

Shoot'em the way you like at Shooters



Shooters' main trademark is shot drinks and sexy ladies: from waitresses dressed in Scottish style outfits to go-go dancers, wearing next to nothing. (Andriy Porokhnenko)

BY DAVID PELUCHETTE

Summers in the capital always have a different feel, a different mood. There is a little less traffic on the streets, people's minds are on their upcoming holidays, getting things done seems to take on a whole different meaning as work seems not to be the primary focus of this time of year. Kyiv's nightlife usually takes a bit of a break in summer too. People take off on their summer vacations and it seems that party goes tend to be more of the tourist type than local residents. The crowds change even at your favorite spots. I for one usually go out of town most summers so I never really noticed, but this year I found myself spending my birthday in town. With no plans I decided to go to my local watering hole where even in summer I knew I would meet up with people I know. That's one of the great things about living here – you can always just pop in and meet up with people you know, make a few new friends and where the night ends up no one knows. After a long session of drinking and socializing at the Pub, the most logical destination is a club, but where? Instead of the usual haunts we decided to go to Shooters. I hadn't been there in over two years, so it was interesting to see if any changes had come about. The club is located in Perchersk on Moskovs'ka, which is not exactly the center but quite easy to get to. It's a convenient place to go out, all in one. You can relax and munge at the reasonably priced Italian/Fusion restaurant upstairs called Limoncello, then easily walk downstairs to Shooters, dance and drink the night away.

By the time we arrived the party was already jumping. As most of us know, Kyiv's clubs don't really get going till midnight. Surprisingly, we

were greeted not by the usual surly security staff but by two lovely ladies and were presented with two tickets. Shooters entrance is about 50 Hr and it's one of the few places that include a free drink with the cover, either a half liter of beer or the cocktail special du jour. On Saturday night they were also giving away extra tickets for free shots upstairs at Limoncello. They also make a delicious mojito, which has been my drink of choice lately, although the variety of shots available is quite extensive and what better way to get the party started!

When places first open up, they need time to work out the kinks and to find their type of clientele. It seems that Shooters has found it's groove, the crowd is a good mix of locals, expats and a few tourists visiting the lovely capital looking for a good time. People of all ages seemed to be there. The "working girl" factor is quite low indeed unlike some places that cater to foreigners. There also seems to be an absence of attitude so common at the more "hip" establishments in Kyiv – the people are easy going and friendly. I met a couple of guys from Turkey who were here on vacation, which I find amusing since so many Ukrainians go off to Turkey on holiday. It was nice to see the mutual admiration they had for Ukraine. In fact, most of the tourists I have met out on the town are really fascinated by this wonderful country. I have, however, noticed a disturbing fashion trend this year among Kyiv's cool set. I have in mind "The Mullet," that hairstyle popular with "Billy Ray Cyrus" and "American Rednecks" circa 1983 is unfortunately making a comeback in Kyiv's nightclubs. The epidemic is still in it's infancy but could spread like a case of chicken pox. So be warned. The good news is that it hasn't infected Kyiv's turn

tables or DJ's and remixes of "Achy Breaky Heart" have yet to be heard. Keep your fingers crossed.

The bar is situated in the middle of the floor plan with three or four bartenders taking orders. The pretty waiting staff cover the tables which surround the edges of the interior. They also have a more secluded alcove at the back for more intimate conversations. I don't know if it's the stereo system or the acoustics, but the sound is one of the best I've listened to in any club. It still amazes me just how much of a big village Kyiv seems to be. I bump into people I know all the time and Saturday night was no exception. I ran into a couple of old students of mine and what better way to say hello than with a few shots from the bar. Warmed up and ready to go, it was time to dance!

If you're looking to boogie, find a partner or just hit the dance floor alone. There are plenty of like minded individuals just dancing on their own, so why not join in? This is probably one of the best ways to meet someone. The dance floor is located between the bar and the big screen. They also have a raised podium where the waiting staff pop up to "shake their thangs" The atmosphere is lively yet casual without the "gilded youth" poser factor. Everyone just seemed to dance wherever they found a spot. As with most clubs in Kyiv, the crowd begins to thin out around 3:30, but the die hard go down with the ship partiers till 4:30-5:00 in the morning. Ready to jet? Where else in the world can you go out all night long, drinking and dancing without having to worry about getting home? In Kyiv, just put out your hand man!

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