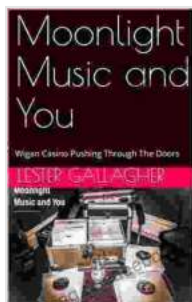


Pushing Through the Doors: Wigan Casino and the Birth of Northern Soul



Moonlight Music and You: Wigan Casino Pushing

Through The Doors by Allan F. Moore

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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|----------------------|-------------|
| Language | : English |
| File size | : 2100 KB |
| Text-to-Speech | : Enabled |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled |
| Word Wise | : Enabled |
| Print length | : 215 pages |
| Lending | : Enabled |
| Screen Reader | : Supported |



In the heart of Wigan, England, a town steeped in industrial heritage, there once stood a nightclub that would become synonymous with a vibrant and enduring music genre: Northern Soul. Wigan Casino, a former cinema that was transformed into a dance hall in the late 1960s, played a pivotal role in the development and popularization of Northern Soul, a genre that fused elements of soul, R&B, and Motown with a distinctly British flavor.

The Early Years

Wigan Casino opened its doors in 1973, and it quickly became a mecca for music lovers from across the country. The club's unique atmosphere, with its dimly lit dance floor, psychedelic light shows, and thumping sound system, created an immersive experience that was unlike anything else at the time. Wigan Casino's DJs, led by the legendary Russ Winstanley,

played a mix of obscure American soul records and up-tempo Northern Soul anthems, which captivated dancers with their infectious rhythms and uplifting lyrics.

As word of Wigan Casino's reputation spread, the club began to attract a loyal following of Northern Soul enthusiasts. These "soulies," as they were known, would travel for hours to attend Wigan Casino's legendary all-nighters, which often lasted from midnight to dawn. The club's dance floor became a melting pot of different cultures and backgrounds, with people from all walks of life coming together to share their passion for Northern Soul music.

The Northern Soul Scene

Wigan Casino was more than just a nightclub; it was the epicenter of the Northern Soul scene. The club's regular attendees formed a tight-knit community, bound by their shared love of music and dancing. Northern Soul became a way of life for many soulies, who dedicated their weekends to attending Wigan Casino and other Northern Soul venues. The scene also spawned its own fashion culture, with soulies adopting a distinctive style that included mohair suits, flared trousers, and platform shoes.

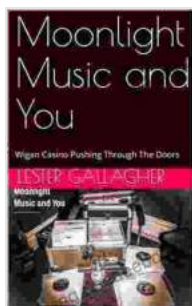
The Northern Soul scene was not without its controversies. Some critics dismissed it as a fad or a mere dance craze. However, for those who were part of it, Northern Soul was much more than just music. It was a way of expressing their individuality, escaping the mundane realities of everyday life, and finding a sense of community and belonging.

The Legacy of Wigan Casino

Wigan Casino closed its doors in 1981, but its legacy continues to this day. The club's impact on the Northern Soul scene was profound, and it helped to popularize the genre beyond its northern roots. Today, Northern Soul is still a vibrant and active music genre, with dedicated fans and clubs all over the world.

In 2018, Wigan Casino was reopened as a live music venue, paying homage to its iconic past. The club's new incarnation has hosted a variety of acts, including Northern Soul legends and contemporary artists. Wigan Casino has also become a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the world who want to experience the birthplace of Northern Soul.

Wigan Casino was a pivotal force in the development and popularization of Northern Soul music. Its unique atmosphere, legendary DJs, and dedicated clientele created an unforgettable experience that left a lasting legacy on the music scene. Today, Wigan Casino remains a symbol of the enduring power of music and the transformative impact it can have on people's lives.



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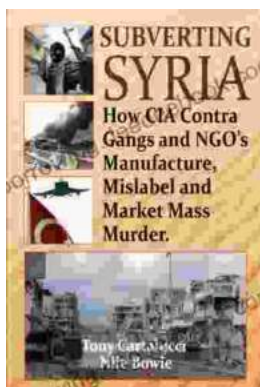
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