

“I had the crazy fortune of meeting Wanda [Acosta] at this place in Chelsea called Lola’s. It was owned by Alexander Smalls who was just a tremendous chef and happened to be Southern. They would have live music, dancing, salsa night and so my girlfriend at the time was the hostess for the restaurant. It was swanky and upscale. Everybody would come after work in business attire, but it was straight... totally straight. My girlfriend was a model and all of her friends were models too so I would just be in there with all the pretty women. I was there one night sitting at the bar while my girlfriend worked it, having my martini and – this sounds corny – but I was reading *Orlando*. I’m a walking cliché! (Laughing) Wanda rolled up and asked me if the seat next to me was taken and I said no. She sat down and was looking at my book and I was wondering if she was queer too! She could have just as easily not have been.

Wanda and I started talking and realized we were both queer and she asked me what brought me to that bar. I told her I liked my martini in a proper glass and I don’t like peanuts on the floor. Stemming from that first meeting we started talking about creating a party for chic lesbians – a space that we wanted, that we ourselves would go to! And that’s how it started! As simple as that. We both liked to get dressed up and feel fabulous and we liked to be wooed and read poetry, you know? It became about creating the space that was ideal and alternative and clearly it was!

It wasn’t always about going out every night and cruising and picking up chicks, rather being around creative people. I’m a writer – I like to talk to poets, readers of books, healers, and other writers. And music is my life so meeting someone who would notice what was playing rather than just standing there drinking their beer was amazing. On Sunday nights it was a huge dinner party with community tables and people would sit and hop from one table to the next. There was food, music, drinks and sexy lighting. There would be a muralist sitting next to, say, Sandra Bernhard or a drag king, gallery owner, photographer, comedian, fucking tight-rope walker sitting next to Patricia Field. We had it all! The idea for us was just queer women sharing their passion for all things queer and cultured. And as women in our different experiences... together.”

Sharee Nash, 2018