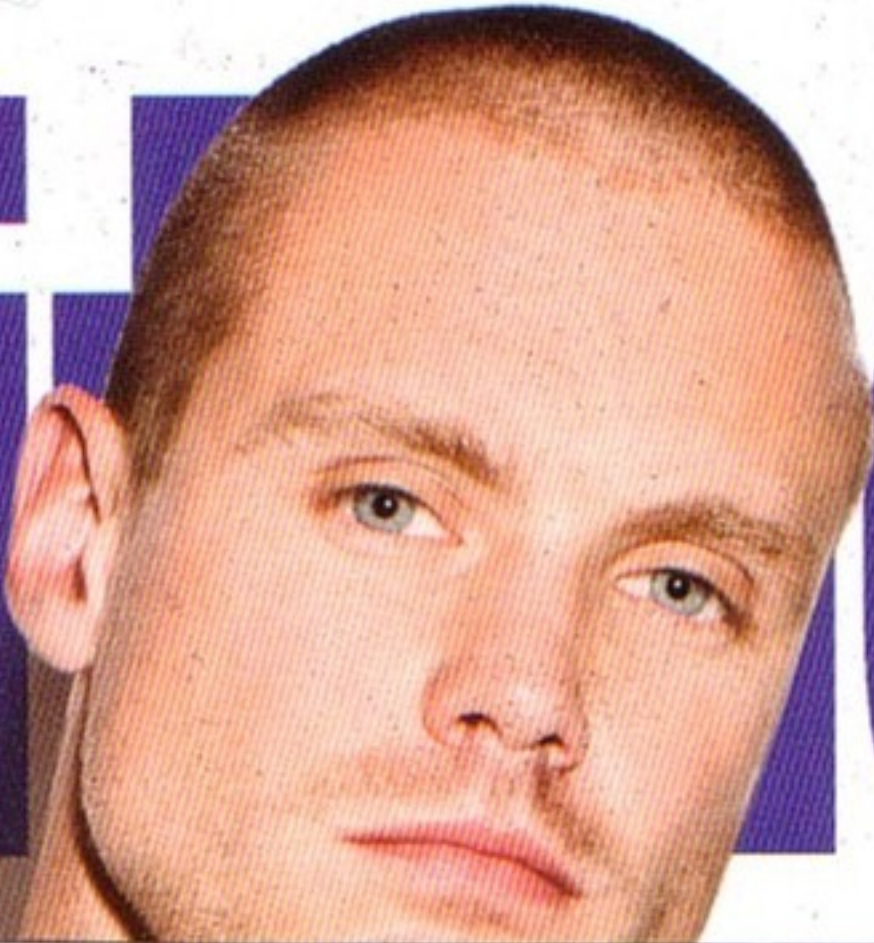


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BERMONDSEY SQUARE HOTEL

If Boundary is the Kylie of hotels (thoroughly stylish) then the newly opened Bermondsey Square hotel is definitely Dannii – younger, brasher and a bit more plastic but lots of fun with a great rack: The hotel's papier-mâché canine mascot Alfie (named after the Michael Caine character) greets you on arrival and there's a cute little doggy bowl too, a quirky touch that scored major points with this dog-lover (real dogs are indeed welcome). Locations don't get much better being slap-bang in the throbbing heart of buzzy Bermondsey which is humming with activity. The property is infused with Sixties retro styling and Austin Powers would no doubt feel right at home here, yeah baby. Enjoy eating and drinking outside in the square when you order from the eccentric English menu at Alfie's restaurant, with many of the ingredients being sourced from nearby Borough Market. The kooky lesbian on bar duty made a mean espresso martini and we'll be back for more of them. The loft suites are the only rooms in the hotel with balconies: Ruby and Jude are from £249, and Lucy (with a hot tub) from £349. And you get a complimentary copy of *K9* in your room, the lifestyle mag for dog lovers. Barking mad? Brilliant. *Bermondsey Square Hotel, London SE1*
Tel: 020 7378 2450; www.bermondseysquare.co.uk