1993/03 January 1994)
  - page proofs of Phase magazine (February 1994)



- invitation to an exhibition of photographs by Michael Roberts from the Phase Summer Fashion Issue, Freedom, 60 Wardour Street, London W1 (26 May 1994)
  - memorandum regarding the Phase Party/Exhibition
- OPEN**

**HARROWING/5 Photography**

**1989-2016**

- Paula Harrowing's photographic work, and postcards of the work of other photographers, [1989-2016]
- seven loose postcards of Harrowing's black-and-white photographs
  - twenty-nine loose postcards of Harrowing's colour photographs
  - black-and-white glossy photograph (30x21cm) of a person with a band round their outstretched palm reading 'S.O.P.H.I.E.'
  - nine pages of matte colour and black-and-white photographs (71 in total) of individuals and groups, fashion and fetish
  - eight prints (30x21cm each) and text (possibly used in Phase magazine?)
  - two uncredited colour portrait photographs
  - seven uncredited black-and-white portrait photographs
  - portrait photo postcard of Derek Jarman by Howard Sooley (1996)
  - portrait photo postcard by Rocio Samantha Mendis (Untitled, 1989)
  - portrait photo postcard of artist Sadie Lee by Sophia Chanchard Stuart (1993)
  - black-and-white photograph of Rhona Cameron by Laurence Jaugey-Paget
  - postcard/flyer for '#LondonLife: The photographic works of Paula Harrowing', Aeterna Gallery, Los Angeles (09 April–22 May 2016)
  - postcard/flyer for 'Shooting Up: A retrospective exhibition of Nightclub/Streetlife documentation by photographer P-P Hartnett (November 1995)
  - set of eighteen colour Fujifilm instant film (instax square; similar to Polaroids but smaller: 7x8.5cm each) with portraits of Sian Phillips – singly (six), with another

woman (six), that other woman on her own (four), one photo of Phillips with three others, and two photos of a young bearded man)

- copy of Beige magazine (2014)
- oversize (40x30cm) contact sheet of black-and-white photographs of two women [stored outside box]
- poster with reproduced black-and-white image of a person taken from one of Harrowing's photographs [stored outside box]

**OPEN**

**HARROWING/6 Emotional Learning Cards**

**2016**

Boxed set of 30 'contemporary art cards with commentary + questions exploring sexual identities and intimate relationships', [2016]

**OPEN**

**HARROWING/7 Girl Bar**

**1994-2003**

Flyers, invitations, photograph and publicity regarding Girl Bar club night. Also publicity for The World club night at Home Nightclub, Ducie Street, Manchester, [1994-2003]

Includes:

- leaflet including advertisement, 'Miss P Hosts Girl Bar Late' at The Gardening Club, Covent Garden
- leaflet, 'sisbro & The Girl Bar invite you to attend Freak City', WKD (23 November 1995)
- black-and-white photograph of unidentified woman smoking a cigarette and leaning forward, Micky Mouse mask atop her head, wearing black
- club flyer/postcard for Girl Bar, with black-and-white image on the front of a woman in a police helmet with belt, gun, holster and stick; the caption reads 'Madchen in Uniform'. A detail of this (the woman's face) is also used where the stamp would be on the postcard
- club flyer/postcard for Girl Bar, as above but with the message 'Looking forward to

seeing you Sunday at The Box for the return of Girl Bar'

- set of six club flyers/postcards, each with a different black-and-white image on the front, all reading 'Darling, Look forward to seeing you. Love Miss Px. Girl Bar resident DJ Funki G Kim & Carol Every Sunday from 7pm till late Women only
- set of two club flyers/postcards for Girl Bar at The Box, Seven Dials, Covent Garden, with colour images on the front
- colour photograph (20x25cm) and printout from CN Soho Live's website regarding DJ Funki G (2003)
- flyer, Girl Bar at The Fruit Machine, Heaven (c.1994)
- correspondence from Paula Harrowing to Paul Burston regarding the closing of Girl Bar (05 March 1997)
- telephone-booth style card advertiting 'Busty Blonde Bitch! No Fantasy Too Bizarre for Mistress Paula', with a phone number
- admission pass for Queer Nation, Brixton
- flyer for Queer Nation & Girl Bar presents Live PA by Joi Cardwell, at The Gardening Club, Covent Garden.

**OPEN**

**HARROWING/8 LGBTQ+ Films and Cultural Events 1989-2019**

Includes:

- postcard for The Lady Bunny at Freedom Theatre
- tickets (four) for 'The Secret Cinema'
- photocopied extract from Shakti/Awaaz, with article 'Is the customer always white!!!'
- programme for film 'I want to be a Woman'
- programme of events for 1989 Odeon Cinemas conference
- flyer for private screening of the film 'Tattoo' by Nayla el-Solh
- ticket to see Belinda Carlisle at The London Palladium (27 September 2019)
- flyer – with pink feather – for Safari-Camp, 'Cape Town's 5th Annual Queer Celebration' (19 December 1998)
- leaflet for the film 'I Want What I Want'
- information sheet for the film 'Hetero Sexual "x"'

- programme for the 15th London Lesbian & Gay Film Festival (28 March–11 April 2001)  
**OPEN**

**HARROWING/9 Personal Photographs n.d.**

Twenty-three colour and twelve black-and-white photographs of unidentified people and events, [n.d.]  
**OPEN**

**HARROWING/10 Press cuttings 1973-1993**

Press cuttings regarding Paula Harrowing and also people she was a fan of, [c.1973-1993]  
Includes:  
- press advertisement for Club Called Alice, featuring an image taken from a photograph by Harrowing, The Pink Paper (20 June 1993)  
- press cutting, 'Probe! People Who Work on the Scene', featuring an interview with 'Miss P', Boyztown (c.1993)  
- interview with actor Ian McKellen, The Times (09 June 1981)  
- press cuttings regarding tennis star Martina Navratilova (Daily Mail, 07 September 1987; The Times, 14 September 1987)  
- magazine colour A4 photograph/pin-ups of popstar David Cassidy (c.1973)  
- press cuttings regarding the murder of John Lennon (09-14 December 1980)  
**OPEN**

**HARROWING/11 Two pair of Lawler Duffy shoes c1993**

Lori Duffy and Nicky Lawler left Cordwainers College in 1989, having been commissioned to make shoes for Joe Casely-Hayford. This proved such a success that they were having to reject orders because they were making all the shoes themselves in their North London studio. Lawler Duffy went on to become one of the best-known shoe design companies, working with world-class designers including Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan and Katharine Hamnett;

Lawler Duffy shoes are sold worldwide. In the 1990s they were also known for working with the waste material Salmon Skin; the environmental impact of the fashion industry playing, then and into the 21st century, an integral role in their design approach, [c.1993]

Includes:

- pair of hand-made shoes (brogues, UK size 4) by the manufacturers Lawler Duffy, founded by two lesbians. Inner sole labelled 'Made in England. Leather Upper. Leather sole' and 'Lawler Duffy' with LD logo. Post-it note attached to the bottom of one shoe reads 'Fish Skin. Piece for Phase 1 Lesbian Couple Lawler Duffy 1980s'

- pair of hand-made suede shoes (brogues, UK size 4). Inner sole labelled 'Made in England. Leather Upper. Leather sole' and 'Lawler Duffy' with LD logo (c.1993)

**OPEN**