

[DECENT] **X** p o s u r e

[the **AUBL** guide to getting naked @ a gig venue near you]

THE LEMON TREE

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WHERE'S IT @? Just opposite Fudge Towers, the glistening headquarters where all you snivelling bands send your demos. Those lazy bastards would hold their Fudgenites in the East Neuk bar if they thought it would be any closer to their flat. And you wonder why this country has the worst rate of heart disease in Scotland? And the worst ability to construct sentences that don't leave you thinking 'eh?'

WHAT LIKE? Did you know that this place used to be a veggie café called Jaws, back in the day? (Guess who had hippie parents then?) Going by its current name, you would expect The Lemon Tree to be a good place to pick up lesbians. Sadly, this isn't the case. It does have a damn good PA system, however, and is also a nice café during the day for all the grown-up types who like to absorb some culture while sipping their tea, by contemplating existentialism and other deep stuff like poetry. And the worst of it is, the council subsidise the place, like these people can't afford to buy their own paintings! If there was ever a time to find out who your local MP is, it would be now! [Excuse that rant, I don't know where it came from.]

WHAT CAN I EXPECT? If you like jazz, pipe-bands or other shit types of music (Hey, nu-metal rulz, dewd!), you'll like the Tree. If you like watching the occasional half-good 'I've-heard-of-them-in-the-NME-so-they-must-be-alright-stop-attaching-hyphens-to-me' type band, you will also like The Lemon Tree, but you'd prefer Glasgow. The venue also plays host to the legendary Fudgenites - you know, the nites that more people should attend?

SO WHAT'S IN IT 4 THE BANDS THEN? You don't ask to play The Lemon Tree, they ask you. And then insist that you don't play any gigs six months* either side of the date you're booked for. The Malt Mill this ain't. This is a place where you get to wear a little sticker that says 'Access All Areas'. This is the sort of place where you say 'Can I get 10% more bass tom and a dash of reverb in my left monitor?' and they'll give you it, instead of just nodding and pretending to turn a few buttons. The Lemon Tree are nice to bands, provided you don't break their expensive equipment. They even give you free Belhaven,

which is probably a good thing in a 'this-stuff-stinks-of-piss' kind of way. You also get paid proper money on top of this just for playing, even if you're really shit. Though if you're that bad, they probably won't let you bring your offensive noise to the venue in the first place.

THE (FUCKING) A: You get a proper rider, for fuck's sake! And it's probably more than Shed 7 are getting right now, so be grateful.

WHY WOULDN'T U? This place has a rather good PA system. So if you can't sound good playing here, chances are your band suck like one of those African bugs that swims up your pee when you're urinating in a river and embeds its hooks beneath your urethra. Which is probably more detail than you ever wanted to know, unless you're currently planning the final stages of your 'No Sleep Till Mozambique' World Tour.

THE BOTTOM

LINE: :o) :o) :o) :o) :o!(out of 5) Yep, looks like Aberdeen's best venue then. Hooray! That doesn't mean that it's the dogz cogz (I just invented that phrase, do you think it will catch on?) however, it's just the brightest peanut in a particularly dull and grey looking turd.

"Even a dog wouldn't eat this one!" © Aberdeen Tourist Board, 2001.

*OK, we lied – it's probably about two weeks or something.