# Cheryl Baker defends Eurovision’s risqué performances as key to its enduring appeal



Cheryl Baker, the iconic member of the pop group Bucks Fizz, has recently defended the increasingly risqué performances at the Eurovision Song Contest, asserting that such boldness is a fundamental aspect of the competition’s appeal. Speaking at the WhichBingo 2025 Awards in Gibraltar, she remarked, “It’s part of the Eurovision fun, isn’t it? It’s always going to be that colourful, that extreme, that fabulous and joyous.” Her comments come in light of the numerous outrageous past performances that have captured audience attention, from cheeky costumes to daring stage antics.

Over the years, Eurovision has garnered a reputation for its theatricality and extravagant displays. From sexy milkmaids to Finnish performers nearly exposing themselves in tiny costumes, the countdown to the contest regularly features increasingly audacious acts. This year, the competition has not shied away from controversy; Malta’s entry was compelled to alter the title of their song, "Serving Kant," due to its resemblance to an offensive term. Additionally, this year’s Finnish representative has opted for a striking outfit of latex hot pants, further exemplifying the ongoing trend towards sensuality in performances.

Cheryl Baker, who took home the Eurovision trophy in 1981, believes that the evolution of performances reflects broader societal shifts towards embracing provocation. She stated, "It is a bit smutty, but life’s a bit smutty now, isn’t it? Everything is a bit more extreme." The memory of Bucks Fizz’s landmark performance—where male members ripped off the skirts of their female counterparts to reveal cheeky mini-skirts—was deemed scandalous at the time but seems tame compared to today’s standards. Drawing on her experience, she noted, “Bucks Fizz wouldn’t have won without the skirt rip, so thank goodness for that.”

This sensationalism is not merely for shock value; it serves a strategic purpose in an increasingly competitive landscape where many acts vie for the audience's attention. Cheryl elaborated on the importance of having that special "wow" factor in a performance, saying, “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.’” Thus, choreography, lighting, and unforgettable moments contribute to a performance's memorability, elevating the spectacle beyond mere musical talent.

In the backdrop of these shifting dynamics, speculation surrounds the upcoming Eurovision Grand Final in May, with reports suggesting that Celine Dion could be poised to make a surprise appearance. The Swiss singer, who won Eurovision in 1988, has returned to the limelight, with her private jet recently spotted in Switzerland. Celine’s history of unexpected appearances—such as her iconic performance atop the Eiffel Tower during the Paris Olympics last year—has only added to the excitement leading into the contest.

Ultimately, as audiences prepare for the 2025 Grand Final airing on BBC One, the conversation surrounding the art of performance at Eurovision continues. With legendary artists like Baker championing the spirit of extravagance and fun, the contest promises to remain a vibrant tapestry of music, creativity, and bold expression.

### Reference Map

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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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2. <https://metro.co.uk/2023/05/11/eurovision-bucks-fizzs-cheryl-baker-thought-they-had-lost-contest-18716498/> - Cheryl Baker, member of Bucks Fizz, reflects on their 1981 Eurovision performance, noting that their skirt-ripping act was groundbreaking and made people realize that Eurovision is not just about the song but the entire performance, including outfits.
3. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/eurovisions-most-shocking-moments-7944686> - An article highlighting some of the most shocking moments in Eurovision history, including the 1981 performance by Bucks Fizz where male members ripped off the skirts of female members, revealing mini-skirts underneath, which was considered risqué at the time.
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheryl_Baker> - A comprehensive biography of Cheryl Baker, detailing her early career, time with Co-Co and Bucks Fizz, their Eurovision victory in 1981, and her subsequent television presenting career.
5. <https://www.expressandstar.com/entertainment/showbiz/2018/01/14/cheryl-baker-brings-eurovision-to-dancing-on-ice/> - Cheryl Baker recreated her famous Bucks Fizz number 'Making Your Mind Up' on Dancing On Ice, complete with the iconic skirt-ripping moment, though the routine did not win over the judges.
6. <https://www.femalefirst.co.uk/tv/news/cheryl-baker-adores-eurovision-1378534.html> - Cheryl Baker expresses her love for Eurovision, praising the evolution of outfits, costumes, and special effects, and reflecting on how their skirt-ripping performance in 1981 was groundbreaking.
7. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/3am/celebrity-news/eurovision-icon-cheryl-baker-says-29969034> - Cheryl Baker discusses the UK's current standing in Eurovision, expressing optimism about the country's chances and noting that Europe has 'fallen back in love' with the UK.