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NITE LIFE

Divas, male & female

Missy Elliott & Beyoncé play in the Garden; Stevie Nicks cooks in the Kitchen; and I board the Arc, while Alegria parties on.

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)
Friday, April 23, 2004

It's no wonder my sleep deficit has been climbing steadily lately. What with the spring social calendar yielding so many fun options, how could I resist taking full advantage of the long overdue celebratory surplus?

I'm even beginning to wonder if perhaps the city's late-night dance drought might even be a blessing in disguise. After all, it has prompted me to explore a more diverse slice of nightlife lately.

A recent stroke of luck (thanks Marc and Gary!) found me throwing down with my bad self during Verizon's "Ladies First" concert at Madison Square Garden. After a brief opening set by Tamia, Missy Elliott worked it all the way out onto the main floor of the arena and right up into the first tier. Her lyrics were barely discernible, but I have to give hip-hop's high priestess props for a fierce stage design and infectious enthusiasm.

Alicia Keyes looked and sounded great both in front of and behind (and even on top of) the piano, but I would have enjoyed her set more if it had been shorter.

Now as any diva will tell you, it's all about the entrance. And Beyoncé has definitely proven she deserves that distinguished title after her Egyptian-themed procession down the arena's center aisle lying in a furry white daybed complete with canopy, strewn rose pedals and scantily-clad hunky manservants.

Opening with "Baby Boy," she tore up one number after another, including my new favorite song, "Naughty Girl," and a few surprise snippets of Vanity's "Nasty Girl." I doubt anyone in the audience was expecting the mini-Destiny's Child reunion either, but sure enough Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland joined her onstage for "Survivor."

The girls also announced a forthcoming album in October. As if the audience wasn't hopped up enough already, Beyoncé's bootylicious beau Jay-Z brought down the house while performing "Crazy In Love" during the show's rousing finale.

And not one lip-synched number from any of the gals either. Did you hear that, Britney? By the way,



In case you were wondering why that cute, muscular guy in the cubicle next door called in sick on April 19: Ric Sena celebrated the birthday of his baby, the hugely successful Alegria parties, with — what else? — a party. The event stretched from Sunday evening, April 18 into early the next morning, with the crowd only growing bigger — and buffer — as the evening wore on. (Photos by Steve Weinstein)

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my apologies to anyone who wasted their time or TiVo space on that wretched Showtime concert. Apparently Madonna's DNA mutated during their MTV spit -swat, spawning several unfortunate cheap knockoffs of the Material Girl's former incarnations.

If you've never experienced Night of a Thousand Stevies, then break out those shawls, girls, set those white-winged doves free and head on over to the Knitting Factory on Friday, May 14, for the annual tribute to pop music's most beloved Welsh witch. Now in its 14th year, it will be all Stevie all night long.

Even Boy George has agreed to do a number in her honor, and word on the street is that it will be a Fleetwood Mac selection. Just be sure to brush up on the enchanted songbird's lyrics so you can sing along at this incredibly fun, refreshingly unusual spectacle. Check out www.mothernyc.com/stevie for pertinent info.

As you may have heard, there are some very powerful bigots in this country who are trying to force discrimination into the Constitution by legally banning us from marrying. Well, it's time to stand up for equality, folks, and thanks to the organizational efforts of Josh Wood, John Cameron Mitchell and other freedom fighters, here's a fun and easy way to do your part.

On Wednesday, April 28, at 8 p.m., Crobar will host WedRock, "a benefit for Freedom to Marry in support of gay marriage efforts in NY, NJ and CT." Penny Arcade, Sandra Bernhard, Margaret Cho, Alan Cumming and Le Tigre, among others, will grace the West Chelsea megaclub's stage at this all-star concert and party.

Whether you think you'll ever want to settle down with someone special or not, this is clearly one of the most important battles facing our generation. So let's band together to help defeat those noxious politicians and right-wing fanatics who would rather see hate triumph over love.

On a related note, I am single and available for dinner, dancing, long walks in the park, etc. Qualified suitors are encouraged to apply within.

In what has become one of Manhattan's most fertile husband-hunting grounds, Out magazine's monthly series of seasonal soirees at Lotus nightclub has resumed. Spring Fling 2 took place just as this column went to press, so who knows, by the time you read this I may already be off the market. At the very least, I will have enjoyed a few Ketel One martinis and the musical stylings of DJ John LePage.

After much deliberation, I have finally decided where to celebrate my [redacted] birthday on Sunday, April 25. While there were many intriguing options vying for the official endorsement, my exploratory committee voted unanimously to converge on Arc nightclub for a marathon dance session.

Coincidentally, the incomparable DJ Danny Tenaglia will be spinning the very last party at the venue that has been home to his world-renowned Be Yourself parties for the past five years.

This is it folks, so please come out to help me commemorate the passing of yet another year while dancing in what will no doubt be remembered as one of our generation's most influential nightclubs in New York City. The party begins at 6 p.m. and will likely go well into Monday.

Arc even obtained a liquor license for the evening, so beverages will not be limited to the soft variety.

Until next time — make love, not war!

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