

## GRRR-LESQUE

### *The Anonymous One*

#### **Narcissister** NYC

A heady mix of dance and performance art define the strange burlesque shows of Narcissister. She never shows her face and prefers to keep any references to herself firmly in the background, making her acts even more eerie. "In my show *Ass/Vag* I embody a life-sized vagina who emerges from a large hand-made woman's ass and proceeds to pleasure herself."

One of Narcissister's skits sees her being dressed as life-size Russian doll. "It was inspired by a set of dolls my Dad brought me back from Russia. I hide one of the dolls in my vagina and push it out on stage. The first time I did it, I had several smaller dolls inside me attached to strings so I could pull them out like a tampon, but the strings broke! Luckily I was performing with an accordion player, so he kept the music going as I fished them out. It took quite a while. I was horrified!"

[Narcissister.com](http://Narcissister.com)



### *The Punk Rock Ones*

#### **Skin Tight Outta Sight Rebel Burlesque** Toronto

This troublesome troupe are "theatrical provocateurs" and toy with the audience in a sexy, playful manner. The six members each bring something unique to the show – founder Tanya Cheex has a parasitical twin act, Sexy Mark Brown performs as a stripping Jesus, while Sauci Calla Horra eats too much chocolate sauce, becomes a deranged Easter Bunny, and plays with herself using a giant edible rabbit. Not one for the religious zealots, then.

"Sometimes 'pretty' can be a little dull," says Tanya. "So we find it more entertaining if a pretty girl does something challenging and little demented. We come from a punk rock background, so shocking is in our blood!"

[Skintightouttasight.com](http://Skintightouttasight.com)



From left: Anastasia, Sauci Calla Horra, CoCo LaCreme, Sexy Mark Brown, Honey B Hind, Tanya Cheex

### *The Shocking One*

#### **Empress Stah** London

In 1998, in a smoky gay club, Empress Stah entered a drag queen competition for a laugh, and thus began her on-stage debauchery.

"I drink my blood, pull diamonds from my pussy, fuck a male blow-up doll, drip hot wax on my breasts, pull a balloon out of my arse, blow it up and pop it over my head in a cloud of glitter, and swing naked from a chandelier," she says. Wearing a strap-on or plunging a needle into her vein is all in a day's work for Empress Stah. "Audience reactions differ. I've had euphoric appreciation to fainting. One person even had an epileptic fit!"



PICTURE: DORALEO PICERNO