

metro life

Arts & Entertainment

West Midlands For Free Capsule Curators Lisa Meyer And Jenny Moore

With the always brilliant Supersonic festival creeping towards us (Jul 24 to 26, in case you were wondering), what better time for this talk by Capsule curators Lisa Meyer and Jenny Moore (pictured)? Capsule is one of the finest promoters in Birmingham, and has staged numerous music events that err towards the more esoteric side of things. The pair will be selecting their eight favourite pieces of art this evening, which will have a link to their actual work through the fantastic posters they produce for each of their gigs.



DB

Tonight, Events Room, Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, 6.30pm, free. Tel: 0121 248 0708. www.ikon-gallery.co.uk

Food & Drink Eating Out



Performance and cocktails: Barman Carl Hawkins revels in the fine art of making his customers a drink

Nice case of a split personality

The Jekyll & Hyde is a new venture from My Space Pub Limited – the company that brought a sophisticated indie sensibility to The Island Bar and updated The Victoria for a chilled-out clientele. Jekyll & Hyde is based in the former Queen's Head on Steelhouse Lane and it displays both sides of the small chain's personality. It features The Victoria's cool but cosy approach, with its vibrant colour schemes and modern street art, cask ales and decent wine list, but it also offers the cocktails that made The Island Bar a cut above the usual indie haunts.

We arrived 20 minutes after the two-for-one cocktail promotion had finished, but the bartender immediately offered us the deal, which set a friendly tone for the rest of the evening. Over a Bellini and caipirinha (£5.50), we checked out the freshly painted courtyard in the last of the warm rays of the midweek sunshine and browsed through the menu.

My companion opted for mozzarella pearls and roasted red peppers on rocket with a balsamic glaze (£4.50). It was well presented and decently priced but the only criticism would be

Review The Jekyll & Hyde ★★☆☆

that the salad needed more of the glaze to complement the volume of rocket leaves. I chose the soup of the day, which was cauliflower and blue cheese (£3). Recommended by the bartender, it was well balanced, and the subtle cauliflower was not overpowered by the cheese.

We were offered more two-for-one cocktails and went for the barman's own recipe of a Tanqueray No.10 gin Martini with a home-made elderflower wash (£9). The spirit mix was perfect, but for a summery feeling, more elderflower would have been nice. I ordered a proper pub drink to accompany my meal – a Wye Valley HPA light ale (£2.80).

My companion opted for a pub classic of fish and chips (£7.50) as a main course. The cod had a light tempura batter, and the chips were triple cooked (blanched, boiled and fried) and served with a swoosh of pea and mint purée. Presentation and portion size again hit the right spot and the crispy batter gave the dish an edge on the usual pub fare. However, the chips were a little bit dry.

I broke from the normal pub grub and had polenta with Portobello mushroom and a cabbage and cider

pudding (£6). It proved to be creamy and hearty, surpassing my expectations and broadening my horizons. During our meal, we discussed the finer points of modern music with the barman, who attended to us effortlessly without smothering us, despite only four other customers being present on our visit.

My gooey and gorgeous chocolate mousse arrived in a cocktail glass with a shot of orange liquor (£3.50) and my companion's lemon posset was served in a coffee cup with shortbread on the side (£3.50). The posset arrived with a blackberry instead of the mentioned blueberries, which was a shame; it was sharp but sweet and my friend decided a whole coffee-cup of posset was too much and an espresso might have been better.

We felt The Jekyll & Hyde's dual characteristics never came into conflict. The drinks were great and although the pub food wasn't exceptional, it's much better than you'd expect for this type of venue. Add some sunshine to their cocktails and it'll be a worthwhile destination this summer.

Dan Davies

■ A meal for two with drinks costs about £45.

28 Steelhouse Lane, Gun Quarter, Birmingham, Mon to Sat noon to 2.30pm and 6pm to 8pm.
Tel: 0121 236 0345.
www.jekyllandhyde.co.uk

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