

STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

— Bristol, 1994 - Love Uni Rave Repeat —

Written by: Rebecca Sandeman, Emliy O'Hara, Alice Holt



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MARIA

*I dunno if I'm going to go Lakota this evening.
I might just stay in.*

AMANDA

*Fuck Maria, if you're embarrassed about
sleeping with that guy. He's a dick.*

MARIA

*I'm not embarrassed, I just feel like shit.
I've had three hours sleep in two days.*

Amanda presses a baggie into Maria's hand.

AMANDA

*Just do a key of this and you'll be fine. (Smiles)
So...what top are you gonna wear?*

Maria sighs.

MARIA

Probably the red sparkly one with the low back.

Genre: *Drama series*

Format: *8 episodes of 45 mins each*

Targetgroup: *16 - 35 years old*

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STROBES & TRIBULATIONS

When two small-town best friends move to Bristol for University, they find themselves part of the 90s rave scene, experiencing the euphoric highs and crashing lows of this hedonistic era.

Peruvian flu, half a Mitsubishi, feeling the vibrations run through your body as the bassline drops, afterparties till midday, the agony of coming down, the stench of Aftershock in your fringe; trying to attend your 9am lecture, sunglasses on and ulcers in your cheeks from gurning eight hours straight. Also known as the life of a student at University.

Strobes is an eight part coming of age drama series of 45 minutes long episodes based in Bristol in the 1990's. Following two friends Amanda and Maria who move from the sheltered confines of small town life in Cornwall to the chaos of a vibrant city. The two friends have vastly different experiences tackling the challenges that arise as fresh-faced undergrads. Amanda flourishes in her new surroundings, whilst Maria fails to acclimatize, pining for the simpler life they used to have back in Tintagel.

The two are faced with the perils of young adulthood; paying bills for the first time, excruciating breakups, experiencing euphoria when the E kicks in, one night stands, fake friends and taking a goat home because you're sure you heard it speak back to you. Those who spent their 90's raving will be transported back to those indefinable, perfect nights, before the real world comes knocking and demands you join the conveyor belt of greying conformity. Strobes and Tribulations celebrates the unadulterated hedonism of all-nighters, dancing whilst off your nut with your best mates, nothing else existing in that moment besides the anticipation of the next track.

We feel their laughter; watch them naïvely fall in love with randomers for the night through the haze of the lights and lasers. We also share in their pain, often resulting in tear-streaked faces and EXTREMELY dilated pupils. The house they share with four other students is full of emotional roller coaster rides and after parties which everyone hears about, reflected the morning after with the endless amount of empty baggies and beer cans scattered around... luckily their flatmate Ryan finds cleaning therapeutic.

Bristol will act as a final protagonist in the series, a concrete jungle where the underground bleeds into the student life. The rave scene engulfs our protagonists, pushing them to the fringes as they grapple with the day-to-day struggles of their new lives away from home. Amidst friendships with underground street artists and liberated campaigners, both Amanda and Maria remain young people faced with the often intimidating prospect of independence. It's a period that resonates with everyone who's lived through it; teetering on the brink of adulthood whilst still shackled to the final wisps of adolescence.

An evocative playlist serves as a backdrop to the series, combining various branches of 90s rave music that were central to the Bristol scene such as trip-hop, acid jazz, dub, techno, jungle, electro and brainy art rap. The music scene will be a huge part of the narrative and the centre of the gang's worlds, their lives often intertwining with iconic occurrences in 90s Bristol, like the Ashton Court Festival and St. Paul's Carnival. The gang party hard and come down, experiencing the highs and lows of adulthood in a place in which they can easily find themselves getting lost, in every sense of the word.