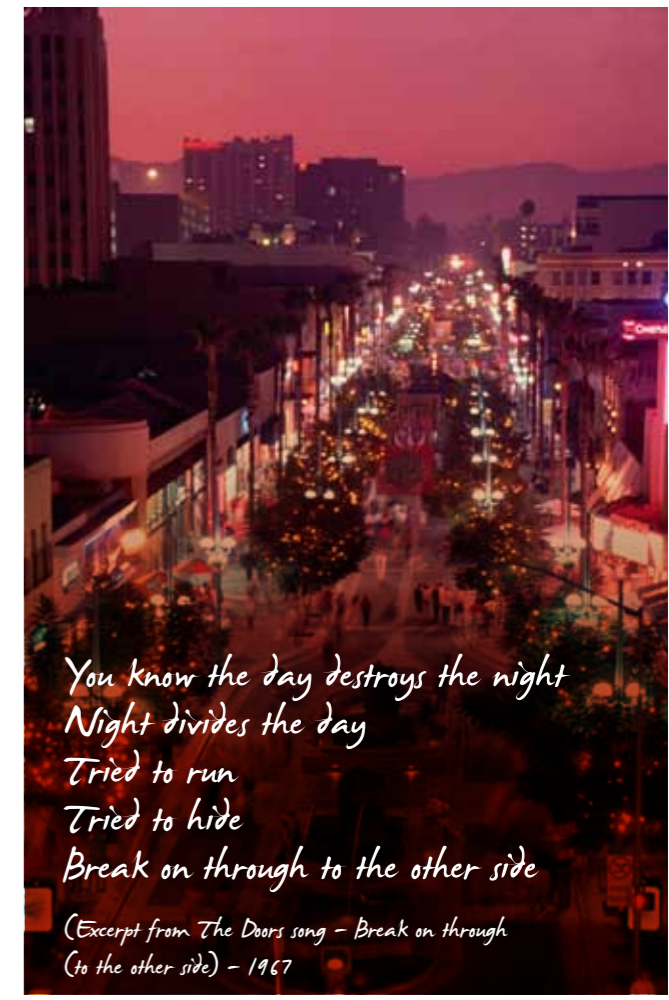


Image: Glenn Comlier



Image: Robert Landau



You know the day destroys the night
Night divides the day
Tried to run
Tried to hide
Break on through to the other side
(Excerpt from The Doors song - Break on through
(to the other side) - 1967

LOS ANGELES CITY OF ANGELS... AND KINGS

By Gary Dickson

Ever since I was a kid the lure of LA had always been about the day time attractions. You know – Disneyland, Universal Studios, Knott’s Berry Farm and the like. In some respects everyone, no matter what age, has these on their must do ‘bucket list’ – and with very good reason. But, on a recent trip to The City of Angels I discovered the LA night life...and loved it.

Angels and Kings

This place may not be as familiar to you as the other places I mention below but believe me if you are a fan of great rock music, fantastic food and, above all, an extremely eclectic mix of people then you must simply go experience it for yourself. As both my friends will tell you – I love my classic rock music. The Doors, Deep Purple, AC/DC, Lynyrd Skynyrd and many many more are all indelibly etched into my grey matter. At Angels and Kings you can fall into a classic rock music utopian trance...until well into the a.m. hours. Everyone is there because they like the same sort of music and it doesn’t take long before they all think they can sing like Jim Morrison, Ian Gillan or Ronnie van Zant. One of the best things about Angels and Kings...is the location. It is only two ‘blocks’ east along Hollywood Boulevard from Grauman’s Chinese Theatre. They also have bars in New York, Chicago and Barcelona.

The Comedy Store

Situated on “the Strip”, The Comedy Store is another must do “nightie” activity in LA. Whilst it boasts a veritable plethora of extremely famous comedians (and comediennes) who have graced the stages here, there are often nights when you can sit right up the



Image: Richard Carroll

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The Comedy Store

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P: +1 323 650 6268, W: www.thecomedy.com

Whisky a go-go

8901 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90069
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The Viper Room

8852 West Sunset Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90069
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My thanks go out to Air New Zealand for their sublime Business Class service too and from Auckland - amazing. We really are showing the world how service in the skies should be. A big thanks also to the people from AVIA reps in Sydney and LA Inc in Los Angeles itself for putting together an awesome itinerary for me.

front and be entertained by someone who you have never heard of before. Beware! The language can be "fruity" and apart from having to be 21 (as with all licensed premises here) you will get asked to leave if you are talking and other guests can't hear the act. I was asked to stop talking twice by a staff member... whilst talking to another staff member!!! Entry is US\$20 and well worth it - but there is a two drink minimum with that price (also a familiar requirement). The Main Room and the Original Room boast multiple comics from 9pm - with a new stand-up every 15 minutes. So, even if you don't like one or two of the acts, it doesn't take long before you have a new one to enjoy. Check out their website before you go as they have a comprehensive list of who is on and when.

Whisky a Go Go

Since it first opened its doors in 1964 Whisky a Go Go has been as much a part of the LA nightlife as Bourbon Street is to New Orleans. Alice Cooper, Cream, The Doors, Van Halen, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin to name just a very small few have played here. It must have been stunning being at "The Whisky" in the late 60's and 70's and seeing some of rock's biggest names strutting their stuff on stage. While it may have seen its best days and the headline bands of today don't throng there as in yesteryear, there is no doubt in my mind that this is one place you must visit at night when in LA - even if it is just for the memories. Again, a comprehensive website shows you who is playing in upcoming weeks and months.

"The Mothers (Frank Zappa and his band) had no contract until a night late in November 1965 when they were playing the Whisky for the umpteenth time. Tom Wilson (MGM producer) and Herb Cohen (artist manager) were in the audience." - David Walley

The Viper Room

Perhaps made more famous as the location of the untimely death of the 23 year old actor, River Phoenix in 1993, The Viper Room, is still an iconic institutional night stop in LA. Further west along "the Strip" the Viper Room is what it says it is - a large room. The music is hard, the bands loud and the people are there to enjoy themselves but I found it slightly claustrophobic and very warm. Perhaps I should have gone on a 'quieter' night.

3rd Street Promenade - Santa Monica

A mere five minute walk from the end of Santa Monica Pier (which Forrest Gump famously ran to the end of... then turned around and ran away from) the newly upgraded 3rd Street Promenade is the place in Santa Monica to chill out after that long day sightseeing or movie-star watching. It literally has everything and, as the name suggests, is vehicle free. Restaurants, bars, pubs, theatres, street performers, movie theatres are all here. I spent a very 'productive' two hours people watching - and loving it. With my giant size Margarita (and you know when you are in the States and they say "giant sized" you are in for a biggie) I wiled away the afternoon eating Mexican food and talking to each different group that came and sat at the table next to me. I love travelling!!! A couple on their first date, a family from Ohio, a couple of "gals" from Texas - they were all there that day... and more. ■■

Next issue - Movie star, movie star



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