

MR Rubber EU 2024 Project Proposal “**Latex, Relax & Shine!**”

“What are you going to do and what will it do for the Rubber Europe community?”

One of the regular questions I get asked in my rubber is how are you so confident wearing gear in public? I feel it has taken time, I never used to be a confident and outgoing person, but one of the simplest ways I developed my confidence was getting to know people through sharing smaller relaxed experiences with other Rubberists.

I noticed while attending events a lot of newcomers to the rubber scene would sometimes feel intimidated or wary to socialise with new people during high intensity social environments. I noticed that it was outside the club, or away from the main stage that newcomers would begin to feel more relaxed and feel most comfortable in rubber gear in a more private area. They felt more included and excited to make new rubber friends within a quieter more relaxed social space.

It can be daunting for anyone being out in rubber in public for the first time and can bring high levels of social anxiety, especially for neurodivergent and introverted Rubberists.

For my project I want to create a calming space at big EU events which would help melt away social anxieties and ease the task of creating new connections for

many fledgling Rubberists across the EU. The event will be called **“Latex, Relax & Shine!”**

I want to focus this idea of improving social connections in a dedicated Lo-Fi relaxed environment at every event so all folk in our Rubberist community can showcase a little bit of their talent and shine!

I will create this space by co-ordinating relaxed open mic session events for the EU Rubber community. Each social space would take place the either the first or prior day of the event starting to be newcomer friendly and hosted by myself as Mr Rubber Europe.

“How are you going to do it and who will be involved?”

With a guitar, microphone and a synthesiser I would encourage and promote confidence in anyone wanting to come forward and share anything special they would like to perform from acoustic music to poetry. As a relaxed event there will be no constraints on genre or however, they wish to participate.

The aim is to keep it as relaxed as possible. There would be no need for everyone to perform of course and would take place in a small intimate venue. This intimate environment can also help cater for other mindful activities in the background such as crafting, sketching or boardgames.

One focus of the event would be to fundraise a local LGBT charity of the main event’s choosing or recommended by the event organisation. Entry to the event would be based on a “pay what you like or can afford” model to keep costs down

while also bringing a contribution towards chosen charity. Many people have tight budgets during large scale events and big weekends so should not be feel pressured or excluded if they can't pay for entry.

The event would be to be hosted in a smaller relaxed venue to reduce overstimulation and increase socialisation for many new rubber people who may feel overwhelmed by the high energy events further down the Weekend's line up.

This event will be designed to welcome and celebrate neurodivergence and mindful activity which Rubberists love dearly.

Performing has always been a huge part of my life; but the most precious times have been in smaller spaces, listening to a small number of friends and new connections to welcoming ears.

As an incentive, I will offer a drink, coffee or snack for every Rubberist playing and make the time to discuss and celebrate everyone's talents after the event. It would be a relaxed and expressive activity for all those involved, memorable in every aspect showcasing a little bit of Europe's rich musical culture and vibrant Rubber Scene.

I'm sure these two worlds can be combined in a sensitive and refreshing way for many and make a lasting impression on Rubberists and their new friendships.