

A Goth Asylum Special Edition

SLIMELIGHT

1987 - 2026

The night

we made our own

Three rooms

Different kinds of darkness.

The warehouse

before the dance floors.

Mat

remembered in music and cake.

From Saturday

nights to Twitch streams.





SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

A Gift For The Night

A tyre swing by the entrance. Membership forms handed in at 3am. Portraits on a fire escape. Cakes that helped pay for sound equipment. Slimelight has dates, records and rooms enough to fill a magazine. These are the things we keep coming back to.

Before Torrens Street, there was the Kit Kat, Mak and Dette, and a gathering in a church. Then came the derelict warehouse. The

name was a joke at the Limelight's expense. It stuck.

This magazine is a gift to the people who built the place, worked its doors, carried records upstairs and found friends inside. To the listeners who kept Saturday going when the building fell silent. And to anyone arriving for the first time: welcome. There's another night ahead.



Mario Goth Asylum

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SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Slimelight Until Morning

Goth, industrial, hairspray and cake. Behind Angel station, Slimelight has kept dancers moving through the hours when the rest of London sleeps.

limelight is a club night at Electrowerkz, 7 Torrens Street, Islington. Start there. Then add membership cards, industrial records, tea, a room named after cakes and a building that once stabled London's tram horses. In 1987, Mak and Dette turned its derelict warehouse into a venue.

At first there was one dance floor, playing goth. By 1990 it was moving towards industrial; in 1991 a goth floor opened upstairs. You could change your night by climbing the stairs. Later came futurepop, EBM, aggrotech and noise. More records. More rooms.

Members signed in guests. Forms needed countersignatures. Clothes mattered. Eventually the website stated plainly that membership was optional. For years, cameras stayed out, with a few exceptions: David Hindley's fire-escape portraits, staff gig shots. Much of the early club lives on in set lists, notices and the memories of its dancers.

Ricardo Castro now leads the night, with Francesca Mendola and Steve Weeks running neighbouring rooms. The weekly Saturday stopped in 2020. Slimelight returned in 2021, then moved to a less frequent schedule. The doors still open at Torrens Street. The records keep changing.

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999, 2001–2003, 2014 and 2015 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); Noisecy, "The Oldest Goth Club in the World", 18 August 2023; Underground, 26 April 2024; i-D, 22 October 2024; Coilhouse no. 1, 2008; The Dose no. 2, 2007; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

BEHIND THE DECKS

SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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AFTER DARK

SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

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SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Rit Rat, Church, Warehouse

A goth, glam, punk and electronic party. A church gathering. A joke at another club's expense. Before Slimelight had a warehouse, it had a crowd.

imon Hobart opened the Kit Kat Club in February 1984, first at Studio One on Oxford Street, then at the Pleasure Dive. Terrorizer later called it London's first all-night club and traced Slimelight's roots to its goth, glam, punk and electronic parties. Different crowds, one room.

Accounts place the regular party in Westbourne Grove or Ladbroke Grove. Mak DJed there and met Dette.

Mak came from the squatter scene. He and Dette had no fitted bar or finished venue waiting for them. They gathered people, found spaces and took the music along.

During the summer of 1987, the gathering took place in a church. Slimelight's 2015 history places it in a disused church in High Holborn; the Tribune's family recollections

place it in a squatted church in Kilburn where Mak and Dette lived. Whether these were successive spaces or different memories of the same beginning remains unclear.

The name was a joke. The Limelight was a famous London club in a church on Shaftesbury Avenue. Add an S and you get The Slimelight.

In August 1987, according to the Tribune, Mak found the derelict building on Torrens Street and persuaded its landlord to give him six months' free rent. It had no electricity, doors or toilets. Six months to get something going.

Club histories date the first Electrowerkz night to October 1987; the Tribune remembers New Year's Eve. By the end of the year, Slimelight had its Islington warehouse.

“As the saying goes, if you can remember early Slimelight, you probably weren't there...” *Fad, Electrowerkz interview, 2021*

Sources

Terrorizer, 29 November 2010; Slimelight website, 2015 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); Islington Tribune / Camden New Journal, 18 December 2020; i-D, 22 October 2024; German Wikipedia, Kit Kat Club history; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.



SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Horses, Metal, Music

The horses came first. In the late nineteenth century, 7 Torrens Street stabled the animals that pulled London's trams. Ramps led them upstairs. Venue histories variously describe three or four floors of horses. Imagine walking them up.

In 1925 the building became a metal works, described by Islington Council as a metal plating works. Electroplating gave Electrowerkz its name. A scrap-metal business was still operating alongside the venue in its 2021–2022 histories.

By the time Mak found it, the place was derelict. His scrap interests ran to tanks, military aircraft, armoured vehicles and five yellow minesweeping submarines. Half a tube-train carriage found a home inside, becoming the courtyard bar. Mak's taste in fittings was difficult to miss.

By day, there was paintball. The 1999 website advertised 30,000 square feet across four floors, with games including Capture The Flag and Every Man For Himself. Goggles compulsory. No head shots. Until paintball ended in 2008, these

floors took paintballers by day and dancers by night.

Carsten Höller's Double Club occupied the ground floor from November 2008 to July 2009, bringing extensive refurbishment. In 2015–2016, Electrowerkz hosted the Quagmire scenes for Black Mirror's "San Junipero". Weddings, exhibitions and other promoters filled more of the calendar.

The later room descriptions list cobbles beneath a glass-roofed courtyard, bars, galleries and raised stages. The Cake Room had a low stage and an ornamental mirror. It was named after the tea and cakes Mak sold at Slimelight. Attempts to rename it the restaurant failed. Cake Room stuck.

Some of the old metal works remained behind closed doors. In 2006, a sealed room was cleared of 100 tonnes of dumped rubble and galvanic vats. Torrens Street could still deliver an industrial surprise.

Ten Lives At Torrens Street

1. Tram-horse stables, with ramps between floors.
2. Metal works from 1925.
3. Electroplating works, the source of its name.
4. Derelict warehouse in the 1980s.
5. Home to Slimelight from 1987.
6. Scrap-metal business alongside the venue.
7. Urban paintball site until 2008.
8. Ground-floor home of the Double Club, 2008–2009.
9. A film location for "San Junipero".
10. Cake Room and gallery. The restaurant rename never took.

Sources

Islington Metal Works website; Slimelight website, 1999, 2015 and 2017 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2000–2001 and 2021–2022 (archived); Islington Council, 2018 site documents; Islington Tribune / Camden New Journal, 18 December 2020; The Times, 18 November 2008; Time Out London, 17 November 2016; FilmFixer; English Wikipedia; uk.people.gothic / alt.gothic (Usenet), 2006; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

BEHIND THE DECKS

SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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AFTER DARK

GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

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SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Three Pounds, No Toilets

No electricity. No doors. No toilets. Entry to the squatted warehouse cost £3, and you brought your own drink. One floor, all goth. The flyposters declared “the only alternative”.

Just inside the entrance hung a tyre swing. Fad recalled that anyone swinging could kick new arrivals in the face. Customers and DJs did security. There was also, he remembered, an excellent chicken sandwich. Dance, dodge the swing, eat.

His crowd included punks, goths, skinheads, Rastas, cross-dressers and Japanese women in wedding dresses. Members tried to out-weird their peers. Dressing up could get competitive.

The records were changing too. In 1990 the original floor moved increasingly towards industrial. A goth room opened upstairs in 1991, leaving the first floor to industrial music. Now there were stairs between the sounds.

The Times visited in January 1993 and found Front Line Assembly and My Life With The

Thrill Kill Kult playing at mega-watt volume. Scratch-video projections spliced action films and autopsy footage across the walls and ceiling. The industrial room was loud and abrasive enough to make the paper.

Kerrang!’s weekly listings from 1994 to 1998 were brisker: goth and industrial, £6 entry or £5 for members, 11pm–7.30am. In 1995, they still instructed readers to bring their own alcohol. Saturday had a time, a price and a very late finish.

Steve Weeks became a member in 1988 and took over the goth-floor residency in the mid-1990s. In 1995, David Hindley started attending every weekend, making portraits on the fire escape to get round the camera restriction. Steve kept playing. David kept shooting.

Building work had cost the club a couple of Saturdays around 1989. By the middle of the next decade, its listings offered a dependable weekly appointment: two musical rooms and a night that stretched to breakfast.

“Back then the place was regularly akin to some satanic Mardi Gras as members sought to out-weird their peers.” *Fad, Electrowerkz interview, 2021*

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999 and 2001–2002 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); i-D, 22 October 2024; Evening Standard, 28 October 2023; The Times, 30 January 1993; Kerrang!, weekly listings, 1994–1998; San Francisco Bay Times, 28 January 1993; Terrorizer, 29 November 2010; Steve Weeks’s Mixcloud page; David Hindley, Coilhouse no. 1, 2008; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.



SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Two Signatures, One Night

The membership card originally got the club around licensing laws so it could stay open all night. The Kit Kat had used a members-and-guests system. Slimelight followed suit. Getting a card meant finding people willing to sign beside your name.

A card cost £10. Two members or staff had to countersign the form. Pick it up at the reception hatch; hand it in between 1.30am and 3.30am. Each member could bring two guests. No advance or postal joining, although renewals could go by post to Electrowerkz II, Torrens Street.

Rumours of an entrance test drew an emphatic denial from the website. Forgotten cards cost extra. Replacements, expired memberships and renewals all had their own charges. Even regulars forget their paperwork.

The York pub was a suggested place to find a signer. The UK Goth Mini-FAQ recommended befriending a member outside the entrance, provided you looked the

part. Most people, other advice said, simply went straight to the club.

The Gazette described the dress code in 2003 as black, cyber or punk clothing. By 2021, the club explained that you did not need an extravagant outfit: black clothes and a visible connection to the alternative scene would do. Membership had become optional, as the website stated in 2014.

Cameras were another matter. From 1995, David Hindley made portraits on the third step of a fire escape. In 2012, Vice reported that a DJ/promoter was asked to photograph only in the toilets. Staff gig shots appeared in the club's online gallery, but the dance floors remained largely unphotographed.

Later venue terms allowed refusal or ejection for unauthorised recordings. Photography was still being discussed by clubgoers in 2026. That year's Halloween listing was firmer about another item: bring physical ID.

What Entry Cost

Year	Recorded price
1987	£3 entry.
1994	£5 members, £6 otherwise, in Kerrang!'s listing.
1995	£5 members, £6 otherwise, in Kerrang!'s listing.
1999	Standard entry: £5 members, £8 guests.
2000	New Year's Eve: £10 members, £15 guests.
2002	New Year's Eve: £10 members, £15 guests.
2014	£5 members, £8 non-members.
2021	Birthday club-only entry: £8 members, £16 non-members.
2022	Four Floor Frenzy: £15 members, £20 guests.
2024	£10 members, £20 otherwise, in i-D's report.
2026	Halloween advance: £10 members before 23:00, £15 guests; door £17/£22.

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999–2004, 2014 and 2015 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); Dave H, UK Goth Mini-FAQ, 2004; uk.people.gothic / alt.gothic (Usenet), 2010; Islington Gazette, 11 December 2003; David Hindley, Coilhouse no. 1, 2008; Clive Martin, "A Big Night Out with... London's Goths!", Vice UK, 17 July 2012; Kerrang!, weekly listings, 1994–1995; i-D, 22 October 2024; Slimelight Linktree, 12 October 2026; Resident Advisor, Halloween 2026 listing; r/LondonGothIndustrial and other Reddit communities.

BEHIND THE DECKS

SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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Slimelight night, 15 August 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Goth Upstairs, Industrial Below

In 1990, industrial music was taking over the original floor. Goth got an upstairs room in 1991. The building had space for different speeds and loyalties. Pick a room. Stay there, or try the stairs.

The 1999 website described one floor as goth, darkwave and related, stretching from the Sisters of Mercy and Siouxsie to Depeche Mode, Laibach, Skinny Puppy and VNV Nation. The industrial floor offered Ministry, Front 242, Die Krupps, KMFDM and Cubanate, plus the Prodigy, Underworld and harder techno-like noise. Plenty of crossover in each.

The industrial floor also promised considerably less smoke than the goth room. Finding your way through the floor numbers was harder: the website's dance-floor names and building levels did not always match.

A third dance floor was licensed in March 2001. The goth and darkwave room moved there in May, opening with Irish Dave as special guest. By 2003, traditional goth was upstairs,

progressive goth and EBM in the middle, with an industrial-techno ground floor for specials.

Terrorizer's 2010 visit found goth and the tube bar at ground level, EBM in the middle and noise at the top. In 2015, the website advertised two regular floors: darkwave and traditional goth in one; EBM, electro, TBM, aggrotech and futurepop in the other. Noise got an occasional third room.

Then there were the late sets. Steve played Duran Duran, OMD, Soft Cell, Kraftwerk and Visage. Novelty closers included Flintstones, Scooby Doo, Roobarb and Custard, and Banana Splits. Wolfsheim became "Once In A Slimelight". At the end of a severe night, a cartoon tune could still get its turn.

Today, classics fill Francesca Mendola's Goth Room. Steve Weeks's Club Arena ranges through futurepop, synthpop, aggrotech, EBM and dark techno. Ricardo Castro's Dark Room brings current tracks and guest DJs. There are still stairs to try.

On The Decks, 1999

Goth, darkwave and related: Sisters of Mercy, Siouxsie, Laibach, Sex Pistols, Depeche Mode, NIN, Garbage, Skinny Puppy, VNV Nation.

Industrial and related: Ministry, NIN, Die Krupps, Front 242, FLA, KMFDM, Cubanate, Fear Factory, Prodigy, Underworld.

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999, 2001–2003 and 2015 (archived); Empires and Dance, Steve Weeks's website; Terrorizer, 29 November 2010; Underground, 26 April 2024.



SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Crits, Licences, Broken Decks

In January 1997, Islington Council closed the upstairs goth floor without notice: its fire exit did not comply with regulations. Goth moved downstairs. The club borrowed more than £40,000 for fire-safety works, but the old room was licensed for only 40 people and never reopened in that form.

Petitions could not bring it back. Further work would cost a six-figure sum. The room was still upstairs, but dancers could no longer use it.

On 16 February 1999, Mak announced a licensed bar, opening four days later. Bring-your-own alcohol ended after more than ten years. The new bar had to close at 2am, followed by 20 minutes' drinking-up time. The dance floors would keep going long after that.

Mak's notice had the dry humour of someone facing a bill. A bar at last. Now to sort out the hours.

Smaller disasters followed. Fake flyers in 2000 promised free entry and a back-to-basics music policy without the club's authority. A CD deck failed. Amplifiers cut out. Three drunken outsiders disrupted the DJ box in 2001. Even slimelight.com slipped away before the club recovered the domain in April 2003.

In December 2003, the council granted a licence allowing the venue to stay open until morning every night, despite residents' noise objections. An acoustic consultant was required. The Gazette put the result on its front page.

The building had more surprises. Clearing a sealed room of dumped rubble and galvanic vats cost a reported £30,000 in 2006. Crossrail 2 safeguarding caused alarm in 2015, before Time Out clarified that the venue was not threatened. In 2018, the council listed the Torrens Street site for redevelopment.

Fire works, bar hours, broken decks, noise complaints. Between Saturdays, there was plenty to fix.

“Any creative legal advice on this subject would be most welcome, or a gift of £250,000 would be an alternative to being involved in the UK's bizarre licensing laws.” Mak, *Slimelight Management notice*, 16 February 1999

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999–2003 (archived); Islington Gazette, 11 December 2003, preserved on Usenet; uk.people.gothic / alt.gothic (Usenet), 2003 and 2006; “Night club panic”, 15 June 2006, publication unidentified; Time Out, 16 November 2015; Islington Council, 2018 redevelopment documents.

BEHIND THE DECKS

GRIP night, 19 February 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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GRIP night, 18 December 2025, Photo: @no.one.studio.london

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Voices

Wedding dresses, septum rings, paperwork and records. The people who came, the people who stayed, and the writers who tried to keep up.



SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo:
@no.one.studio.london

“It's the last bastion of goth” *San Francisco Bay Times*, 28 January 1993

“The end of an era at the Slimelight... Wot no Bar? Not anymore.” *Mak, Slimelight Management*, 16 February 1999

“Contrary to rumour, there is not a test that you have to take!!!” *Slimelight membership page*, 2001–2004

“The Slimlight has been and (mostly) remains the sleaziest, scuzziest and sometimes the most vibrant club in London, for going on two decades now.” *Freq*, 2003

“GOTHS' HAUNT WINS LATE NIGHT BATTLE” *Islington Gazette front page*, 11 December 2003

“assuming you look the part, it's generally easy to get signed in by befriending a member at the entrance” *UK Goth Mini-FAQ*, uk.people.gothic, 2004

“in an alley, in a very industrial-looking building with no sign at all. Well, the sign says *ELECTROWERKZ*; it's a paintball club during the week.” *Nancy Kilpatrick, The Goth Bible*

Voices

“tattered wedding dresses are a familiar sight at the Slimelight, the 90s equivalent of the Batcave”
Gavin Baddeley, Goth Chic

“By 1995, I was hooked, going to Slimelight was more of a lifestyle than a night out.” **David Hindley, Coilhouse no. 1, 2008**

“Slimelight, a weekly combination of goth, darkwave and futurepop that attracts punters like a giant magnet made of septum rings.” **Time Out London, 17 November 2016**

“32 years, 26 as a colleague” **Steve Weeks on Mak, Islington Gazette, 21 December 2020**

“Mak was like my holy Goth father to everything and over the years he has inspired Voodoo to mutate and grow with the times.” **Larry London, Electrowerkz interview, 5 May 2021**

“Actually all of us at TG were regulars at Slimelight at different times, it's such a rite of passage within the London alt community.”
Charlotte TG, Electrowerkz interview, 2 June 2021

“I came from Sardinia in the early 1990s because I'd read about the club in fanzines” **Francesca Mendola, Evening Standard, 28 October 2023**

Sources

San Francisco Bay Times, 28 January 1993; Slimelight website, 1999 and 2001–2004 (archived); Freq, The Legendary Pink Dots review, 2003; Islington Gazette, 11 December 2003 and 21 December 2020; Dave H, UK Goth Mini-FAQ, 2004; uk.people.gothic / alt.gothic (Usenet); Nancy Kilpatrick, The Goth Bible, undated extract; Gavin Baddeley, Goth Chic, undated extract; David Hindley, Coilhouse no. 1, 2008; Time Out London, 17 November 2016; Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); Evening Standard, 28 October 2023.



SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Bands Before Breakfast

S In May 1998, Mega-goth Friday put Killing Miranda, Revolution By Night and Passion Play on the bill. More Fridays followed: Sensorium, Chaos Engine, Surface 23, then Sisters of Murphy and Attrition. The club had a stage as well as decks.

Suicide Commando played a Dependent Records night in February 2001, with guest DJs Ronan and Mark of VNV Nation. That year also brought Christian Death, Converter, Venetian Snares, TechnoAnimal and the Crüxshadows. A crowded calendar, and a lot of different ways to make a racket.

Apoptygma Berzerk's "Harmonizer" launch and And One at Easter followed in 2002. The Legendary Pink Dots played upstairs in November 2003, returning in later years. Nitzer Ebb appeared in July 2006. VNV Nation's exclusive October show sold out.

Later Flag Promotions gigs included free aftershow club admission. See the band, stay for the records. For the 27th birthday in 2014, the night expanded to Modulate live, three floors, two goth rooms, a ball pit and the courtyard tube-train bar.

New Year's Eve was always a Slimelight night, whatever day it fell on. Birthdays filled the calendar after reopening: Zero Day Festival joined the 35th in November 2022; Soman featured at the 36th in November 2023. Halloween season brought extra nights around the later six-weekly schedule.

Recent bills have included Qual, Rein, Faderhead, j:dead, Mechanical Vein and Dead Cool. The live room still gives dancers a reason to arrive early.

Selected Nights

- 8 May 1998: Killing Miranda, Revolution By Night, Passion Play.
- 11 September 1998: Sisters of Murphy and Attrition.
- 23 October 1999: Ultraviolence, I.O.N and Max Dmyz.
- 10 June 2000: Slimelight Club Night at Wave-Gotik-Treffen, Leipzig.
- 31 December 2000: New Year's Eve, 9pm–7.30am.
- 10 February 2001: Suicide Commando and a Dependent Records night.
- 1 November 2003: The Legendary Pink Dots.
- 25 September 2004: Tuxedomoon and Attrition.
- 8 July 2006: Nitzer Ebb.
- 21 October 2006: VNV Nation, sold out.
- 6 September 2008: 32Crash with Jean-Luc De Meyer.
- 11 October 2014: Slimelight's 27th birthday, with Modulate.
- 25 April 2015: Suicide Commando and DKAG.
- November 2022: The 35th birthday with Zero Day Festival.
- 18 November 2023: The 36th birthday with Soman.
- 4 May 2024: Faderhead, j:dead and Mechanical Vein.
- 29 November 2024: Dead Cool live.

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999–2002, 2006, 2014–2015 and 2017 (archived); Freq, *The Legendary Pink Dots* review, 2003; Songkick, Nitzer Ebb listing, 8 July 2006; uk.people.gothic/alt.gothic (Usenet), concert listings; Elektro Vox, birthday coverage, 2022; Underground, 26 April 2024; i-D, 22 October 2024; r/LondonGothIndustrial and other Reddit communities; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

BEHIND THE DECKS

SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



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SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

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A woman with curly blonde hair, heavy black eye makeup, a nose ring, and large hoop earrings is the central figure. She wears a black leather corset and long black gloves, holding a clear glass. She has a large, colorful tattoo on her right shoulder. The background is a dimly lit club with red lighting and other people in goth attire.

SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Who Makes The Rooms?

Steve Weeks

Steve became a member in 1988. He recalls replacing Scottish Mark on the goth floor in late 1994; his Mixcloud page dates the residency to January 1995. Other summaries give around 1996, while club pages count six years in 2001 and seven in 2002. He also played level two around 1996–2000, sang with Restoration II, Revolution By Night and DKAG, and ran websites preserving notices and set lists.

When the weekly night stopped, he started streaming from his kitchen. Two Twitch channels followed, one for each usual dance floor. Now he runs the Club Arena, selecting records across futurepop, synthpop, aggrotech, EBM and dark techno.

Francesca Mendola

Francesca arrived from Sardinia in the early 1990s, drawn by fanzine reports. Around 1998, she asked to DJ. Dette requested a tape. Her Blackdeath1334 name came from her obsession with Rozz Williams of Christian Death. Some dancers later petitioned against the Combichrist and Hocico records they called techno. She had found the club's fault lines.

She has promoted Boy Harsher, Linea Aspera, Years of Denial and Haus Arafna, DJed at Wave-Gotik-Treffen and helped assemble Mak's memorial compilation. At Slimelight, she runs the Goth Room.

Dette Marsh

Co-founder, wardrobe, door. In November 2005, the website promised Dette and Fad at the entrance

every Saturday. Her perseverance helped bring the club back after closure. At the January 2022 Reboot, she welcomed people before the DJs began.

Fad

Fad began drawing Slimelight flyers in the late 1980s. His dark fantasy and science-fiction art later filled the Cake Room and menus. He worked the door with Dette and designed Mak's "Rust in Peace" commemorative T-shirt. He also remembered the entrance hazards, the improvised security and the chicken sandwich. Few watched that doorway more closely.

Allen

A Torture Garden founder, Allen DJed alongside Mak and Scottish Mark in the early 1990s. He returned to help run Electrowerkz from 2020. The venue credited its restaurant development to his vision.

Shelagh, Irish Dave And Nils

Shelagh was at the club almost constantly from its opening until June 2000, according to her departure notice. Irish Dave left at the end of April that year for Killing Miranda. Nils Brobakk arrived in May. New names behind the decks; familiar dancers in front.

Ricardo Castro

Ricardo took over the club in 2022. He curates the Dark Room, bringing current tracks and guest DJs into the three-room night.

Sources

Slimelight website, 2000–2002 and 2005 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived), including Steve Weeks's interview, 25 May 2021, and Fad's interview, 30 May 2021; Steve Weeks's Mixcloud page; Evening Standard, 28 October 2023; Wave-Gotik-Treffen programmes; Underground, 26 April 2024; i-D, 22 October 2024; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

IN MEMORIAM

Mak

1965 – 2020

“Sounds like a plan” Mak, remembered on the Electrowerkz history page, 2021–2022

Mayuan “Mak” Mak, 1965–2020

wner, DJ, scrap dealer. At Torrens Street, Mak might be dealing with records, an armoured vehicle or a cake. His building had room for all of them.

Mak was born in west London in the mid-1960s. His family moved to Maidenhead, then Reading. He came through the squatter scene and DJed at the Kit Kat, where he met Dette. In 1987, according to the Tribune, he secured six months' free rent on the derelict Torrens Street warehouse. Time to get the place working.

He DJed on the original floor from the first week. Goth gave way there to industrial as the night spread upstairs. He signed the club's notices too, explaining bar licences and unwelcome changes with a dry line about the money needed to fix them.

His scrap interests included tanks, military aircraft, armoured vehicles and five yellow

minesweeping submarines. Half a tube-train carriage became a bar. Mak collected on a scale that demanded floor space.

He was just as serious about cake. He sold it with tea at Slimelight, and Nikki remembered a connoisseur whose attention rivalled a wine enthusiast's. Some sound equipment was bought with cake. The Cake Room kept its name through attempts to call it the restaurant.

Mak died suddenly on 9 December 2020, aged 55. Steve Weeks had known him for more than three decades and worked beside him for most of them.

On 3 March 2021, a converted FV432 armoured vehicle carried his coffin to St Pancras and Islington Cemetery. In July came “The Plan”: four volumes, 68 tracks, assembled over six months by Francesca Mendola, Paul Jetten, Peter Adjoba and Mark O'Shea.

The title recalled a favourite Mak phrase. A few words to greet the next unlikely idea.

Sources

Islington Tribune / Camden New Journal, 18 December 2020; *Islington Gazette*, 21 December 2020; *Islington Tribune*, “Dear Mak, tanks for everything!”, March 2021; *Slimelight website*, 1999, 2001 and 2017 (archived); *Electrowerkz website/blog*, 2021–2022 (archived), including Nikki's Cake Room account, 1 July 2021; *Time Out London*, 17 November 2016; *MusicBrainz*, “The Plan”, 2 July 2021; *Goth Asylum research archive*, 2026.



SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Smoke In Steve's Kitchen

S In March 2020, Mak cancelled Slimelight because of Covid. Steve Weeks was away when the decision came. He had been among the DJs who played the last weekly edition. The next Saturday never happened.

One week later, Steve broadcast his first Twitch stream from his kitchen. He even bought a smoke machine. A domestic room, a DJ set and a little club fog.

The streams expanded into two Slimelight channels, one for each usual dance floor. US-based DJs joined in. Saturday listeners could choose a room again, this time on a screen.

A GoFundMe helped cover running costs. In November 2020, the venue received £78,000 from the Arts Council's Culture Recovery Fund, alongside approximately £16,000 in crowdfunding. Elektro Vox's October livestream supported the rescue fund. Its planned March festival for Beat:Cancer had been cancelled.

Around September, socially distanced, seated Slimelight and Torture Garden events were tried in the courtyard. The venue later developed its bar and restaurant programme. Tables took space where dancers had gathered.

Then Mak died in December. Memorial fundraising followed, along with the work that became "The Plan". In his interview the following May, Steve still struggled to believe Mak was gone.

Slimelight reopened on 26 June 2021. It became monthly, then roughly six-weekly. Club-only tickets for the 34th birthday cost £8 for members and £16 for non-members. The doors were open again. The old weekly routine had ended.

New Year's Eve 2021 was cancelled. Dette apologised in January and invited people to the Reboot. By November 2022, the 35th birthday weekend was sharing its bill with Zero Day Festival.

Sources

Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived), including Steve Weeks's interview, 25 May 2021, and Dette's personal message, 12 January 2022; Slimelight Online, Twitch channels, from March 2020; Islington Now, 4 November 2020; Elektro Vox, "Cyber EVM", 9 October 2020, and Zero Day Festival coverage, November 2022; Islington Tribune / Camden New Journal, 18 December 2020; GoFundMe, running-cost and memorial appeals, 2020; MusicBrainz, "The Plan", 2 July 2021; goth event calendar, 2021; i-D, 22 October 2024; r/LondonGothIndustrial and other Reddit communities; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

BEHIND THE DECKS

Slimelight night, 15 August 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIMELIGHT

@NO.ONE.STUDIO.London

AFTER DARK

SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIMELIGHT

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SLIMELIGHT / FEATURE

Three Rooms, New Arrivals

Ricardo Castro took over Slimelight in 2022. His Dark Room sits alongside Francesca Mendola's Goth Room and Steve Weeks's Club Arena. Three rooms, three selectors, plenty of reasons to move between them.

Goth classics in one. Futurepop, synthpop, aggrotech, EBM and dark techno in another. Current tracks and guest DJs in the Dark Room. The old habit of choosing your sound by choosing your room continues.

At the January 2022 Reboot, Dette offered a welcome from 9pm to 11pm, with canapés and happy hour before the DJs began. After the cancelled New Year's Eve, a founder was back at the entrance greeting people.

By October 2024, i-D described a night every six weeks, with exceptions around Halloween. Dates continued into September and October 2026. Check the event listing before setting off:

Slimelight no longer follows its old weekly timetable.

MiHa was on the door for i-D's visit, when approximately 900 people attended and tickets cost £20, or £10 for members. Halloween 2026 lists £10 member tickets before 23:00 and £15 guest tickets, with £17 and £22 on the door. Bring physical photo ID.

Noisey's documentary arrived in August 2023. The Evening Standard visited that October; i-D followed in 2024. In September 2026, The Economist described Slimelight as running since 1987. Torrens Street was drawing another round of visitors with notebooks and cameras.

Clubgoers keep their own conversation going online: tickets, queues, photographs, outfits. The 2026 posts include trans, femboy and gay-pride looks. New arrivals are still working out what to wear and who they might meet.

Next: GRIP, SLIME, the crowd and the hours after midnight. Turn the page.

Sources

Underground, 26 April 2024; i-D, 22 October 2024; Slimelight website, 1999 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2022 (archived), "A Personal Message From Dette", 12 January 2022; Noisey, "The Oldest Goth Club in the World", 18 August 2023; Evening Standard, "Welcome to Slimelight", 28 October 2023; The Economist, September 2026, exact date and title unverified; Resident Advisor, 2026 event listings; Slimelight Linktree, 12 October 2026; r/LondonGothIndustrial and other Reddit communities.

GRIP

Hold that moment.



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 19 February 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

SLIME

All dressed up. Nowhere else to be.



SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



Slimelight night, 15 August 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



Slimelight night, 15 August 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 17 January 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 16 May 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

The Crowd

Our kind of company.



SLIMELIGHT

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SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 16 May 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

After Midnight

Stay a little longer.





SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 13 March 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



SLIME night, 12 June 2026. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london



GRIP night, 18 December 2025. Photo: @no.one.studio.london

Photography: @no.one.studio.london; further photographs supplied by Slimelight

Sources

Photographs supplied by Slimelight.

At A Glance

- **1987**
Church gatherings precede the move to Torrens Street
- **1987**
Slimelight begins at Electrowerkz
- **1988**
Steve Weeks becomes a member
- Around 1989: Building work closes the club for a couple of Saturdays.
- **1990**
The original floor moves increasingly towards industrial music
- **1991**
An upstairs goth floor opens
- **1993**
The Times reports on industrial music and scratch-video projections
- Mid-1990s: Steve Weeks takes over the goth-floor residency.
- **1995**
David Hindley begins attending every weekend and making fire-escape portraits
- **1997**
The council closes the upstairs goth floor; it moves downstairs
- Around 1998: Francesca Mendola begins DJing after submitting a tape.
- **1998-1999**
Mega-goth Fridays bring live bands into the calendar
- **1999**
A licensed bar opens and bring-your-own alcohol ends
- **2000**
Slimelight travels to Wave-Gotik-Treffen and launches a New York edition
- **2001**
A third dance floor is licensed; the goth room moves there in May
- **2003**
The council grants the late licence, with an acoustic consultant required
- **2006**
Nitzer Ebb plays; VNV Nation's October show sells out
- **2008-2009**
Paintball ends; the Double Club occupies the refurbished ground floor
- **2014**
The club explicitly states that membership is not compulsory
- **2015-2016**
Electrowerkz becomes a filming location for "San Junipero"
- **2017**
DKAG releases "Slimelight Muzik", billed for the club's 30 years
- **2020**
The weekly night stops; Steve Weeks develops two Slimelight Twitch channels
- **2020**
Mak dies suddenly on 9 December, aged 55
- **2021**
Slimelight reopens on 26 June; "The Plan" memorial compilation follows in July
- **2022**
Ricardo Castro takes over; the 35th birthday joins Zero Day Festival
- **2023**
Noisey's documentary appears; the club celebrates its 36th birthday
- **2024**
Underground documents the three rooms; i-D reports on the six-weekly night
- **2026**
Nights continue into October; The Economist describes Slimelight as running since 1987

Sources

Slimelight website, 1999–2003 and 2014–2017 (archived); Electrowerkz website/blog, 2021–2022 (archived); Islington Tribune / Camden New Journal, 18 December 2020; Islington Gazette, 11 December 2003 and 21 December 2020; Terrorizer, 29 November 2010; The Times, 30 January 1993 and 18 November 2008; Coilhouse no. 1, 2008; Steve Weeks's Mixcloud page; Freq, 2003; Songkick; FilmFixer; Bandcamp; MusicBrainz; Elektro Vox, 2022; Noisey, 18 August 2023; Underground, 26 April 2024; i-D, 22 October 2024; Resident Advisor; Slimelight Linktree, 12 October 2026; Reddit; The Economist, September 2026; Goth Asylum research archive, 2026.

Credits & Sources

Thanks

Thanks to Ricardo Castro and everyone at Slimelight and Electrowerkz

Made by Goth Asylum

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Photography

Photography: @no.one.studio.london; further photographs supplied by Slimelight

Portfolio: GRIP / SLIME / The Crowd / After Midnight





Made For Love

A gift, not a commission.

Goth Asylum made this magazine out of love: for Slimelight, for the people who have kept its rooms alive since 1987, and for the subcultures that gave them a home. Goth, industrial, EBM, darkwave and every dark scene in between.

Nobody asked us to make it, and nobody paid us. We did it of our own free will, because a night that has lasted this long deserves to be written down, and because the people who built it deserve to see their story told with care.

We hope it ends up in the hands of those who were there, and of those who are arriving now.

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