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Ladies in red

You can bet these boys will never be invited to perform at drag revues Cabaret Mado in the Village or Cleopatra's on the Main.

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Ladies in red

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The last time I heard Manny Eleftheriou's voice, he was screaming at the top of his lungs, his forehead was a bloodied mess and he was being hurled around a wrestling ring that was wrapped in barbed wire.

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Hell, they wouldn't even cut it in the Fringe Festival's annual drag race.

But who cares? About 100 men dolled up in red dresses will take part in the Montreal Hash House Harriers Running Club's 7th annual downtown Red Dress Charity Run this weekend to raise \$7,500 for the Royal Victoria Hospital's Cedars Cancer Institute.

Hash House, you ask?

"It brings images of drugs to mind, doesn't it?" HHH spokesperson Wade Colborne asks rhetorically. "Actually the Hash House got its start in Malaysia years ago when all these ex-pats were running and finished up at some local bar called the Hash House. They became the Hash House Harriers, returned to their various countries and started chapters around the world."

Montreal's Hash House holds its 6th annual Red Dress Charity Run on August 17, beginning at 1 p.m. at Hurley's Irish Pub on Crescent. Harriers from as far away as Florida are coming up to Montreal to participate in the run.

"Honestly, I think it's a bit embarrassing," Colborne admits, but quickly adds, "I did the Ottawa run about three weeks ago, everybody's honking and you kind of forget that you're wearing a dress."

So what do the boys, uh, wear beneath their dresses?

"Well, I wear running shorts underneath. Nobody's dangling free in the wind and some guys put in fake breasts and stuff. As for myself," Colborne says, "I look for a dress that I run best in - it's short, made of spandex, it's form-fitting and I get lots of compliments on my figure."

You go, girl.

Richard Burnett



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