



CAFÉ

*tabac*

MENU

I'm sixteen and my life as Scotland Road's resident, picked on, gawky, effeminate kid had found a dark unrelenting climax. I've reached the peak of my regularly battered/tattered war-torn tether and can't take anymore, "Scottie" had always been too much, but now too much was more than enough. Burning in a broken-glass/red-brick kiln of unemployed and increasingly dangerous machismo, I was definitely nearing the end.

Luckily in the nick of time, I discovered The Everyman Youth Theatre and as quick as you can say "miracle" one occurred... I finally escaped. The Everyman changed everything, me included, like stepping into my own imagination. The youth theatre gave me so much, a new life, new friends, new direction, a voice, a colourfully eccentric city centre... but far more importantly, it gave me Cafe Tabac.

I'd been to Sayers, but I'd never been to me and Cafe Tabac was every bit counter-culturally alive as the youth theatre. Never thought for a single second, a working-class no one like myself could be part of anything as glowingly sophisticated as Tabac, until realising Cafe Tabac was much cleverer, much warmer, much more than just merely "sophisticated". It was a malleable anarcho everything, a city-centre playground and for us theatre kids, another performance space. Light years from Wimpy, less heavenly than Food for All, way more out there than the Armadillo Tea Rooms, far more starchy than even the rock 'n' rollin' Kardomah. In many ways it was "Planet Tabac" and we spent so much time orbiting its atmospheres... other dimensions of extended play and imagineering.

Can't recall the first time I actually went in, but completely remember the feeling of becoming part of it. It somehow felt heady, yet calm, looked auburn and purple, exotically smelled of food and bubbling thought. It's inside, unlike the insides of any other place, a communicable muted vibrancy, energy emitting and vital. Me and mine blossomed and we weren't easy, spending hours around one flapjack and a far too refilled pot of Earl Grey tea. We were loud, competing, thrilled and vulgar, taking whatever hysterical improvisation we'd just done at youth theatre and continuing it in Tabac. Some nights there'd be just three or four of us, other nights ten to twenty and no word of a lie on Saturday afternoons, perhaps up to forty. Tabac housed, protected, embraced, but more importantly (for all our unrefined anarchies), it got us.

Tabac is the tawny candle lit place we haphazardly matured... from outrageous effervescing whirlwinds to simmering camp all encompassing breezes. As the cafe aged so did we, I can still sense our uncontainable energies becoming more fluid, more relaxed. We were morphing into the adults we were because of Tabac, every moment in there startlingly new, organic and halcyon. Can't think of another environment (for me), other than the youth theatre where that was the case. From an effete Scottie Road kid terrified to use his voice for fear of getting punched, to a theatrical loud mouthed queen unable to shut up. I carry those enormous experiences with me everywhere, definitely in the expansiveness of my writing, defiantly on stage. One of my very fondest memories is our select youth theatre writing group, scribbling/giggling away, then excitedly sharing what we'd written. Cafe Tabac is the first place I ever wrote and performed poetry to and for others, before Tabac, I never thought I could.

Don't want to mention names because there are so many, but just got to mention Bold Streets ultimate matriarch... Rita. Rita



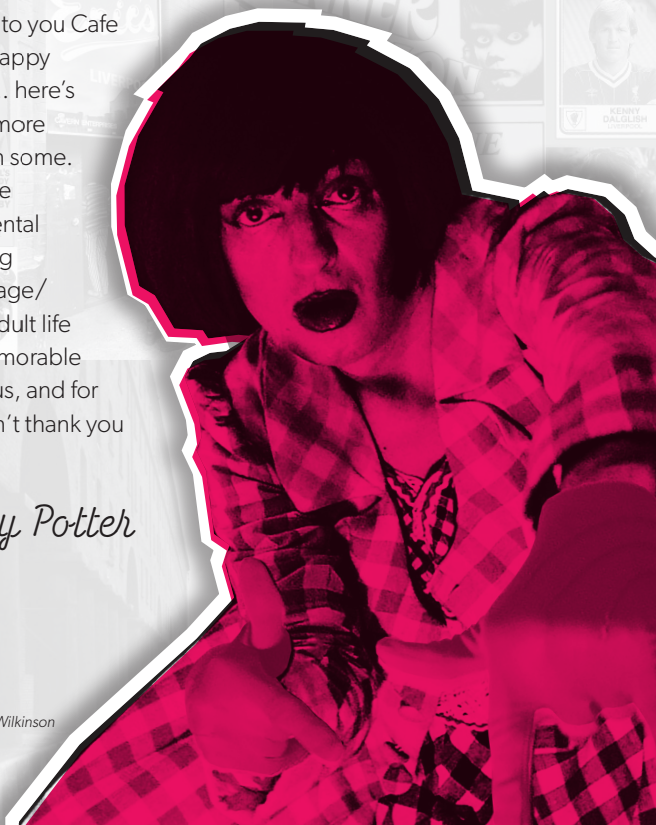
was truly boss, running Tabac with a silken, diamanté oven 'n' boxing glove. Rita was a "take no prisoners" personality who couldn't hide the emotive generosity of her truly indomitable spirit. However hard she may have sometimes appeared on the outside, inside she cared deeply. She was one of those people who if you made smile or laugh, it was a result, if you got a favourable reaction from her, you felt good. Rita Lawrence was very naturally glamorous, even in a floured-up pinny, rolling pin and rubber gloves, she could work a look. My best friend Brian 'n' I loved her hair (we'd have bets on what it would be like that day, the winner getting a banger special and a pot of lapsang souchong), from Billie Holiday to Diana Ross, or just our Rita... she was in possession of an always wonderful, ever changing riah. Tabac was Rita's domain, her palace and she it's Queen, present, noble, regal even and worn like crowns, a glorious range of expertly milliner'd hats.

Sometimes we'd get so rowdy 'n' unruly she'd unceremoniously shoo us out, well perhaps not shoo, more like hurl, her natural Boudicca like authority to the fore. She really had to, we'd probably spent an age sat round little more than a long empty milkshake and the still picked at crumbs of a caramel slice. Once told me, she didn't like doing that but had a business to run and we certainly weren't big spenders. Rita commanded a great deal of respect, a character of such steel, charm and certainty, you just did what she charismatically said.

From May 1979 to whenever, Cafe Tabac was our place, alive with all the eclectic zhuzh Liverpool could muster, a microcosm of the best bits of a brilliantly bohemian, multicultural city. Rita knew this, knew how important a haven her gaff was, she instinctively knew it was a very necessary "inside" for the cities ever burgeoning, ever collecting outsiders. Cafe Tabac was certainly the Queerest Cafe I've ever had the pleasure to screech in, a golden age in mine and so many others lives. While Liverpool was being unceremoniously declined 'n' dismantled by Thatcher, Tabac and Rita managed to stay stoic, caring, spirited and relevant. To call it an oasis sounds cliché but in the encroaching social desert created by the then government it was far more. It was a tangible, celebratory, partying mirage, selling the best chilli con carne (with side salad 'n' mayonnaise), in town.

Big love to you Cafe Tabac, happy fortieth... here's to forty more and then some. You were instrumental in making my teenage/ young adult life truly memorable 'n' joyous, and for that I can't thank you enough.

*Gerry Potter*



# Parcakes

- TRADITIONAL - SUGAR AND LEMON (V)** ..... £5.70
- THE AMERICAN - CRISPY BACON & MAPLE SYRUP** ..... £6.20
- MIXED FRUIT (V)** ..... £6.20

# Caf Classics

*served until 7pm.*

- RITA'S FULL ENGLISH** ..... £9.40  
Free range egg, 2 bacon, 2 sausage, black pudding, tomato, field mushrooms, baked beans, hash brown & buttered toast.
- THE GREASY SPOON** ..... £9.15  
2 free range fried eggs, hand carved honey roast ham or bacon, sausage, beans, 2 pieces buttered bread, mug of tea and a pile of chips.
- VEGAN BREAKFAST (Ve)** ..... £8.90  
Veggie sausage, spinach, avocado, beans, tomatoes, roast field mushrooms, roasted red peppers, hash brown & toast.
- THE FISH LOVER** ..... £8.20  
Smoked salmon & scrambled egg with avocado on toasted bloomer.
- AVO ON TOAST (V)** ..... £7.60  
Smashed chilli and lime avocado with 2 free range poached eggs on toasted bloomer with fresh coriander.
- EGGS BENEDICT** ..... £7.60  
2 Free range poached eggs with hand carved honey roast ham or bacon on a toasted muffin with hollandaise sauce.
- EGGS ROYALE** ..... £7.60  
2 Free range poached eggs with smoked salmon on a toasted muffin with hollandaise sauce.
- EGGS FLORENTINE (V)** ..... £7.20  
2 Free range poached eggs with wilted spinach on a toasted muffin with hollandaise sauce.
- OMELETTE WITH 3 EGGS AND CHEESE (V)** ..... £5.20  
Additional toppings, price per item: onion, spinach, mushroom, tomato, feta cheese, mature cheese, bacon, ham, chicken ..... £1.00
- ADDITIONAL BREAKFAST ITEMS TO ADD TO ANY BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH;**
- Mushrooms, tomato, baked beans, toast, hash browns ..... £1.00
- Bacon, egg, sausage, black pudding ..... £1.50

*(please kindly note, we do not allow the swapping of items on our breakfast menu)*

Liverpool University Ents Present  
**The Smiths**  
+ Red Guitars  
+ HOTHOUSE DISCO  
MOUNTFORD HALL  
WED 8 FEB AT 7:30 PM



# Breakfast Sandwiches

Served on your choice of toasted bap, muffin or bread

<b>BACON BUTTY</b> .....	£4.50
<b>EGG AND BACON BUTTY</b> .....	£4.50
<b>SAUSAGE BUTTY</b> (V AVAILABLE) .....	£4.50
<b>TA-BACMUFFIN</b> .....	£4.50
Sausage and Egg on a toasted muffin	
<b>BUILD YOUR OWN</b> .....	£5.00
Any 3 of egg, bacon, sausage, black pudding, hash brown, mushrooms, halloumi, tomato.	

## Sides

to add or share - 3 for £12

<b>SWEET POTATO FRIES</b> (V) .....	£3.75
<b>CAJUN SPICED FRIES</b> (V) .....	£3.25
<b>FRIES</b> (V) .....	£3.25
<b>LOADED FRIES WITH CHEESE AND BACON</b> .....	£4.50
<b>HUMMUS &amp; PITTA</b> (V) .....	£4.50
<b>BEER BATTERED ONION RINGS</b> (V) .....	£4.25
<b>JALEPENO POPPERS</b> (V) .....	£4.50
<b>HOT &amp; SPICY CHICKEN WINGS</b> .....	£4.50

“Tabac was essential for getting a job, as my agent would telephone the cafe, as they knew I’d be there. The lovely Rita used to field calls from international agents, and I remember once told me i had a job in Monte Carlo!”

**MARGI CLARKE**



# Big Plates

## **TABAC'S FISH & CHIPS** ..... £9.40

Fresh haddock fillet in crisp beer batter with crushed minted peas, chips, garlic mayo and fresh lemon.

## **CHICKEN IN A BASKET** ..... £8.00

Goujons with chips and bbq sauce.

## **CHICKEN KIEV** ..... £8.50

Golden fried chicken breast filled with garlic butter with crushed minted pea's & chips.

## **TABAC DOUBLE BURGER** ..... £9.50

2 6oz locally made pattys with mature cheddar, red onion, baby gem, tomato and gherkins on a toasted brioche, served with fries and coleslaw.

## **BUDDHA BOWL** <sup>(VE)</sup> ..... £8.50

Quinoa, Black beans, smashed avo, carrots, cherry toms, spinach, pumpkin seeds, houmous.

## **MOROCCAN CHICKEN SALAD** ..... £8.50

Spiced chicken, houmous, grated carrot, pomegranate, watercress and a lemon dressing.

## **CHICKEN CAESAR SALAD** ..... £8.25

A classic salad crisp and fresh with crisp croutons.

# Sandwiches

*All served with fries and coleslaw*

## **HAM AND CHEESE TOASTIE** ..... £7.50

Hand carved honey roast ham and mature cheddar with hot english mustard and garlic mayo on toasted bloomer bread.

## **BLT** ..... £7.50

Bacon rashers, lettuce and tomato with mayonnaise – served in a toasted ciabatta.

## **CLUB SANDWICH** ..... £8.00

Buttermilk Chicken, bacon rashers, lettuce and tomato with mayonnaise – served in a wrap or ciabatta.

## **FISH FINGER BUTTY** ..... £8.00

Beer battered haddock fingers with mild cheese, pickled onions and tartar sauce – served in a wrap or ciabatta.

## **THE SECRET GARDEN** <sup>(VE)</sup> ..... £7.20

Garlic Roast Mushrooms with watercress, spinach, avocado, tomato, roasted red pepper and pear & date chutney – served in a wrap or Ciabatta.

# Desserts

## **CHOCOLATE & CHERRY SPONGE WITH WHIPPED CREAM** ..... £5.50

A warm chocolate cake with cherries and chantilly cream.

## **CHEESECAKE OF THE DAY** ..... £5.50

Please ask the team for todays special.

## **ORIGINAL ETON MESS** ..... £5.50

Meringue, whipped cream, strawberries and couli.

*(V) Vegetarian. (Ve) Vegan.*

*Our food is prepared in food areas where cross contamination may occur, and our menu descriptions do not include all ingredients. If you have any questions, allergies or intolerances, please let us know before ordering.*

Events: £2.75. Admission from: £8. Ticket Office, Trade Records, Photo Sales Records, Home Court Box Office. £12.00 All the Stars



# Drinks

## Hot Drinks

<b>BREAKFAST TEA</b> .....	£2.40
<b>LEMON &amp; GINGER TEA</b> .....	£2.40
<b>EARL GREY</b> .....	£2.40
<b>GREEN TEA</b> .....	£2.40
<b>PEPPERMINT TEA</b> .....	£2.40

Our coffee blend is '*Tabac espresso*' - it is a modern take on a classic. It's a blend of two distinctive coffees, which combine to produce an espresso with a deep, rich chocolatey body, pronounced toffee sweetness, a complex fruity edge, and a hint of bittersweet cocoa at the finish. It's well balanced and combines beautifully with milk, where it adds punchy caramel, smooth milk chocolate notes and gets even sweeter. Produced in Liverpool by Neighbourhood Coffee, the cities first speciality roasters

<b>ESPRESSO</b> .....	£2.90
<b>MACCHIATO</b> .....	£2.90
<b>FLAT WHITE</b> .....	£2.90
<b>CORTADO</b> .....	£2.90
<b>AMERICANO</b> .....	£2.60/£3.30
<b>CAPPUCCINO</b> .....	£2.60/£3.30
<b>LATTE</b> .....	£2.80/£3.80
<b>MOCHA</b> .....	£2.80/£3.80
<b>HOT CHOCOLATE</b> .....	£2.90/£3.80
Cream & marshmallows .....	£0.60p
Flavoured syrups .....	£0.60p
(vanilla, hazelnut, caramel, gingerbread plus more)	
<b>MILK ALTERNATIVES</b> .....	£0.40p
(Soy, almond, oat)	



Photo: Francesco Mellina

## *Draught*

Half/Pint

<b>COKE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20
<b>DIET COKE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20
<b>LEMONADE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20

## *Cans*

<b>TING GRAPEFRUIT SODA</b> .....	£2.60
<b>SAN PELLEGRINO BLOOD ORANGE</b> .....	£2.60
<b>SAN PELLEGRINO LIMONATA</b> .....	£2.60
<b>RED BULL</b> .....	£2.60

## *Bottles*

<b>COKE</b> .....	£2.60
<b>DIET COKE</b> .....	£2.60
<b>STILL WATER</b> .....	£2.00
<b>SPARKLING WATER</b> .....	£2.00

## *Juices*

<b>ORANGE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20
<b>APPLE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20
<b>PINEAPPLE</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20
<b>CRANBERRY</b> .....	£2.10/£3.20

## *Bottled Beers*

<b>CORONA</b> 4.6% ABV .....	£4.40
<b>HEINEKEN</b> 5% ABV .....	£4.30
<b>HEINEKEN BLUE</b> 0.05% ABV .....	£4.00
<b>WYLD WOOD CIDER</b> 6% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>KOPPARBERG</b> 4% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>DESPERADO</b> 5.9% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>RUDE MECHANICALS FEATHER WEIGHT</b> <b>PUNCHY PILSNER</b> 4.5% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>RUDE MECHANICALS FIRST AUDITION</b> <b>PALE ALE</b> 4.5% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>ORGANIC CELIA PREMIUM CZECH LAGER -</b> <b>GLUTEN FREE</b> 4.5% ABV .....	£4.60
<b>VEDETT - EXTRA BLONDE</b> <b>PREMIUM LAGER</b> 5% ABV .....	£4.60

Please ask the team about our selection of draught beer.

Please let us know if you have any allergy requirements.

Echo & the Bunnymen  
Liverpool  
Manchester  
London  
The Tube 1982  
Liverpool 1982  
The Tube 1983

LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY ENTS PRESENT  
The Smiths  
+ HOTHOUSE DISCO  
MOUNTFORD HALL  
WED 8 FEB AT 7-30 PM  
Liverpool, £12.75 Advance from USB Ticket Office, Probe Records, Probe Live Records, Probe Court Book Office, £12.75 At the Door



## Wines

## WHITE

**JEAN-PAUL BLANC** ..... £4.50/£6.00/£17.50  
easy-drinking, floral, medium-dry.

**MIRABELLO PINOT GRIGIO** ..... £5.00/£6.80/£19.00  
fresh,floral and citrusy.

**THE CLOUD FACTORY SAUVIGNON BLANC**  
..... £6.00/£7.80/£23.00  
bright,perfumed and tropical.

**DUC DE MORNAY PICPOUL DE PINET** ..... £24.00  
crisp, ripe,saline.

**DOMAINE DE LA MOTTE PETIT CHABLIS** ..... £28.00  
elegant,zesty,mineral.

## ROSÉ

**FAUNA ROSÉ** ..... £4.80/£6.30/£18.00  
fresh raspberry and redcurrant.

**ANCORA PINOT GRIGIO ROSÉ** ..... £5.00/£6.80/£19.00  
cherries and strawberries,dry.

## RED

**RAME GARNACHA** ..... £4.60/£6.00/£17.50  
bright, ripe and fruity.

**GRAND CAPE SHIRAZ** ..... £4.90/£6.60/£18.50  
blackberry,blueberry,smoky.

**PECULIER MR PAT MERLOT** ..... £5.00/£6.80/£19.00  
plush plums and herbs.

**NIETO MALBEC, MENDOZA** ..... £6.00/£7.80/£23.00  
dense, silky, spicy.

**BARON DE POCE PINOT NOIR** ..... £24.00  
elegant, juicy, red berries.

**VEGA DEL RAYO RIOJA RESERVA** ..... £26.00  
mature, oaky, smooth.

## SPARKLING

**LUNETTA PROSECCO** ..... £5.80/ £23

**LUNETTA PROSECCO ROSÉ** ..... £5.80/ £23

**HENNETS BRUT ROSE** ..... £40

**VEUVE CLICQUOT** ..... £65


"Pete, Lynne  
and I would  
often visit  
Café Tabac.  
We would spend  
our time chatting  
and eating our  
favourite dish on  
the menu. BLT!"

**FRANCESCO  
MELLINA**  
PHOTOGRAPHER


# Tabac Cocktails

**COSMOPOLITAN** ..... £7.75 

Ketel One, Cointreau, Lime juice, Cranberry juice.

**LONG ISLAND ICE TEA** ..... £8.00 

Ketel One, Tanqueray, Cazcabel Blanco, Pampero Blanco, Cointreau, Lime, Diet Coke.

**NEGRONI** ..... £8.50 

Tanqueray, Punt e Mes, Campari.

**THE RITA** ..... £7.75 

Cazcabel Blanco, Lime Juice, Agave Syrup.

**BLOODY MARY** ..... £7.75 

Ketel One, Worcester sauce, Sirachi, Lemon, Big Tom, Salt, Paprika.

**THE MIGHTY WAHTINI** ..... £8.00 

Tanqueray Gin, Cointreau, lemon juice, orange marmalade.

**OLD FASHIONED** ..... £8.50 

Makers Mark, Bitters, Maple Syrup.

**SINGAPORE SLING** ..... £8.50 


Tanqueray, Cointreau, Benedictine, Cherry Heering, Lime, Pineapple, Grenadine, bitters.

**ESPRESSO MARTINI** ..... £8.50 

Ketel One, Cazcabel Coffee, Espresso, Maple Syrup.

**PORN STAR MARTINI** ..... £8.50 

Vanilla vodka, Passoa, passion fruit puree, pineapple juice, lemon juice, bitters - Prosecco.

**SCOUSE & STORMY** ..... £7.50 

Goslings Black Seal, Lime, Ginger Syrup, Ginger Beer.

**DAIQUIRI** ..... £8.00 

Pampero Rum, lime juice, gomme, bitters - choice of syrup - blackcherry, strawberry, passion fruit.

**THE TEARDROP EXPLODES** ..... £8.00 

Ketel One, Passoa, Southern Comfort, lime juice, pineapple Juice, orange juice, grenadine, ginger ale.



Photo: Mark McNulty



**THE BLONDE FIST** ..... £8.00 ☐

Makers Mark, Apricot Liqueur, Lemon, Egg white, Simple Syrup, bitters.

**SCALLYWAG JAZ** ..... £8.00 ☐

Gosling Black Seal, Old J Spiced, Lime, Orgeat, Pineapple, bitters.

**CHLOE'S POEM** ..... £8.00 ☐

Ketel One, St Germain, lemon, Strawberries, Cranberry, Prosecco.

**JUNE BUG** ..... £7.50 ☐

Cazcabel Coconut, Melonade, Lime, Pineapple.

**APEROL SPRITZ** ..... £7.50 ☐

Aperol, Prosecco, soda, orange slice.

**CASEY'S KISS** ..... £7.50 ☐

Elderflower, Prosecco, soda.

## *Gin Serves*

**TANQUERAY 10** ..... £8.50 ☐

Tanqueray 10, Fever Tree Tonic, pink grapefruit wedge and juniper berries.

**LARIOS ROSE** ..... £8.50 ☐

Larios Rose, Fever Tree Tonic, strawberries.

**WHITLEY NEILL RHUBARB** ..... £8.50 ☐

Whitley Neill Rhubarb, Fever Tree Tonic, ginger slices, juniper berries & mint sprig.

**BEEFEATER BLOOD ORANGE** ..... £8.50 ☐

Beefeater Blood Orange, Fever Tree Tonic, dehydrated orange slice, juniper & mint sprig.

*Please let us know if you have any allergy requirements.*



