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NITE LIFE

Rauhofer's Roxy records rock!

Peter goes back to the Roxy — on CD, Hedda Lettuce visits Camp Crawford, and Aaron Tanner hits the Eagle's roof.

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)
 Friday, May 21, 2004

I'm not sure when Peter Rauhofer finds time to eat or sleep, considering the uncanny proliferation of extraordinary dance music for which he is responsible. In addition to the numerous independent tracks that consistently emerge from Star 69's New York-based hit factory, the Grammy Award-winning powerhouse producer has also recently unleashed several new compilation CDs on his fertile 2004 Dance Star Award-winning imprint label.

By the third installment, many entertainment series — be it movies, books or music — often seem desperate, dated, stale or irrelevant. But as Rauhofer so aptly demonstrates on "Live @ Roxy 3," his latest double-CD set, such putdowns do not apply here.

This innovative collection of tribal-infused underground dance tracks certainly does epitomize a typical peak-hour Saturday night set at "Roxtacy" (the Chelsea disco/roller rink where Rauhofer is main resident DJ). This may, of course, be good or bad depending on one's perspective.

Rauhofer's unabashed penchant for experimenting with repetitious loops and perpetual, almost indistinguishable beat sequences — sometimes for hours at a time — can prove a bit harsh for some revelers. Yet others can't get enough.

Falling somewhere in the middle myself, I was hoping "Live" would better capture the essence of Rauhofer's more vibrant and rapturous musical journeys, like the one he commanded during his birthday party last month, and less of what might be described as filler music. "Live" offers a mélange of both.

Licensing is tough, and one should never expect a studio-produced "live" recording to fully capture the seductive eloquence of something as intangible as a party's fierce energy. Nevertheless, the tribal underground vibe does get pretty heavy at times, and the excessive vocal loops and stalled bass lines might become tedious for some. But there are plenty of melodic moments as well to appease more moderate listeners.

At the risk of sounding cliché, Rauhofer deserves bonus points for convincing Madonna to let him include two of his remixes from "American Life" on the compilation. "Nobody Knows Me" may not be a particularly strong song, but Rauhofer salvages the throwaway track, Cher-esque Vocoder redux and all, with enough fancy effects and trippy riffs to sustain a solid dance floor presence.



Aaron Tanner just gives and gives ... and gives.

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Far superior, though, is Rauhofer's "Lost in Space" remix of "Nothing Fails" on Disc 2. Following the rigid percussion of "Tribal Scream" in impressively smooth fashion, Madonna's gorgeous vocal, "I'm in love with you," explodes into an intoxicating rendition that almost makes you want to forgive her for that last album.

Jahkey B's "Heart Attack"

also stands out. It must be one of Rauhofer's favorites since it's also featured on his "Armani Exchange Higher" and "Divas To The Dance Floor" CDs. Both compilations are a bit "lighter" than "Live"; but as they say, it's all relative.

"Higher" is being marketed as a "brighter, breezier approach" that's "perfect for a romp at the beach or an outdoor patio party." It's still fairly clubby, though, and would certainly never be mistaken for tea dance music or Circuit fluff. "Divas," naturally, features a plethora of female artists, but seems to serve more as a Star 69 sampler than anything else (not that there's anything wrong with that).

Rauhofer also released a "Best of Club 69" compilation. The beat-matching may not have overtaxed his creative reservoir, but at least the songs are blended together. More importantly, the CD will surely satiate those of us who have been longing to reconnect with Kim Cooper's and Suzanne Palmer's vintage camp classics.

Further demonstrating his superhuman prowess, Rauhofer's recent remix work has enabled him to achieve nearly 50 #1 Billboard dance hits, including "Me Against The Music" and "Toxic" by Britney Spears, Janet Jackson's "Just a Little While," and the aforementioned Madonna remix profusion.

Then there's the Queer As Folk "Babylon Tour" this summer that will take the robust remixer around the country spinning with Tracy Young and Manny Lehman. But first Rauhofer will be spinning at Club Gaudi in Moscow.

Peter, what's your secret? Enquiring minds want to know. Visit www.peterrauhofer.com and www.star69records.com for more on the Austrian overachiever.

'Why Did You Adopt Me?'

Just how many times, I wonder, can a gay man watch "Mommie Dearest" without exploding or being committed. (One of the great mysteries of the queer universe?) I lost count years ago, but I know I'm well into double digits. And I bet you are too.

Lest you think those wire hanger nightmares are behind you, or that you couldn't possibly still enjoy this melodramatic masterpiece, think again, missy. The maniacal movie queen and her madcap disciplinary routines recently returned to the big screen.

Still deserving our respect — the respect that she's entitled to from any stranger on the street — after all these years, Faye Dunaway's sensational portrayal of Joan Crawford ushered in the Chelsea Clearview Cinema's two-year anniversary celebrating its Thursday night camp classics series (that is, movies for straight women and gay men).

There literally wasn't an empty seat in the house when crispy hostess Hedda Lettuce raffled off a closet full of lovely prizes during her pre-show. HX's Bobby McGuire attached envelopes to wire hangers from which winners chose their prizes. Priceless.

Although Hedda did refrain from beating any audience members, she had everyone in hysterics well before Joan's 4 a.m. alarm clock went off in the movie's opening scene.

Her running commentary during the movie also added a new dimension of humor that will no doubt be passed along to future generations ("Liquor kisses, liquor kisses!").

Congratulations and many thanks to the Chelsea Clearview team for taking this excellent idea so far. Watch for Madonna's "Truth or Dare" next month. Tickets are a bargain at just \$5.50.

The Eagle soars high, thanks to Tanner

More congrats and thanks go out to adult film star Aaron Tanner who continues to give more back to the community than just those steamy videos.

During the launch of his Friday rooftop happy hour party at the Eagle on May 7, City Health

Department volunteers (mostly women wearing Manhunt.net T-shirts!) were on hand to conduct free STD and HIV screenings, hepatitis A and B vaccinations (have you gotten yours yet?) and a host of other services to help keep our community educated and healthy.

Remember, you could have an STD even if you don't have any symptoms. That's why it's so important to get screened regularly if you're sexually active.

The perfect weather surely helped fill up the inaugural party with a diverse and festive crowd that seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the 2-for-1 cocktails, go-go boys and music of DJ John LePage. This was my first venture up to the roof, and I have to say I was quite impressed. Check this party out every Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., and at www.eagle.com.

HOP Pier Dance Contest

Watch for my Pride Party Preview in next week's issue. In the meantime, I've got four tickets to the Heritage of Pride's Pier Dance to give away. To win a ticket, all you have to do is send your answers to the following questions to contest@mattunleashed.com:

- How many Saint/Saint-at-Large White Parties has Robbie Leslie played?
- How old was Tony Moran when he did his first edit for Diana Ross? (Hint: Visit www.mattunleashed.com for help.) Winners will be chosen randomly from correct entries.

Until next time: Be Smart. Be Safe. Be Yourself.

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