

Queer Question Time

29.01.10

Sparks flew during the second **QUEER QUESTION TIME** at the RVT last Friday, when panellists including former Mayor of London **Ken Livingstone**, Liberal Democrat **Jonathan Fryer**, Tory **David Gold**, comedienne **Shazia Mirza** and the controversial lesbian feminist **Julie Bindel** answered questions relating to ageism, prostitution and sexuality's nature or nurture argument.

Members of the transgendered community demonstrated peacefully outside the venue at Bindel's inclusion, and even though host **Stewart Who?** reminded the audience to direct questions to the whole panel and not solely to Bindel, emotions ran high and Bindel's answers were shouted over many times. Towards the end of the debate, a member of the transgendered community threw water at Bindel, who as a result temporarily walked off stage.

Organiser **Mike Kear** later told Boyz, 'Far from some accusations of silencing queer voices, QQT provided a forum to ensure that queer opinions and debate remains loud, proud and diverse. An hour was clearly not long enough for all the questions, and this wasn't helped by the few people who seemed unable to conduct themselves in a respectful manner.'

'Highlights for me include the final comments from 17-24-30's **Mark Healey**, who spoke about how it is important for us to come together. I was very pleased when Julie Bindel came back onto the stage to a huge round of applause – an applause not necessarily for her opinions, but for the appreciation the audience had of someone who knew how to carry themselves gracefully in public. Another highlight was Ken's announcement that he will be standing in the election for Mayor in 2012, which was met with an approving roar from the audience.'

• **Queer Question Time will return soon to the RVT, 372 Kennington Lane, Vauxhall, SE11.**

Photographs © DosFotos



Ken Livingstone



Wayne G (left) & friends

