

STORMY HEATHER PRESENTS

1<sup>st</sup>

# Burlesque Festival



# MAINZ

5. & 6. APRIL 2025



# stenner

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Termine im Frühjahr:

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Jahrgangspräsentation



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# BURLESQUE FESTIVAL MAINZ



Samstag, 5. April & Sonntag, 6. April 2025, Alte Lokhalle Mainz

Das 1. Burlesque Festival Mainz feiert nicht nur die hohe Kunst der Verführung, sondern ebenso Diversity und Bodypositivity. Im Rahmen der Burlesque-Shows am Samstag und Sonntag in der Alten Lokhalle Mainz strahlen glamouröse Diven neben komödiantischen Paradiesvögeln. Erleben Sie alle Facetten der Burlesque: von cute bis kinky, von weird bis wonderful. ‚The Art of the Tease‘ hält für jeden Geschmack etwas bereit.

Stormy Heather freut sich, beim 1. Burlesque Festival Mainz über 40 nationale und internationale Künstler\*innen zu begrüßen: von Amsterdam bis Zürich, von Florenz bis Paris, von Las Vegas bis Perth, aus aller Welt kommen sie nach Mainz, um ihre Kunst zu präsentieren.

An beiden Festivaltagen finden verschiedene Workshops, unter anderem zu den Themen Tanz und Sinnlichkeit, statt. Alle Details finden Sie unter [burlesque-festival-mainz.com](http://burlesque-festival-mainz.com)

Tanzen Sie bei der ausgelassenen Aftershowparty am Samstag Seite an Seite mit den Künstler\*innen.

Schlendern Sie vor den Shows über den Festival Markt und lassen Sie sich vom vielfältigen Angebot überraschen.

*Feiern Sie mit uns ein Wochenende  
voller Glitz und Glamour,  
voller Sinnlichkeit und Verführung!*



# DIE PRODUZENTIN STORMY HEATHER

Auf internationalen Burlesque Bühnen zu Hause, in Mainz daheim.

Stormy Heather hat es sich zur Aufgabe gemacht, Burlesque in ihre Heimatstadt Mainz zu bringen. Den Mainzern als Produzentin des Salon Privé bekannt, freut sie sich ein weiteres Spektakel der Verführung in dieser schönen Stadt zu veranstalten und begrüßt Sie herzlich zum ersten Burlesque Festival Mainz.



pic by Julia Teine

# DER SCHIRMHERR OBERBÜRGERMEISTER NINO HAASE

Liebe Mainzerinnen und Mainzer,

Licht aus, Spot an – und herzlich willkommen zum Burlesque Festival Mainz 2025! Es ist das erste Festival dieser Art in Mainz und es ist mir eine große Freude, dieses herausragende Spektakel als Schirmherr zu begleiten.

Das Event findet am ersten Aprilwochenende in der Alten Lokhalle statt und verspricht zwei Varieté-Shows mit glamourösen Diven, komödiantischen Paradiesvögeln und atemberaubenden Artisten. Zudem können Fans und Neugierige an vielfältigen Workshops teilnehmen und sich auf dem Festivalmarkt mit allerlei Accessoires eindecken.

Mein Dank geht an alle an der Organisation Beteiligten, vor allem aber an die Produzentin Stormy Heather. Sie ist seit 15 Jahren auf internationalen Burlesque-Bühnen zu Hause und hat es nun geschafft, Künstlerinnen und Künstler aus der ganzen Welt zu diesem Festival in ihre Heimatstadt Mainz zu locken.

Das Festival passt – wie ich finde – wunderbar zu unserer offenen und modernen Stadt Mainz. Denn Burlesque ist nicht nur eine Kunstform, die die Schönheit des Körpers zelebriert und mit Musik und extravaganter Tanz Lebensgeschichten erzählt. Burlesque ist ein Ausdruck von Freiheit und Individualität, von Diversity und Bodypositivity, von Akzeptanz und Toleranz. Und das wollen wir in Mainz feiern – täglich und nicht nur zum Festival!

Nino Haase  
Oberbürgermeister

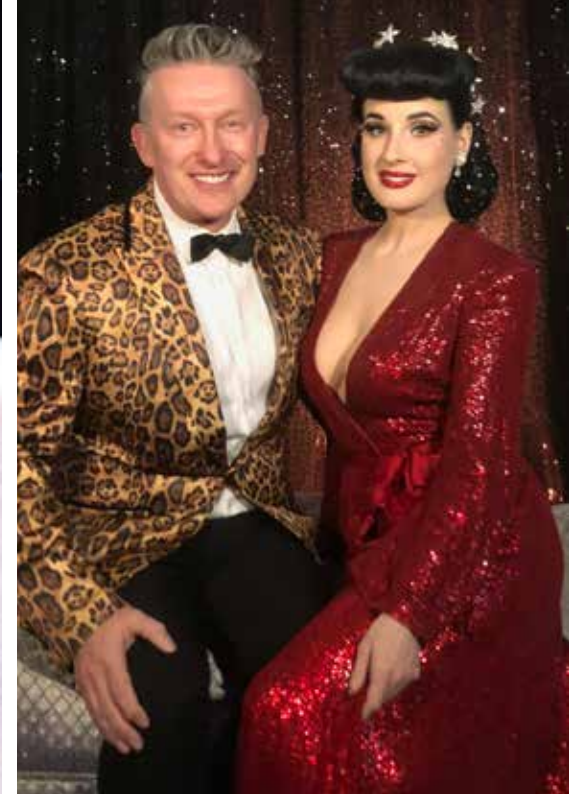


## SPECIAL GUEST NEIL NEZ KENDALL

Neil Kendall is a British born Burlesque personality and photographer and has been established on the worldwide Burlesque scene since 1990. He is known internationally as an award-winning photographer, shooting campaigns for iconic Burlesque celebrities such as Dita Von Teese who called him 'a genuine talent'.

His work has appeared in a diverse range of publications including Vogue Italia, The Guardian, GQ and New York Times and recently at the Victoria and Albert in London in the 'Undressed' exhibit. His 4th solo exhibition, entitled 'Saints and Sinners', was funded by the British Arts Council and drew national acclaim.

He is also known for his knowledge as a Burlesque Historian and his relationship with the last of the World's Burlesque Legends, he has contributed to many books on the subject.



His portable travelling Burlesque Museum based in England is the first of its kind in the world and his highly personal lecture to accompany the museum, '100 years of undressing to music', has been hosted all over Europe and the USA, most recently as guest speaker in Las Vegas Burlesque Hall of Fame.

In 2015 he was voted onto the board of Directors at the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas making history as the first non-American to be unanimously elected to join the organisation. Since then he has travelled the world as an ambassador for the organisation.

Neil Kendall has been ranked as the Number 1 in the International Burlesque Top 50 non-performer listings – a global online poll within the Burlesque community.

He currently lives in England where he shoots most of his work from his studio in Chester.

*Read the interview ->*

# AN INTERVIEW WITH NEIL NEZ KENDALL

by Stormy Heather

## How did you start in burlesque?

„I went to 'Exotic World', now known as 'The Burlesque Hall of Fame' in June 1988. No internet back then, just a hand written letter, that was all it took at that time to ask to see the Museum and that led me to Dixie Evans who ran it, back then she was a retired stripper known as 'The Marilyn Monroe of Burlesque' back in the 1950s, I worked on a book called Va Va Voom and I went there to meet legendary strippers Jennie Lee 'The Bazoom Girl' and Tempest Storm – it changed my life, Stormy. I was suddenly in this world of incredible women who lived in a community out in the desert in California, it was like Mad Max with strippers. I knew it was my destiny to be a part of that world, that world of burlesque. I knew I wanted to keep this decaying world alive and record the stories of these women. This was way before the internet and the rebirth of burlesque so I was there to see it all unfold. There was no one to document that world, so I did and I am so glad I kept the recordings.“

## Who was the first burlesque performer you took pictures of?

„Really it was Jennie and Dixie. They both wore a lot of leopard skin, had huge breasts and had wild blonde hair; in fact they were like female impersonators, so they were larger than life in every sense to me this geeky little English guy with a camera.

I took pictures of Dixie on Jayne Mansfield's sofa which she owned – it was pink and heart shaped. It was black and white film as there were no digital cameras and she was 67 than and was just amazing to shoot. I loved Dixie, in fact we became friends for years till she passed away in her late 80s. It was the perfect starting point of my career really because she was the modern godmother of burlesque. She really brought burlesque out of the past and into the present by presenting a competition then called 'Miss Exotic World'. I went to the first one in 1990 as I was living in America at the time. It was an experience as it was in the Mohave Desert round an old swimming pool on a goat Ranch. What she started was to become 'Burlesque Hall of Fame Weekender'. So I want to recognise all she did.“



## Whether it's Halloween, Winter Wonderland or vintage circus/side show – you create the most incredible sets for your shoots. What is your inspiration? Do you have a team you work with? How long does it typically take from the idea to the final set?

„I love old film and am an artist at heart, so I want to create beautiful sets that inspire my models. I love working with just one other artist and a carpenter to make the sets so we are a small team. We live in a world of Artificial Intelligence so it's important to create real things, to make real art that engages people directly not through a screen or app. It's an experience coming into my studio like stepping into a fairytale story. So I want people to feel connected, a part of that story when I shoot them.

I have a detail process when I make a set: firstly, I make sketches in pencil – they are little worlds, works of art and from those sketches we scale it up and build it in the same way that a film story board is made. It's a very satisfying process.“

## What excites you most about recreating classic PinUp pictures?

„I think the energy and relationship with the model, it's that spark, that moment when you capture something, it's often joyful for both me and the person I am shooting and I am very animated when I work. I love to give lots of direction and advice. I have had over 30 years experience so right down to posing a finger tip, I love to create shapes and I love lighting too so part of what I am 'famous' for I suppose is those lighting plots. I learnt those from the original pin up photographers like Bruno of Hollywood so that technical part, the painting with studio lights, is great when you hit the perfect lighting plot.“



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[www.BURLESQUE-FESTIVAL-MAINZ.com](http://www.BURLESQUE-FESTIVAL-MAINZ.com)

### What is the weirdest/craziest feedback you ever got on your pictures?

„Oh god. It's seeing them as tattoos on people bodies! That's weird but I kind of love it, the fact that people will have my images on their skin probably after I die it's weird though. So yes that has been a 'whoa, what in sweet burlesque hell is that' when people come up to me at festivals and events with my work on their leg!! They have been in gay porn films , Hollywood films, a side of a plane, a bus in London and I was in the Victoria and Albert Museum with a portrait of Dita Von Teese I did. World famous Bob said of my work in an interview 'pictures are so beautiful I just want to crawl inside them', so that was wonderfully weird and an honour at the same time.“

### What would your dream photoshoot look like? Are there any special people and/or locations that you would like to photograph?

„My mind is constantly filling with ideas. So I make about five sets a year and they get better the more experience I and my assistant Domina have in making them. I would love to be in one of those creepy old universal studio castle sets like Bride of Frankenstein or Dracula with the old mad science labs. So Hollywood in the 1930s would be a dream on those grand old sets. Shadowy worlds with gothic touches. I love drama on sets – not so much in my real life, but yes, I love detail and fantasy. I love old theatres too, there are some amazing spaces in Los Angeles, like the Orpheum and Mayan Theatre I would love to shoot in.“



### You must have seen millions of burlesque shows. What are your favorite burlesque acts? What are the most unusual acts you have seen?

„No surprise but I love the strange and wonderful acts. I love your Champagne glass act. Before we knew each other you came to my studio and we shot that and I thought it was amazing – with the fake legs, literally 100s of people liked that video we shot of that act before reels were popular. So, yes, I do love innovation and intelligence with acts. Chrissy Kiss does an incredible half and half Addams Family act as both Gomez and Morticia, classic half and half act, which I booked for my Halloween show. That was genius. Dirty Martini does an act where she is caught in a spiders web and these six arms come out of the web and disrobe her which is amazing. Laurie Hagen does a reverse strip, it's all backwards – even the music! Which is incredible as the choreography is so skilled. I also love to laugh and for me burlesque is about holding an audience, capturing their imagination. Being thrilled at the skill and talent of the artist on stage.“

In which way did the world of Burlesque change, since you are part of it?

„I think it's always been female led and about female empowerment. That has never changed. I think social media is the big change and the way that has divided us in some ways. We have come on in leaps and bounds in terms of equality but live in a more divided society due to being polarised by what we read and see on social media. I much prefer seeing burlesque life on stage and forming my own opinions and being educated or enlightened.

So burlesque is still here, which amazes me that 25 years or so on from its resurgence it's still going strong.

I love that I get invited to go to Tokyo or Prague, Mainz or Manchester and there are these crazy people getting near to naked on stages around the earth, it still holds it's magic for me all the years later after that visit to Dixie!“

Thank you so much – we are over the moon that you are part of the First Burlesque Festival Mainz!

*Sie haben ebenfalls Fragen an Neil?  
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Sa, 5. April zur „Tea Time with Neil“ und

So, 6. April zu Neils Vortrag „History of Burlesque“



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# MEET NEIL NEZ KENDALL

*Teatime with Neil* – SA, 5. April, 17 Uhr

Experience an exclusive Q&A session while sipping a cup of tea with award winning photographer Neil Nez Kendall. Get inspired by his exciting stories and valuable tips, and ask him all your questions about Burlesque.

*„History of Burlesque“ with Neil* – So, 6. April, 15 Uhr

Whether you are a devoted Burlesque fan or a curious newcomer, this lecture will provide fascinating insights and surprising anecdotes. Join Neil and let yourself be enchanted by the magic and charme of Burlesque!

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# BURLESQUE FESTIVAL MAINZ

## WAS? WANN? WO?

### SAMSTAG

12 - 16 Uhr WORKSHOPS in Stormy Heather's School of Burlesque, Walpodenstr. 27  
Details unter [burlesque-festival.com](http://burlesque-festival.com)

17 Uhr FESTIVAL MARKT  
im Foyer Alte Lokhalle Mainz  
Mombacher Str. 78-80  
mit Weingut Stenner und Catering

17 - 18 Uhr TEATIME mit Neil Nez Kendall  
Alte Lokhalle

19.00 Uhr Einlass Halle  
20.30 Uhr SATURDAY NIGHT EXTRAVAGANZA  
BURLESQUE SHOW\*

23.30 Uhr Aftershowparty

### SONNTAG

11 - 15 Uhr WORKSHOPS in Stormy Heather's School of Burlesque, Walpodenstr. 27  
Details unter [burlesque-festival.com](http://burlesque-festival.com)

15 Uhr FESTIVAL MARKT  
im Foyer Alte Lokhalle Mainz  
Mombacher Str. 78-80  
mit Weingut Stenner und Catering

15 - 16 Uhr HISTORY OF BURLESQUE, Vortrag von  
Neil Nez Kendall, Alte Lokhalle

17.00 Uhr Einlass Halle  
18.30 Uhr SUNDAY NIGHT SPECTACULAR  
BURLESQUE SHOW\*

21.30 Uhr Ausklang

Tickets zu allen Veranstaltungen unter  
[www.burlesque-festival-mainz.com](http://www.burlesque-festival-mainz.com)



\*Bitte beachten Sie, dass an beiden Abenden zwei völlig unterschiedliche Shows präsentiert werden. Nehmen Sie an beiden Tagen teil und verpassen Sie kein einziges Highlight des Festivals!



# WE PROUDLY PRESENT SATURDAY NIGHT'S ARTISTS

in order of appearance

Sie dürfen gerne während der Show Fotos und kurze Videos machen, aber bitte schauen Sie sich nicht die gesamte Show nur durch Ihr Handy an! Bitte teilen Sie nicht das Ende der Showacts und achten Sie darauf, keine unvorteilhaften Bilder zu teilen. Wenn Sie Bilder posten, markieren Sie bitte unbedingt @burlesquefestivalmainz | #bfmz und die Künstler\*innen. Vielen Dank!



@willigundheiss\_  
drag



@kristina\_bellissima



@plantdestroya



@\_lilith\_lavender



@zeliobarrett



@champagne\_  
mademoiselle



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#stormysstarlets



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@madame\_  
magneta



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burlesque  
@nita\_bonair



@gin.bijou  
@minateval



@daphnemoon\_  
burlesque



@anna\_venture\_  
burlesque



@billy\_von\_burton



@marcel.lipp\_94



@auroradivine-  
showgirl



#stormysstarlets



#bfmz

# WE PROUDLY PRESENT SUNDAY NIGHT'S ARTISTS

in order of appearance

Sie dürfen gerne während der Show Fotos und kurze Videos machen, aber bitte schauen Sie sich nicht die gesamte Show nur durch Ihr Handy an! Bitte teilen Sie nicht das Ende der Showacts und achten Sie darauf, keine unvorteilhaften Bilder zu teilen. Wenn Sie Bilder posten, markieren Sie bitte unbedingt @burlesquefestivalmainz | #bfmz und die Künstler\*innen. Vielen Dank!



@kristina\_bellissima



@plantdestroya



@\_lilith\_lavender



@violet\_moonshine



@ginger\_misdemeanour



@steph\_sugar



@colettanight



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@zizi.zinnona



@panikpunch



@billy\_von\_burton



@themadame\_midnight



@cococharnelle\_burlesque



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# WORKSHOPS – SAMSTAG

**STORMY HEATHER'S SCHOOL OF BURLESQUE**, Walpodenstraße 27, Mainz

„EMBRACING STEREOTYPES“ with Eden Weiss

„SEXY MAMA“ with Steph Sugar

„GRAB 'M BY THE PUSSY“ with Zizi Zinona

**ALTE LOKHALLE MAINZ**, Mombacher Strasse 78 - 80, Mainz

„BURLESQUE PROMOTION“ with Pearly Poppet

„GLITTER & CLOSURES“ with Hedoluxe

Kursbeschreibungen und Workshopzeiten finden sie auf unserer Website.

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# WORKSHOPS – SONNTAG

STORMY HEATHER'S SCHOOL OF BURLESQUE, Walpodenstraße 27, Mainz

„FLEXIBILITY FOR DANCERS“ with Zohar the Nootzel

„FAN DANCE“ with Bamboo

„BURLY TOOLBOX“ with Champagne Mademoiselle

„KINKY BURLESQUE“ with Daphne Moon

Kursbeschreibungen und Workshopzeiten finden sie auf unserer Website.

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## Kultur fördern stärkt die Gemeinschaft.

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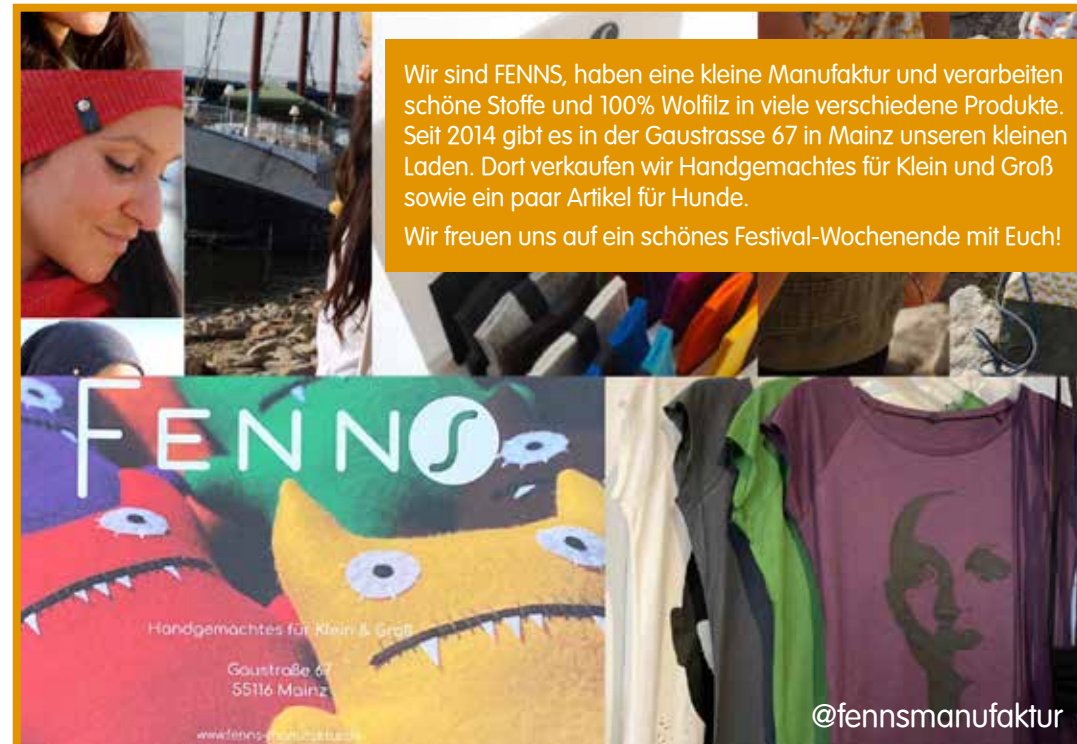


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# STORMY HEATHER

EXCLUSIVE AUFTRITTE



BURLESQUE EVENTS



KÜNSTLER-AGENTUR



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SCHOOL OF  
BURLESQUE



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