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Friday, March 01, 2013

£8,000 to get Stavros Flatley, Craig Phillips, Michael Fish, Richard Blackwood and Wagner at my house party

Stars who went to Sun man Lee Price's bash ... for a small fee



Piece of cake ... Lee Price with the celebs he invited to his birthday bash

WATCH VIDEO By LEE PRICE Published: 22nd January 2013

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TOP SHOWBIZ

TV 3 hrs ago

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SHOWBIZ NEW

Nicki Minaj: I've never had plastic surgery on my face



I'M DANCING topless in my living room with Britain's Got Talent novelty act Stavros Flatley while being filmed by Eighties weatherman Michael Fish and original Big Brother winner Craig Phillips.

As far as birthday parties go, it's my most memorable yet.

Celebs are often seen opening supermarkets or at nightclubs' events. So why not at a private birthday party?

Dave Benson Phillips, presenter of Nineties kids show Get Your Own Back, recently advertised on Twitter a special offer for March — where you can book him from £10 per appearance.

Inspired, I decided to invite a host of similar celebs to an early birthday party in my small, studio flat in East London.

I got in touch through their personal websites and bookers. But I was astonished at the fees some of the "affordable" celebs demanded.

Soul II Soul, the Eighties R&B band, quoted me £10,000 for an hour's performance. Former athlete and sports pundit Kriss Akabusi wasn't far behind with £7,250, while Ground Force "star" Charlie Dimmock would set me back around £5,500.

I was going to have to revise my guest expectations.

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Video:

Sun man invites 'celebrities' to party in his flat Sun Exclusive

RICHARD Blackwood, Michael Fish, Stavros Flatley and Craig from Big Brother among 'top' names to turn up

Thankfully, there were plenty available within budget. But, while the fees were lower, the diva-ish demands remained.

X Factor maverick Wagner Fiuza-Carrilho was a relatively cheap £1,500 plus travel expenses.

He did have specific riders, though — including exclusive toilet facilities. Not something my one-bedroom flat could cater for.

He wasn't alone on this front. After confirming their attendance for £2,000, Stavros Flatley's agent enquired: "Would there be staging set up in your flat?" I agreed to push my sofas against the walls.

By comparison, weatherman Michael Fish was much lower-maintenance — even helpfully emailing me a warning of snow several days before the party.

Also attending were Craig Phillips, the first Big Brother winner and the "British Eddie Murphy", Richard Blackwood.

They joined me, my girlfriend, and a handful of close friends for my birthday celebrations at midday on Saturday.

Stavros Flatley — Demetri Demitrou and his son Lagi — arrived bearing gifts, including Greek nibbles, and alcoholic drink they called "moonshine", a signed copy of their book and, erm, a ceramic pot from their favourite restaurant in Cyprus.

Michael, aghast that he hadn't thought to bring a card or gift, apologised profusely. But seconds later he'd produced a signed photo of himself from nowhere.

Introductions done, an awkward silence ensued — exacerbated by the lack of space in my flat.

Ben, a childhood friend, described it, between sniggers in the kitchen, as "an us-and-them scenario" — with my friends cowering on the sofa or bed, while the celebs shuffled uneasily by the wardrobe and chest of drawers.

Richard Blackwood, who could only stay for half an hour before disappearing to appear in theatre show Shrek, openly speculated that he was on a Candid Camera-style show.



Fallen Flat ... Lee Price, second from right, practises his Greek dancing with Stavros Flatley

Seeking reassurance, he asked me to explain why I'd invited each of my high(ish) profile guests.

RAP star says changing features are all down to make-up

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Scarlett Johansson is back to her bust in this new campaign for Dolce & Gabbana Spring summer 2013 the Perfect Matte Liquid Foundation

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SINGER strips topless as he arrives back at London hotel after gig

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LIVE chat with golden girl and Strictly star on Monday March 4

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TV 1 hr ago Sexy TOWIE babe Billie wishes her boyfriend a very happy birthday



BIRTHDAY how Green

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PREGNANT star steps out in white outfit for work meeting in LA

NEWS 12 hrs ago Feeling a bit of a plonker

He seemed chuffed when I told him that we'd loved his two hit songs in the early 2000s. I even dared to sing a little back to him, which was met with an approving nod and relieved laughter from my friends.

But then I made my first faux pas saying: "You were a big star back then, Richard."

Smile dropping, he said he hoped he still was and would be again.

Red-faced, I attempted to brush off my gaffe by getting everyone a drink. Returning to the room, I told Wagner my dad was a big fan and urged him to sing us a song.

He insisted he couldn't without a backing track — before bursting into an impromptu rendition of Pavarotti's *Mattinata*.

While it was beautifully sung, it went on a bit with everyone else unsure when the song was over so they could start clapping.

Next up was a Stavros Flatley dance master-class. After whizzing through the steps, my friend Jay and I were dispatched to the bathroom to change into our costumes, as Demetri arranged a performance space. Following our pale imitation of their routine, I asked Demetri if he'd show us how it's really done.

In one smooth move he was topless and dancing beside us.

As I was thrown forward for my solo, I saw my friends filming proceedings on their mobile phones.

And they weren't alone — Craig and Michael were also capturing my every move on video.

The atmosphere had relaxed considerably. Craig asked our photographer to take a picture of us all as a group — before posting it on Twitter.

Wagner showed us snaps of his newborn baby, while Craig and Stavros Flatley talked about their dogs. This prompted a joke from Wagner, delivered so dead-pan that I mistook it for an actual anecdote.

He said: "I went to the zoo the other day. There was only one dog in there. It was a Shih Tzu."



Party food ... Stavros Flatley and Michael Fish tuck into birthday buffet

Jason manhood?

EXCLUSIVE: SEEDY comic Jason Manford



BIZARRE 1 hr ago

Helena Bonham Carter and Tim Burton look scruffy and jet-lagged

PAID back in London



BIZARRE 10 hrs ago

Wonderbrawl! Liam Gallagher and Idris Elba are NMEs

ROCKER squared up to The Wire actor at an NME Awards afterparty



SOAPS 11 hrs ago

Corrie's Shobna is attacked by taunts of troll

RACIST internet troll tarnishes soap star Shobna Gulati's last



SHOWBIZ 12 hrs ago

Swiftly done! Now Taylor is dating Ed Sheeran

SINGER rushed to her side following split with 1D's Harry Styles



DANCING ON ICE 11 hrs ago

Shy Beth is now ready to spice up on the ice

BETH Tweddle's been too SHY to be sexy on



TV 11 hrs ago

Single January is Mad about baby Xander

MAD Men's January Jones says being a lone parent is a joy and she needn't be pitied



BIZARRE 12 hrs ago

Kane should Russell up new gags before his next gig

NME's Best New Band Palma Violets said he was 'out of his depth'



BIZARRE 11 hrs ago

Outstanding Cribs frontman Ryan says he's a changed 'man

SINGER Jarman was happy to pick up the



TV 28/02/13

Willoughby: My chest plays second fiddle to Kelly's bust



Eager to make up for missing the joke, I showed him a text from my dad which read, "Wagner for PM".

Impressed, Wagner agreed to call him — introducing himself as "PC Wagner" who wanted to investigate his son's party. Clearly, he'd misread the message!

As the party wound down, talk turned to where the celebs were going next. Stavros Flatley were off to a 60th birthday party in Southampton while Craig had a live DIY demonstration in Peterborough. Famous faces gone, my friends spent the next two hours recalling their favourite party moments.

Jack, my housemate at university, summed it up best when describing it as "somewhere between Big Brother and Come Dine With Me, but at a birthday party."

That evening, Wagner texted me to say what a good time he'd had, taking to Twitter to wish me a happy birthday. Craig Phillips also tweeted me, thanking me for the party invite, while Michael Fish sent me the video he'd recorded.

Bizarre, awkward but brilliant — my very first celebrity party was a roaring success.

We won't get out of bed for less than...

Pop group **SOUL II SOUL** £10,000

Sports pundit **KRISS AKABUSI** £7,250 + VAT

TV gardener **CHARLIE DIMMOCK** £5,000 to £5,500 + VAT

Ex EastEnder **LUCY BENJAMIN** £5,000

Veteran comedian **ROY WALKER** £3,000

Big Brother's **KINGA** £1,000 with 50 per cent up front

TOWIE's **NANNY PAT** £2,000 plus return cabs

X Factor's **KITTY BRUCKNELL** £800 - £1,000 (for a personal appearance)

BRADLEY from S Club 7...£850 + 15% booking fee + VAT for one hour DJ set

EastEnder star's son **SHANE RICHIE JR** £500

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EXCLUSIVE: X Factor bosses look to hire Robbie Williams — he wants second baby



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Kelly Jones: I'm a storyteller in whatever I do

EXCLUSIVE: 'Phonics frontman on taking time out from band to write a



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VIDEO: Watch Atoms For Peace singer show off his odd moves for latest track, Ingenue



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SUSAN Boyle snapped in full costume filming scenes for new film The Christmas Candle

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AS 80s music takes UK by storm, T'Pau singer on the legacy of the emotional epics

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JOHNNY & Ronnie played Smiths' classic

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THE singer let her hair down in Dubai after earlier immaculate red-carpet appearance



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TV 11 hrs ago

Chris's new comedy drama is under fire

ACTOR Oliver Chris backs BBC bomb-com Bluestone 42, despite it causing controversy



TV 28/02/13

Josie Gibson shows off her flat stomach in see-through top

BIG Brother winner confidently bares her



TV 12 hrs ago

Big Bro star Rodman pals with Jong Un

BASKETBALL legend Dennis Rodman tells N Korean leader: 'You have a friend for life'



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Kelly Brook in skin-tight mini dress after filming Celebrity Juice debut

OFF to celebrate with



TV 28/02/13

Rylan lands regular role on Celebrity Juice

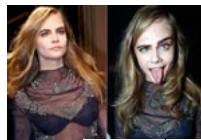
X FACTOR star says he will be making a weekly appearance on the panel show



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TOWIE's Ricky accidentally runs over Arg

JAMES 'Arg' Argent left in absolute agony after co-star Ricky Rayment ran over his foot



TV MAGAZINE 28/02/13

Russell Brand: I'll have kids and move back to Britain

THE comedian admits he could come home when he starts a family



TV MAGAZINE 28/02/13

'I wouldn't be where I am today without David Walliams'

MATT Lucas on joy at what he achieved with



SHOWBIZ 3 hrs ago

One Direction fan says sorry for 'assault' on Harry at gig

SCOT teen said she had no intention of hurting Styles with shoe



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Corr! Singer Andrea sizzles in black bikini

IRISH star, 38, shows off her svelte physique as she plays with her daughter in Barbados



TV 28/02/13

Carol Wright: I hope Mark weds Michelle, I'm ready to be a grandmother

MARK's mum wants Keeqan to join family



TV 28/02/13

I'm A Celeb... Get Me Out Of Here WOW!

JUNGLE show's spin-off presenter Laura Whitmore sports a sexy cutaway dress



NEWS 28/02/13

Bucket list girl has cuppa with Gary Barlow

TERMINALLY-ILL teen wanted to meet the Take That star as one of her dying wishes



TV 28/02/13

TOWIE's Lucy: I'm moving out,

and moving on

LUCY will quit the flat she shares with fella Mario Falcone after cheating rumours



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'Probably the ugliest one is the best singer'

JAKE Bugg and One Direction feud escalates further



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Robbie Williams shares wedding video with fans

VIDEO: SINGER posts clip online showing him



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Christian Slater is engaged to long-term love Brittany

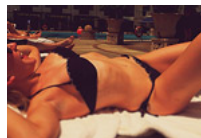
IT will be Hollywood star's second marriage



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Who the Ellie's this sexy blonde bikini babe?

SINGER in this saucy Twitpic is more often usually found hiding



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

That's one Kel of a strut: Kelly Rowland shows off catwalk skills

SINGER showcases legs in high-waisted hot



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Kristen Stewart ignoring advances from newly-single Rupert Sanders

ACTRESS hopes to get back with R-Patz



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

That must be Rita Ora! Star's dodgy disguise Down Under

SINGER shops with her stylist wearing comedy moustache



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Liam Gallagher proves he can still 'ave it at NME Awards

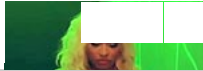
LAIRY rocker showsoff before wrapping up warm in TWO jackets



MUSIC 28/02/13

Nicki Minaj gives her boobs a starring role

VIDEO: FEISTY rapper films video topless with gold star stickers on her



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Rihanna's 'stalker' told to stay away

STAR wins court order banning Steveland Barrow from coming within 100 yards of her



SHOWBIZ 28/02/13

Kim Kardashian makes a spectacle of herself

PREGNANT star shows off her eyewear after



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