



Big Freedia works it at the Santos House in Manhattan.

"What the hell is Sissy Bounce? ... Take some of the most hypersexual, bump and grind you can imagine, remove everything but the sexed-up chorus, speed it up, and then remove the sexual identity of the artist performing it. What, what? That's right. Sissy Bounce artists are purposely androgynous, sometimes referred to as queer, sometimes transgendered, a very direct intent is to fuck with people's heads about sexuality."

-SEAN BONNER, BLOGGER

who like to watch them dance). But she wasn't always welcomed as an out, gender-queer performer in hip-hop's hypermasculine world.

"When we first started, it was a little bit rough. ... As the years passed, people started getting used to it because we wasn't going nowhere," Big Freedia told *The Corner* in a March 2010 interview. "We had people hating on us and talking about us, trying not to get us shows and things like that, but it's the music that got through. They couldn't stop the music. ... And the girls really adore us, that's what really got us over, all the girls just loving on all of us."

Because most of Big Freedia's sissy bounce peers are also gay men, straight women can identify with songs that talk about guys and seem to feel safer expressing their sexuality on the dance floor.

"It's like we step into their shoes and they can relate to what we're saying and what

we're going through," Big Freedia told *The Corner*. "We're like girls, we're going through the same things they are with the boys, so they really understand and can relate to us."

That said, because Big Freedia's songs are light on the narrative and heavy on the crowd participation, it may be the liberating effects of shouting and shaking the night away that keep people coming back for more.

"It's as if punk had been reinvented for women," Rusty Lazer, who performs with Big Freedia at Holocene's upcoming Bounce & Buck 5, told the *New York Times*. "It's just pure empowerment, physical aggression that's not spiteful or vicious. I think it's no accident that the slang term for a gay kid in New Orleans is 'punk.' It's pretty rewarding."

Big Freedia performs with Rusty Lazer and Portland's DJ Beyondadoubt at Buck & Bounce 5 on Friday, April 8, 9 p.m.; Holocene, 1001 SE Morrison St.; \$14; bigfreedia.com.



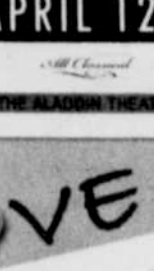


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