# Cheryl Baker defends Eurovision’s risqué acts as key to its enduring charm



Cheryl Baker, the iconic singer from Bucks Fizz, has recently defended the increasingly risqué performances at the Eurovision Song Contest, which she believes add to the event's unique charm. With a career that blossomed when she won the contest in 1981, Baker has kept a keen eye on the evolving spectacle that Eurovision has become. She remarked that the competition's bold and often provocative visuals are now an ingrained part of the event's identity.

Reflecting on recent performances, which included daring acts such as Malta’s last-minute title change from "Serving Kant" due to its provocative connotations and Finland's bold choice of latex hot pants, Baker acknowledged that while some acts might push the boundaries too far, the overall aesthetic is simply a facet of contemporary entertainment. "It is a bit smutty, but life's a bit smutty now, isn’t it?" she commented, highlighting how societal norms have shifted over the years. She nostalgically contrasted today’s performances to her own group’s iconic skirt-rip moment, which marked a turning point in Eurovision history. What was once considered shocking has now become standard fare.

Baker's fond recollection of her performance underscores a significant transformation in Eurovision's visual language. In her view, engaging elements, such as the striking visuals and extravagant costumes, are essential for captivating modern audiences. As she shared, “You can have the best singer and the best song, but you’ve got to have that something that makes everyone think, wow, I want to see that again.” This speaks to the heart of what she believes keeps Eurovision relevant—its ability to surprise and entertain.

The singer presented a more critical stance in 2013 when she expressed disappointment regarding accusations of voting irregularities in the contest. Such issues, she argued, detract from the festival's celebratory nature. “It turns a joyous occasion into something sordid,” she lamented, advocating for transparency and integrity to uphold the contest's legacy.

In recent discussions, Baker has also celebrated the inclusivity of the competition. Calling Eurovision a “big woke fest,” she commended the event for its ability to transcend cultural and political barriers. Her comments came amid controversies regarding UK entrant Mae Muller, whom she defended, encouraging a focus on the positivity of participation rather than the surrounding criticism.

As Eurovision 2025 approaches, excitement is palpable not just for the performances but also for the potential surprise appearances. Rumours swirl around the possibility of Celine Dion performing, adding another layer to the anticipation. The event remains a vibrant tapestry of cultural showcase and entertainment, drawing viewers who relish both the talent and the spectacle.

Given Baker's long history with the contest, her insights reveal much about Eurovision's evolving identity. Despite the controversies and changing norms, her enduring love for the competition reinforces its status as a cultural institution, where extravagance and joy reign supreme. As she noted, “It’s always going to be that colourful, that extreme, that fabulous and joyous.” For fans and participants alike, this year’s Eurovison promises to uphold that tradition as it continues to entertain audiences around the world.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: 1, 4
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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/eurovision-icon-cheryl-baker-defends-35243949> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2008/sep/22/theatre> - In this 2008 article, Cheryl Baker reflects on the Eurovision Song Contest and its evolution over the years. She discusses the extravagance and camp nature of the event, highlighting the performances and the audience's engagement. Baker also touches upon the changes in the contest's format and the importance of embracing its unique and colorful aspects.
3. <https://www.contactmusic.com/cheryl-baker/news/cheryl-baker-dismayed-by-eurovision-voting-fix-scandal_3864533> - In this 2013 article, Cheryl Baker expresses her dismay over reports of voting irregularities in the Eurovision Song Contest. She criticizes the practice of countries paying for votes, describing it as a 'travesty' that turns the event from a joyous occasion into something sordid. Baker emphasizes the need for integrity in the competition and supports measures to address vote-rigging.
4. <https://www.femalefirst.co.uk/tv/news/cheryl-baker-adores-eurovision-1378534.html> - In this 2023 interview, Cheryl Baker shares her enduring love for the Eurovision Song Contest. She praises the event's evolution, noting the impressive venues, costumes, and special effects. Baker reflects on the significance of performance elements, such as the iconic skirt-ripping moment by Bucks Fizz, and acknowledges the importance of visual spectacle in the contest's appeal.
5. <https://www.express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/1769865/cheryl-baker-eurovision-mae-muller-woke-exclusive> - In this 2023 interview, Cheryl Baker discusses the inclusive nature of the Eurovision Song Contest, referring to it as a 'big woke fest.' She defends UK entrant Mae Muller against criticism for her political comments, emphasizing Eurovision's role as a unifying event that transcends race, religion, and sexuality. Baker encourages Muller to focus on the positive aspects of representing the UK.
6. <https://www.express.co.uk/showbiz/tv-radio/1769039/Cheryl-Baker-real-reason-UK-bad-luck-Eurovision-2023-exclusive> - In this 2023 interview, Cheryl Baker analyzes the UK's challenges in the Eurovision Song Contest. She attributes the country's poor performance to a lack of seriousness and self-mockery, contrasting it with the earnestness of other European nations. Baker suggests that the UK's approach has led to a disconnect with the rest of Europe, affecting voting outcomes.
7. [https://eurovoix.com/2021/03/03/🇬🇧-united-kingdom-cheryl-baker-declares-eurovision-much-better-now-than-when-she-won-the-contest/](https://eurovoix.com/2021/03/03/%F0%9F%87%AC%F0%9F%87%A7-united-kingdom-cheryl-baker-declares-eurovision-much-better-now-than-when-she-won-the-contest/) - In this 2021 interview, Cheryl Baker reflects on the evolution of the Eurovision Song Contest since her 1981 victory with Bucks Fizz. She notes improvements in the event's scale, atmosphere, and audience engagement, expressing that the current contest is far better than when she won. Baker highlights the phenomenal and electric atmosphere of the modern Eurovision.