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A sharp taste of Orange



Having DJed at Fire for over seven years and with a good amount of club promotion under his belt, **Steven Sharp** took over the running of Orange earlier this year and has since delivered a collaboration with Trade and several big bank holiday events. He spoke to **Luke Till** about how things have been going so far.

What is your new role at Fire and Area?

I've been DJing and working at the company for eight years now, and Craig wanted someone to have a fresh approach and a new direction for Orange, because it's always been the flagship night for the whole company – it's where the company grew from. And because of my association with it, having DJed there for seven or so years, Craig approached me and I jumped at the opportunity. It made sense. Club promotion has always been something that I've dabbled in. When we first started The Sharp Boys we ran Friday nights at Heaven for about eighteen months before they did their refurbishment.

So what have you done with Orange?

With Orange I started from fresh. I've been working with the ad designer, Dominic Sinclair, for about six years, since the Royal House days. We developed the artwork together. I've always been a fan of Damien Hirst, which is obviously where the influence came from. The key thing was giving Orange a fresh, new approach. So we've got canvases made up of the artwork and there are new graphic visuals on the plasma screens. I took over the job at the beginning of March.

I knew all the big bank holiday weekends were coming up and so far all three of them have been really successful, so that's been encouraging. The Summer of Love theme was my whole

concept – I knew that

this pretty significant anniversary was coming up and thought we should celebrate it. The other thing I've tried to do is bring in DJs that you might not have heard of before.

The DJs you have brought in have been quite big names though.

Yeah, and we have got to acknowledge that we are in a recession at the moment – some of these DJs are big names and they don't come cheap, so you've got to get it right. And so far it's been good. We've known Danny Rampling professionally for about 15 years – he was a great supporter of The Sharp Boys stuff in the early days and he invited us onto his Radio One show, so there's always been that relationship between us.

How have the weekly Oranges been?

Craig's been really happy with how things have been going with the bank holiday events and Orange in general. Numbers are up on a Sunday, and with the current financial climate, people have been out partying over the weekend so it can be difficult some weeks to encourage them to keep partying come Sunday. But the atmosphere has been excellent, and off the back of that Craig said that he'd like me to get involved with one Saturday a month, so I took control of the Horizon School Disco a few weeks ago, which was a lot of fun. My next Saturday event is Orange Pride this Saturday night. It's going to be a very competitive night, but I know that what people have come to expect from Orange – the high production standard, good quality music and DJs that you're not going to hear anywhere else – will be delivered. Tall Paul used to DJ at Kiss FM at the same time that we were there and he hasn't played on the club scene for many years.

Is Horizon back once a month now?

Horizon was a very successful club but I think that the Saturday night mentality for clubbers has now changed. The School Disco party was a success but I'd actually like to do something totally fresh. You've got to look at the success of people like SuperMartXé that have really made an impact with these big themed parties, and I think that because people aren't going out as much, they're planning their social lives and clubbing around big spectacles, and that's what I'd like to bring to Saturday nights at Fire.



- **Orange Zoophoric: The Saturday Night Pride Party is on this Saturday (4 Jul) from 10pm until 8am at Fire, South Lambeth Road, Vauxhall, SW8.**
- Advance tickets are £12 from www.clubtickets.com.

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