



## > OWL ON THE TOWN

## KBOX

### THE UNSUNG HERO

Forget the right to vote. The clear path to democracy is karaoke. After all, anyone can sing! The true equaliser of man, karaoke's appeal is that it doesn't discriminate by colour, age, race or, least of all, talent.

In Japan, karaoke is a social activity used to forge friendships and seal business deals. In America, karaoke bars give rise to would-be-stars (and amateurs) seeking their three minutes of fame. In Australia, it's very much just an excuse to get drunk, make a fool of yourself and poke fun at others. Melburnians have taken to doing it in private – choosing to box themselves up in rooms with eye-popping retro wallpaper and state-of-the-art video with more than 60,000 hits in English, Japanese, Chinese, Thai, Indonesian and Malaysian available on demand. The venue is KBOX, frequented by locals and internationals alike, each in search of a night out on the town in with Michael, Mariah and Whitney.

You can hire a party room for two hours at \$250 a pop, which includes \$150 in booze. This democratisation through song turns into quite the workout – you can even count the kilojoules you've burned after each song with KBOX's performance appraisal and calorie counting software installed. It goes to show that karaoke, like democracy, is healthy too.

LIEU THI PHAM

### > OWL ON THE TOWN

52 Latrobe St, Melbourne  
(03) 9663 9663  
kbox.com.au  
Open Mon–Thur 3pm–late,  
Fri–Sun 2pm–late



See also  
map 1 E2