

[home](#)[news](#)[viewpoint](#)[local life](#)[main feature](#)[• nite life](#)[out in ny](#)[arts](#)[sound off](#)[email updates](#)

New to email updates? Then click [here](#) to find out more.

email address

- subscribe
 unsubscribe

I have read and agree to our [terms and conditions](#).

[advertising](#)
[general info](#)
[e-tearsheets](#)
[marketing](#)
[ad listings](#)
[about us](#)
[about us](#)
[masthead](#)
[employment](#)

NITE LIFE

Pre-Pride Gotham kicks into high gear

Before Pride and Madonna arrive, check out Gregory T. Angelo's radio interviews. Tiësto's fans fill Avalon, which offered dancers Salvation; but what's with all of the drop-outs deadening the music on the dance floor?

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)

Friday, June 18, 2004

With the gay community's high holy day fast approaching and Madonna smack dab in the middle of reinventing herself at Madison Square Garden this week, it's been tempting lately to just lay low in anticipation of the impending maelstrom. I didn't, of course, but it was a nice thought while it lasted.

Instead, I found myself out all over town these past few weeks, including a stop at Code in Hell's Kitchen where HX magazine's Gregory T. Angelo was celebrating the first-season success of "The Revolution." He kicked off the new season of the bi-weekly Internet radio show he hosts on MetroMixRadio.com recently with a two-part interview featuring Junior Vasquez.

The second installment will air on Wednesday, June 23, at 9 p.m. Peruse the site's archives for other in-depth chats with heavyweight jocks like Peter Rauhofer, Victor Calderone, Superchumbo, Hex Hector and Frankie Knuckles. Congratulations on both the milestone and the great work, Gregory!

Two back-to-back soirees hosted by Next and Out at the trendy hotspot Lotus followed. While it's always fun to invade hip hetero hangouts every once in a while for a change of scenery, the outrageous drink prices may leave some feeling more broke than buzzed.

Guests could opt for the free booze offered by each party's sponsor — Alizé and Midori — or get virtually raped at the bar while paying up to \$14 for a single cocktail. Such prices might fly on a Saturday night, but are rather absurd for what was essentially "happy hour" on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Don't get me wrong, the monthly NextWorks Mixers and Out Lounge Parties are wonderful events that offer a unique networking and social alternative. The handsome, overflowing crowds testify to that. But if we're going to be gouged, why not let one of our community's own establishments be the beneficiary?

Avalon's foreign-exchange program

Getting back to impressive reinventions for a moment, how about that trooper of a nightclub, Avalon?

Weathering more than its share of drama over the years, the former Limelight space has reemerged



Fire Island Pines season goes into high gear: 'Queer Eye' guy **Carson Kressley** arrived in style last weekend, complete with de rigueur deck shoes.

Contact **Matt Kalkhoff** at Matt@mattunleashed.com

[Sound Off about this article](#)

[Printer-friendly Version](#)

[E-Mail this story](#)

[Search the Blade](#)

[Bitch Session](#)

advertisement

BIG DOGS SMALL DOGS.COM

give your dog a new best friend

MATT SINGER
 Providing dog walking in NYC since 1995

212.613.5739

yet again as one of Manhattan's hottest nocturnal destinations. Friday and Saturday nights regularly feature some of the industry's finest turntable talent, and last weekend welcomed the reigning king of the DJs, Tiësto.

Curious to see what all the fuss is about, I braved the massive mob last Saturday night to catch the Dutch mixmaster's highly anticipated performance. Single-handedly representing the gay community myself, I arrived around 1 a.m. with a few straight friends to find a seemingly endless line of anxious revelers snaking around the corner and down the block.

Thank heavens for forward planning and press privileges. Inside, the club was already dangerously overcrowded and hot as Hell, which made it a bit difficult to enjoy.

Tiësto went on around 1:30 a.m., but it wasn't his music that overwhelmed me the most. Even diehard fans admitted on various message boards that it wasn't one of his best sets.

What struck me more than anything was the unbridled enthusiasm and intense energy of the sweat-soaked crowd. Chanting Tiësto's name periodically to the beat of the music, and literally clamoring just to get a glimpse of their imported hero, I couldn't help but wonder why it takes a non-local, often foreign, DJ for New York audiences to get worked up into such a frenzy anymore.

Then I realized the exact same thing happened to me just a few weeks ago at that very club. On Sunday night of Memorial Day Weekend, John Blair brought London's infamous Salvation party to Avalon for its New York debut.

Having experienced that monthly soiree myself last summer during London's Gay Pride — and also having been absolutely blown away by the intensity and magnitude of the city's overall party scene — I couldn't wait to hear that funky deep house sound again.

After an opening set by resident DJ Gomi, the party kicked into high gear as Salvation's DJ Oli (who, incidentally, is beyond adorable) served up a blistering set of funky, soulful grooves and smooth, sexy vocals. DJ Gonzalo finished out the night with a slightly edgier, more tribal set that, surprisingly, included a fair number of familiar songs (remixed to the bejesus, of course, in that glorious, inimitable European fashion).

Despite competing with Alegria — which friends have reported was its usual great time helmed by DJs Tony Moran and Eddie Elias — and a late start in advertising the event, the Salvation party drew plenty of frisky revelers who appeared to be thoroughly enjoying the British invasion. Blair has an exclusive contract with Salvation to do other parties throughout the year, but said he wanted to wait and see how everything went first before announcing any additional dates.

Judging by the success of the first party, I'm sure we'll be welcoming them back to New York frequently. Visit London-Salvation.com and JBlair.com for more info.

Derailing the drop-out deluge

I'm not sure what exactly it is about the London sound that I love so much. But one aspect that clearly sets it apart from much of what is heard on New York dance floors these days is a conspicuous lack of drop-outs in the music.

I've never quite understood why some DJs think they need to break up the energy so frequently. The point of being on a dance floor, after all, is to dance, right? So when I find myself standing around too much, waiting for the music to pick back up, I get frustrated. Based on conversations I've had with many others on the subject, I'm far from alone in feeling this way.

That's not to say interludes don't have their place; I love a good build-up as much as the next person. And I do understand and appreciate the effect a well-placed break can have on manipulating the crowd and creating, as Peter Rauhofer says, "drama on the dance floor."

But when done excessively or timed inappropriately, they become a dancing dervish's worst nightmare. I'm not suggesting a moratorium is in order, but I do think a little more vigilance on the part of DJs to keep the drop-outs in check would go a long way in helping improve the party experience for everyone.

Hot tickets, on Broadway and off

I know how difficult it can be sorting through all the Pride parties and deciding on which ones to

attend. Certainly, one of the hottest tickets of the weekend will be Victor Calderone's "Light" at Crobar on Saturday night.

Just check out what he has planned for the party on his Web site, VictorCalderone.com, and you'll understand why. Also, congratulations to Randy, Lewis, Joe and Steve who each won Heritage of Pride Pier Dance tickets by entering the contest announced in my last column.

And lest you think you'll be staying in to rest up this weekend, don't forget about "Broadway Bares: Now Showing" on Sunday, June 21, at the Roseland Ballroom. The Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS benefit offers two performances at 9:30 p.m. and midnight, and is by far one of the best entertainment options of the year. Visit BroadwayCares.org or call (212) 840-0770 x268 for ticket information.

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

[Zagat: Nightlife Guides](#)

An insider's tour of hot spots. Buy nightlife guides online.

[Fashion 40 Saturdays NYC](#)

Manhattan's premier weekend party Fashion District's newest lounge

[Ads by Google](#)

[national](#) | [local](#) | [world](#) | [health](#) | [letters](#) | [viewpoint](#) | [arts](#) | [classifieds](#) | [real estate](#) | [about us](#)

© 2004 | A Unite Media Publication | [Privacy Policy](#)