

what we love

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

## Hot in the city

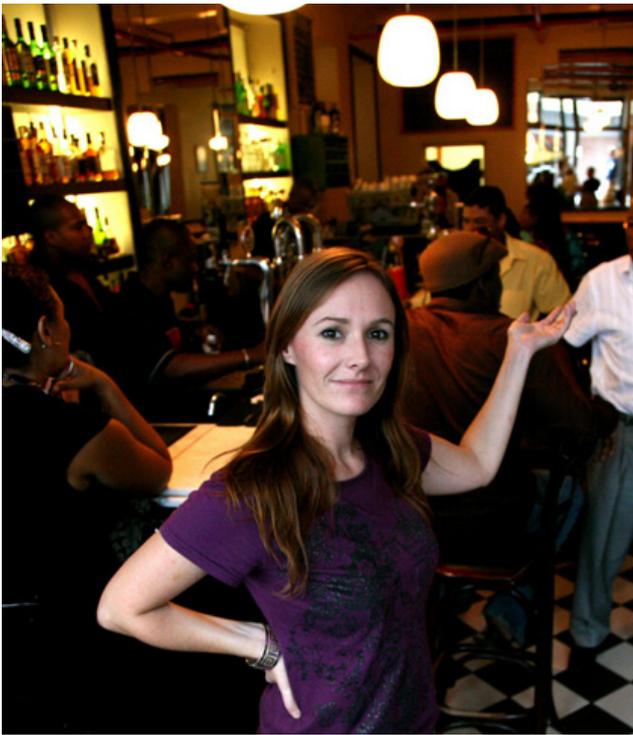
Exploring the little-known locations around the City Bowl can reap surprisingly feel-good results.

Photographs: Pippa Hetherington | Words: Kim Chaloner



*Jazz muso Jimmy Dladlu's engaging temperament and mega-watt smile made this a night to remember.*

It's not often one is made to feel right at home at the bars or casual dinner spots in Cape Town's inner city. Last Thursday, on the hunt for a new restaurant (new to us, at least) where we would find a hearty beef burger and a good glass of shiraz, Pippa and I, and her son, Ben, found ourselves at an unexpected little gem – Paris-style bistro, bar and live music venue Boo Radley's on Hout Street, just up from Long. From the moment we walked in, we were made to feel welcome at this inviting place that gets its name – but certainly not its ambience – from the reclusive literary figure. 'We wanted to name it after a person and to be able to shorten the name to one syllable, so "Boo's" fit the bill – plus the shortened version has a certain ambiguity, which is quite apt for a bar!' laughs co-owner Ali George. Manageress Karyn Louka is a born communicator, with a big laugh and a personality to match. We couldn't help but observe as she flitted from table to table swapping stories with her regulars who had braved the summer-evening sizzle out on the sidewalk, or who milled around the impressively illuminated bar. Or while she attended to the newcomers (like us) filling the cigar-bar-style booths inside the black-and white-tiled retro space.



*Manageress Karyn larger-than life personality is half the reason passers-by venture into this Hout Street bistro and bar.*



*When not in the restaurant doing his rounds amongst the jazz-loving patrons, head chef, Johnny, can be spotted working his magic in the small galley kitchen.*



*Fans from across the city flocked to join the celebratory vibe.*

Needless to say we were back again on Sunday night at Boo Radley's – which opened in 2009 – for another burger (the secret topping is addictive, to say the least). And to rub shoulders with a mixed crowd of music lovers of all ages (3 months to around 75 years) when charismatic and multiple-award-winning artist Jimmy Dlodlu came to Town. Brandishing his much-loved guitar and his distinct 'Afro-Jazz' musical style, and looking sartorially splendid in a candy-striped double-cuffed shirt, velvet derby hat, pointy-toed shoes and black-rimmed specs, Jimmy was in a happy, mischievous mood. He moved amongst the crowd, winking at fans, and serenading a birthday girl at the end of the two-hour set – but not before the palpable connection between he and his band mates, and gorgeous songbird, Mtsika Tshetu, sent everyone onto the tiles for a spot of hip-swinging shimmying.

**All in all, a fantastic Sunday evening's entertainment in a buzzing place with good food and friendly service. Good news is that Jimmy Dlodlu, together with Mtsika Tshetu, will be back at Boo Radley's next Sunday (6 March) at 8pm. Don't miss out. It is advisable to book, visit [www.booradleys.co.za](http://www.booradleys.co.za), or contact [eat@booradleys.co.za](mailto:eat@booradleys.co.za), Tel: 021-424-3040.**

