

EXCLUSIVE: Brooklyn nightclub Verboten is rife with shameless sexual harassment caused by co-owner, new suit charges

BY JOSEPH STEPANSKY, STEPHEN REX BROWN / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS/

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The married owner of a trendy Brooklyn nightclub pressured workers into threesomes, boasted about sleeping with more customers than her husband and freaked out when too many black patrons attended a party, a new suit charges.

Williamsburg hotspot Verboten is rife with shameless sexual harassment spearheaded by the out-of-control co-owner, Jen Schiffer, 16 current and former workers allege in documents filed in Brooklyn Federal Court.



Verboten which opened in 2014 after the owners had run years of parties in event spaces around the city, describes itself as a “pro-woman company” promoting a healthy nightlife scene.



Verboten is owned by Jen Schiffer (r.) and her husband, John Perez.

Schiffer, 40, presides over a hedonistic atmosphere at the N. 11th St. megaclub in which she “discusses her sex life — including her favorite sexual positions and sexual encounters with her husband, John Perez, and other women,” papers charge.

The raunchy suit comes amid an ongoing dispute with some ex-employees claiming they haven’t been paid, as well as investors. One worker, Dylan Schwartz — described as Schiffer’s boyfriend in papers — also allegedly unleashed a barrage of vile propositions to colleagues.



Dylan Schwartz (pictured) also allegedly unleashed a barrage of vile propositions to colleagues.

“Are you having a bad day? You should let me f--- you,” Schwartz, 24, allegedly said to a female employee.

Steven Suchowieski, 32, who worked the door at the club, told the Daily News on Tuesday he alerted Schiffer to Schwartz’s lewd comments.

“She said ‘I know, I know, I’m trying my best to keep a lid on that,’” Suchowieski said. “Instead, she then targeted those employees, those girls. She basically was jealous of them.”

Schwartz, who is not named as a defendant in the suit seeking class action status, could not be reached. Schiffer denied they’d had an affair.

The club, which opened in 2014 after the owners had run years of parties in event spaces around the city, describes itself as a “pro-woman company” promoting a healthy nightlife scene.

Its opening was hailed as a sign of the city’s booming club culture. Patrons hitting the dance floor must pay a cover starting at \$20.



Verboten night club located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

SAM COSTANZA/FOR NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

But the suit also charges that Schiffer became furious when an employee, Darrin Morda, booked a party attended by black patrons.

“What are all these black people doing here? You cannot book a black-people party!” she allegedly said.



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Steven Suchowieski (l.) and Darrin Morda (r.) are some of the 14 workers filing a sexual harassment suit against the owner Verboten.

Morda told The News that Schiffer yelled at him in front of customers.

“(She said) she had promised the police there wouldn’t be black people at this club, and I put the entire club in jeopardy by doing it,” Morda recalled.

Schiffer and Schwartz also withheld wages for months on end, according to the papers.

Schiffer called the allegations “ridiculous” and “outlandish.”

“This is disgusting. This is not true,” she said. “I’m a woman trying to run a nightclub with her husband. This personal abuse and attack is disgusting.”

She added that she didn’t have any “history of racism.”

”In return for being dedicated employees, our clients were mistreated, sexually harassed and not even paid for vast stretches of time,” the plaintiffs’ attorneys, Michael Willemin and David Gottlieb, of Wigdor LLP, said in a statement.

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