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## NITE LIFE

### Pride dances around the clock

Victor, Junior, the Pier Dance & more

By [Matt Kalhoff](#)  
Friday, July 01, 2005

The week following Gay Pride is not just one of rest and recovery, but a time for reflection as well. So let me share a lesson learned as I sort through the many wonderful memories of last weekend: When invited to a party anywhere along the parade route, especially on Christopher Street: Arrive very early in the morning; or dose liberally with patience pills; or skip it altogether.

Despite the brutal heat and humidity, this past weekend proved that New York Pride is as vibrant and popular as ever, and was a testament to the vitality of our city's resilient if fragile nightlife. On Saturday night alone, three major dance parties each packed in the revelers. Exercising an unusual amount of restraint, I only attended one: Victor Calderone's Evolve party at Crobar with Tom "Superchumbo" Stephan.

I don't know why the London-based Stephan doesn't play over here more often, but I hope the phenomenal set he turned in on Saturday will encourage more local bookings. Calderone took over the turntables around 2 a.m. and owned every moment of his incredible 8-hour set.

The visual installation of 2,000 twinkling lights hanging above the dance floor also provided some spectacular effects — that is, when they weren't turned up at full brightness, which happened far too often (and haphazardly) the last few hours of the party. It was the Black Party supernova all over again.

Even harsh lighting couldn't outshine the incredible music, however. Among the many highlights were DJ Vibe's fierce remix of Calderone's "Resonate," Madonna's "Bedtime Story," the album version of "Holiday," and a well-balanced blend of vocal classics and deep, sexy grooves. I just wish I could learn to enjoy all those pesky dropouts, though, a seemingly inescapable trend in American dance music.

As for Sunday's Pier Dance, admittedly, the weather was my worst enemy, but irrational planning by the organizers cannot be so easily excused. Heritage of Pride, the non-profit, volunteer-driven organization that produces this and other events throughout the week, including the parade, struggled commendably for years before finally getting it right last summer.



Alegria Circus packed the crowd into Crobar for **Tony Moran** and **Abel's** set well into Monday morning, (top right). **Carson Kressley** @ the Pier Dance enjoyed **Warren Gluck's** spinning the theme from his TV show (middle right). We definitely weren't in Kansas anymore @ Crobar for Daniel Nardicio's event on Friday night (top left). **David Morgan** (left) and a friend at the Pier Dance (above)

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As far as I could tell, the only improvement was a raised stage area that offered VIPs (Very Inconvenienced Persons?) a panoramic view. But the area could only be accessed near the pier's entrance via a fenced-in walkway that spanned the length of the north side, and the only exit was at the opposite end next to the stage.

Of course, crowd control and flow is an always going to be a problem when 8,500 people are packed onto a narrow pier like sardines. Musically, DJs Randy Bettis and Warren Gluck were excellent choices to play the event, and both turned in crowd-pleasing performances. The Pussycat Dolls also performed (to mixed reviews, and much to the dismay of anyone hoping that the Mariah Carey rumors were true), as did Broadway's Andrea McArdle and Felicia Finley and an electric violinist. But the crowds and the heat eventually overwhelmed me long before the fireworks.

On Monday, I found Utopia at Spirit, along with Junior Vasquez, whose newfound sobriety is nothing short of a blessing from heaven. In Next magazine, Vasquez bravely revealed that this would be his first sober Pride in years following an intense (and all-too-familiar in the gay community) addiction to crystal meth. In his essay, Vasquez confessed, "It took me five years to remember that there's only room in the DJ booth for one bitch: me."

I couldn't agree more. This was by far the best performance I've heard from him in years. In fact, it was comparable to any of his best gay holiday sets during Twilo's peak years.

Kicking off the event was Miami's Tracy Young, another amazing DJ who performs far too infrequently in New York. But it was clearly Vasquez on the decks when I walked into the raging party at 11:30 a.m. The dance floor was still packed when I left at 6:30 p.m. (the party ended around 9:30). It was truly an honor to witness such creative brilliance and flawless execution once again as the legendary DJ reclaimed his well-deserved throne.

Don't forget to pick up Suzanne Palmer's Star 69 debut CD, "Home." Many of the songs have already topped the charts, like "Show Me," "Luv 2 Luv," "Sound of the Drum" and the title track. But the new material is just as impressive, including her latest single, a remake of Company B's "Fascinated."

If you're looking for an ultra-gay, ultra-funny off-Broadway experience, check out Jonny McGovern's one-man show, "I Likes To Have Funz," at Ace of Clubs every Thursday through July 21.

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