

funkin

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Author:	Polly Vernon



Polly Vernon with Ben Reed and Alex Kammerling. Photograph by Tony Lord

very good molasses-y brown sugar, fresh limes and mint, for the base of a mojito. A Tom Collins (gin and lemonade) is the omelette of cocktails – deceptively tricky – and the first thing a cocktail master will teach you to make, cos it's all about balance, see? Getting the quantity and variety of ice right is crucial to making good cocktails. And peach Funkin (fabulous ready-made fruit puree, available at posh supermarkets) and prosecco is all you need for a good home cocktail.

Anything else?

I learnt how to set fire to a small piece of orange to add zest smell to the surface of

a drink, how to pour a B52 shot so that the different liqueurs balance prettily one on top of the other (highest sugar, lowest alcohol booze goes in first), how to do a good cocktail shaking face and, most crucially, how to look superior when pouring a drink. I, in turn, taught them everything I know about getting drunk in a frock.

I'm sure they were very grateful.

Of course they were.

Alex Kammerling's Blend Me, Shake Me! and Ben Reed's Martinis are available from www.amazon.co.uk. Details of IP Bartenders can be found at www.ipbartenders.com

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20 BIG IDEAS

In 2005, we will tune into crunk; employ a wellbeing manager; fight cancer with strawberries; learn to listen and, dare we say it, actually vote. From film to family and travel to TV, our 20 experts predict the ways our lives will change

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SHAKE YOUR OWN
'Cocktails will be made, and drunk, at home. Products like Funkin's fruit purees and books like Alex Kammerling's *Blend Me, Shake Me*, are the balsamic vinegar and *Domestic Goddess* of the new year.'
Polly Vernon, OFM's cocktail girl