

SOUTHBANK CENTRE

C'est CHIC Vogue Ball

10 August 2019, 4.30pm – 7.30pm, Riverside Terrace, Level 2

Slide back in time to the swinging seventies for *C'est CHIC Vogue Ball*, co-curated by UK Prince Bam Bam Mulan 007 of the Kiki House of Mulan.

Generations have danced, vogued and posed to CHIC. Join the London ballroom scene at a Riverside Terrace takeover honouring CHIC's back catalogue of disco glamour classics.

The ballroom scene grew to prominence in 1980s New York, pioneered by the queer Black and Latino community as a space for queer people of colour to congregate, dance and celebrate. London's ballroom scene has continued in this lineage, creating a safe space for new generations to find community and express themselves.

In a ball, competitors face off on the catwalk for ultimate glory. There are different categories, which are based on themes, skills and techniques – for this year's *Meltdown* we're taking you all the way back to CHIC's heyday with categories including All-American Runway, Best-Dressed Spectator and a Drag Lip Sync. Check the terminologies and category descriptions below for which categories you can walk.

TERMINOLOGY

MF (male figure): butch queen, butch, transman, transmasculine, non-binary

FF (female figure): femme queen, transfemme, drag, non-binary

OTA: open to all

*Non-binary, gender non-conforming, and gender fluid people may walk in whichever gendered subdivision they choose.

REALNESS

Jimi Hendrix (MF)

This year's *Meltdown* curator Nile Rodgers remembers having jammed with Hendrix, but that historic moment was not recorded. Mark your place in *Meltdown* history and embody the Summer of Love with a bold blazer and floral prints.

Gloria Gaynor (FF)

In Gaynor's 'I Will Survive' video, she is dripping in diamonds and jewellery. Come through dripping in a shimmery, sequinned look.

FASHION

European Runway vs All-American Runway (OTA)

European Runway: Solange had her cowgirl phase, and now it's your turn to have yours. Take inspiration from 1970s Western fashion – think suede, denim, leather and chaps, and bring it with an avant-garde twist.

All-American Runway: This era saw radical movements for women's rights, people of colour and queer folk alike. Increasingly we see designers use their platforms and artistic ability to make political and social statements, from Vivienne Westwood to Pyer Moss. Take to the runway making a statement with your garment and your entrance.

Runway as a HOUSE

People all over the world – hello and welcome aboard the Soul Train! In 1970s-inspired outfits three of your grooviest house members must bring it to the runway for their 10s.

Face (OTA)

CHIC's self-titled album was released in 1977, and its iconic album cover is recreated by two of today's most influential models for the latest album *It's About Time*. Bring a friend with you to help sell your face, but a whistle is mandatory!

Best-Dressed Spectator (OTA)

Calling all disco divas! Anyone who feels they are the best dressed is welcome to walk the runway. Be aware this is judged according to ballroom rules of taste. As Junior LaBeija says in classic ball culture documentary *Paris Is Burning*, 'it is a known fact that a woman do carry an evening bag'.

PERFORMANCE

Old Way (OTA)

Bring it in a vintage streetwear look, paying homage to the young Black and Latino innovators who created breaking on the streets of New York in the 1970s. You 10s must contain a nod to the breaking style.

New Way (OTA)

Glam rock means flamboyant clothing, make-up, big hair and glitter. Be inspired by artists such as David Bowie, T. Rex, Sweet and Slade, who played with androgyny and traditional gender roles. Get your platforms at the ready and show us your stretch.

Drag Lip Sync (OTA)

Prepare the classics for the battles. For you 10s, choose between:

Drag Queens

Sylvester – 'You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)'

Barbra Streisand and Donna Summer – 'No More Tears (Enough Is Enough)'

Drag Kings

James Brown – 'Sex Machine'

Luther Vandross – ‘Never Too Much’

Baby Vogue Tag Team (OTA)

New kids on the block, you and your bestie have snuck out of the house to go to your first disco. Bring it in a coordinated look. Your 10s should include a 70s-inspired break down.

Vogue Femme (OTA)

Let the GURLS know you’re coming out! Pay homage to the ultimate disco diva Diana Ross – the looks are endless. Bring a reference image for the judges.

DANCE-OFF

The Greatest Dancer (OTA)

This category is for the dancers. The legendary cloakroom has been the home of the London dance community for years on years, from b-boys to waackers, shway, house and experimental. This is an all-styles battle to celebrate the hard work of the London dance community. Bring it in a black and yellow look – let’s pump the beat! (no voguing)

Production as a HOUSE (OTA)

This era saw the rise of the band, from Earth, Wind & Fire, The Trammmps, Sister Sledge, The Jacksons through to Boney M, creating groovy music of peace, love and freedom. Take inspiration from a legendary band of your choice – reference image is required.