

# LOVE PARADE 2003 - BERLIN

**ON the 12th July, in the heart of Berlin, a crowd of over 750,000 party goers transformed a demonstration for World Peace into a clubbing experience - the Love Parade Berlin 2003.**

Under the motto 'Love Rules', this year's **Love Parade** was the biggest ever with a general budget of Euro1.5 million. Continuing the tradition of dancing for World Peace and demonstrating in the form of a party, it was started by Dr. Motte back in 1989 when it was born. Nowadays, the **Berlin Love Parade** is an international event taking place in various cities all over the world, including Tel Aviv, Mexico City and many others.

The **Love Parade** has always been a peaceful event promoting tolerance, openness and peace between people, but this year, and prompted by recent events, the **Love Parade** chose 'charity' as its theme. The world's largest free music event (with a dance floor of 260km<sup>2</sup>) teams up with the **German Red Cross**, collecting donations and selling products and drink to fund aid to the war victims in Iraq.

Let's say that attending the **Love Parade** gets anyone's gaydar completely messed up. If you thought that a muscle-mary dressed in bright blue satin very tight short shorts is obviously gay, think twice, and check the big-breasted blonde caressing those buns.

At 2pm, the floats started converging to the Siegesäule from the Ernst Reuter Platz and Brandenburger Tor, both ends of the Straße des 17. Juni. Shortly after 6pm, the sound systems of the floats were reprogrammed to the same frequency transmitting the final show act. The line-up of DJs was mouth watering and included the likes of Felix da Housecat, Chris Liebing, Pete Tong, Roger Sanchez, Paul van Dyk and Motte. The laser and lights show at the Column of Victory was impressive and the sound system flooding music into most of the town centre was potent, clear and mind blowing. By the way, the woods around the main arteries were full of interesting action... a polysexual Hampstead Heath?

With a gay Mayor, Berlin offers so much to the gay visitor! One of the main gay centres in Berlin, conveniently situated not far from the Parade grounds, is Schöneberg, the area around Nollendorf Platz U-bahnhof.

This area includes not only a wide bouquet of bars and clubs, but a number of quality sex shopping experience venues. From **Bruno's**, one of the biggest European distributors of gay porn, just behind the U-bahn station, to the infamous world renowned **Mr. B** in 23, Nollendorfstraße, where they offer you a drink while

browsing through their extensive leather clothing and accessories collection. Unveiling **Tom's Bar** at 19, Motzstraße with its trendy crowd and dark room can be a good alternative to the down to basics sleazy cruising of **Scheune** just up the same road on number 25. Later on, a visit to **Connection** at 33, Fuggersstraße and its 3 floors of cruising and dance areas is a must!

However, if Schöneberg is not your thing, why not giving Kreuzberg a try? If by day you can visit the **Schwules Museum** (Queer Museum) at 61, Mehringdamm, and by night there are plenty of bars to choose from. And if old-style drag shows are your thing... there are mirror balls and glitter in quite a few places. Not to miss is the **Barbie Bar** at 77, Mehringdamm with a most impressive Barbie collection and music to make you giggle until you're in Barbieland yourself.

Berlin: certainly one of the gayest cities in Europe! Words and pics by Jorge Balca

Tour operator Manaround can be reached on 020 8902 7177



**S&N Gay Venues**  
**in association with**  
**our suppliers**  
**would like to wish**  
**everyone a fabulous**  
**Pride Parade and**  
**Mardi Gras 2003**



**Come and**  
**see our**  
**float in the**  
**Pride Parade!**



**Admiral Duncan**  
 54 Old Compton Street  
 W1V 5PA  
 020 7437 5300

**Birdcage**  
 122 High Road  
 Chiswick W4 1PU  
 020 8995 4392

**Bromptons**  
 294 Old Brompton Road  
 Earl's Court SW5 9JF  
 020 7370 1344

**Duke of Wellington**  
 77 Wardour Street  
 Soho W1D 6EA  
 020 7439 1274

**Kings Arms**  
 23 Poland Street  
 Oxford Street W1U 3DD  
 020 7734 5907

**Queens Head**  
 25 Tryon Street  
 Chelsea SW3 3LG  
 020 7589 0262

**Richmond Arms**  
 20 The Square  
 Richmond TW9 1DZ  
 020 8940 2118

**Rose & Crown**  
 1 Crooms Hill  
 Greenwich SE10 8ER  
 020 8293 1898

**The Stag**  
 15 Bressenden Place  
 Victoria SW1E 5DD  
 020 7628 7287