

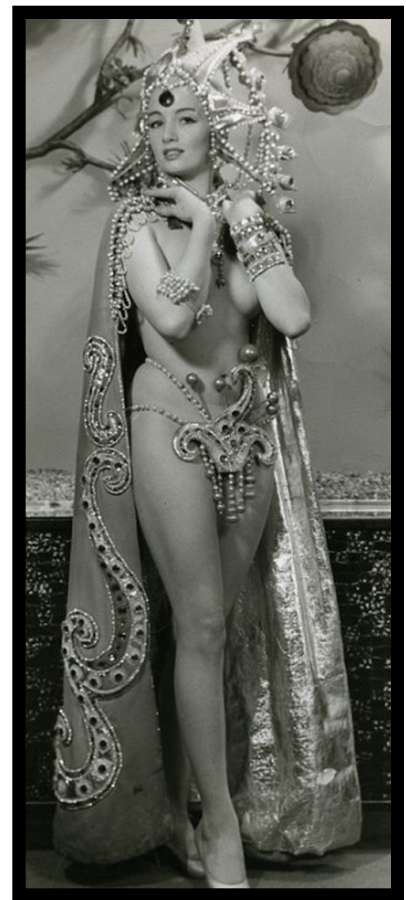
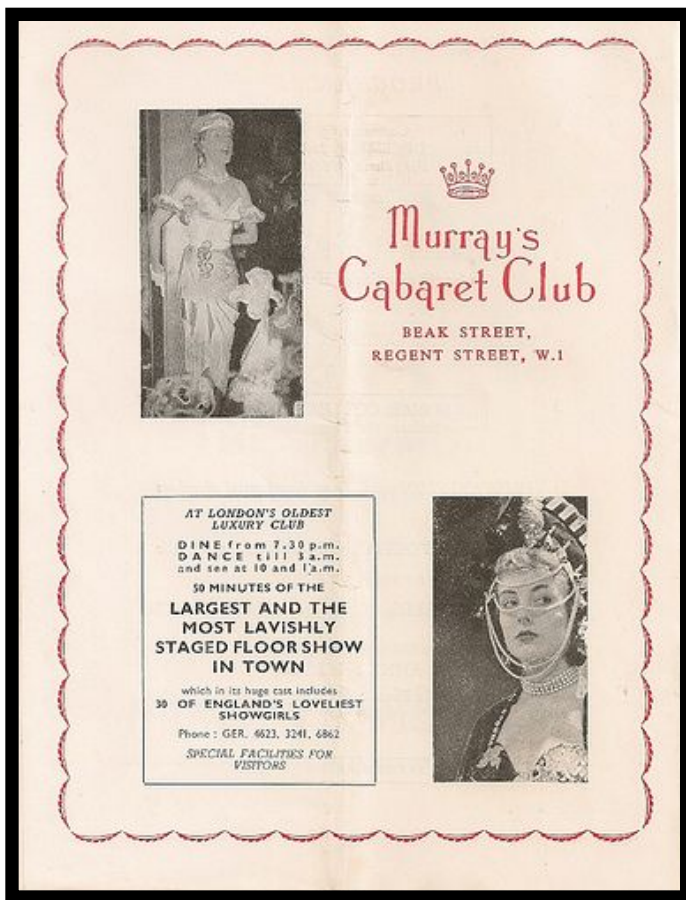
## Murray's Club costume illustrations - A chance to own a piece of Soho's history

London's leading vintage poster dealer, Charlie Jeffreys, recently acquired the entire Archive of 400 stunning hand-painted costume illustrations for the infamous Soho burlesque venue, Murray's Club. London's first Topless and Cabaret Club in Beak Street, Soho, launched the careers of its showgirls Mandy Rice Davis and Christine Keeler.

Charlie is now putting up for sale an exclusive selection of over 50 of the hand-painted gouache and water-colour images, in an exhibition beautifully curated by Ben Levy, previously with The V&A, whose last very successful exhibitions were "So you Want a Revolution: Records and Rebels" of 2016 and the "Pink Floyd" sell-out show in 2017.

The Murray's Club exhibition is being hosted by The Museum of Soho [www.mosoho.org.uk](http://www.mosoho.org.uk) at The Century Club in Shaftsbury Avenue running from 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 .

The extravagant images are by costume designer and illustrator, Ronald Cobb and other relevant designers Michael Bronze and Hilda Wetton also feature.



*Right, Christine Keeler in her Murray's Club costume, 1960*

*“I love the whole collection, the lavish designs and intricate details are wonderful and deserve a wider audience” says Jeffreys, who founded CJ Posters in 1998 dealing vintage posters to clients around the world from his Battersea home: [www.vintageposterstore.london](http://www.vintageposterstore.london) “It’s a historically important collection of Soho history.”*

*Murray’s, a private members jazz and cabaret club on Beak Street became as famous for the glamorous show girls and their extravagant costumes, as for the wide collection of people who frequented the small club. Film stars - Peter Sellers, Jane Birkin, gangsters - the Kray Brothers, royalty - HRH the Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Margaret, Lord Snowdon and many politicians. At times referred to as “the annexe of the Foreign Office”, it launched Christine Keeler and Mandy Rice Davies and the ensuing Profumo Affair. The costumes, extravagant*

and risqué for their time are each individual works of art. Most were by Ronald Cobb, born in 1907, an accomplished actor and playwright who had a wartime career with the RAF. He started his theatre career becoming a costume and set designer for Revue Theatres in Soho and worked with Murray's Club for over 20 years but also designed for other clubs, such as Eve's on Regent Street.

The earliest design in our collection by Ronald Cobb dates 1946. Latterly he also designed outfits for The Avengers stage show circa 1971. His designs have been a source of inspiration for top designers including Dolce et Gabbana, Madonna and Alice Temperley. Cobb passed away in 1997 and Murray's Club closed in the mid-70s, but its heyday lives on in this incredible collection of costume designs.

"I would love to keep it whole and sell it to one collector but you would need a large house with lots of wall space" says Jeffreys, "It is a perfect collection for some of London's new and elegant Clubs and restaurants."

The Murray Club costume illustration collection can be viewed at:

[www.murraysclubarchive.com](http://www.murraysclubarchive.com)

Watch this fabulous "kitsch" BFI documentary about Murrays Club: <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-cabaret-girl-1956-online> and this 1961 Pathe News clip with Percival Murray discussing the costumes: <https://www.britishpathe.com/video/out-takes-cuts-from-cp-341-reel-2-of-2-cabaret/query/murrays+club>

Charlie Jeffreys is available for interview, please contact him directly on 07836 546 150 or email; [charlie@cjposters.com](mailto:charlie@cjposters.com)

The exhibition will have an exclusive private view launch on 22nd March with drinks sponsorship by "King of Soho" Gin - created as a tribute to the original 'King of Soho' Paul Raymond by his son Howard Raymond and Alex Robson, with thanks to WEST END DRINKS LTD [www.WestEndDrinks.com](http://www.WestEndDrinks.com)

Laurel's China Town Girl - 1952

*Each costume illustration differs in size and they will all be framed to the following dimensions of 37cm x 57 cm and priced at £500 each*



Barry - 1952



Beryl - 1946



Dorothy as Bo Peep - 1947

