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NITE LIFE

Nocturnal admissions

A few tricks and treats arrive before Halloween: Madonna, Peter Rauhofer, Bananarama and a new Abel CD

By [Matt Kalkhoff](#)
Friday, October 14, 2005

One of the high holidays on the gay party calendar, Halloween is always a big to-do in New York. More than just a legitimate excuse to lose yourself in a completely fabricated identity, it's also an excellent opportunity to celebrate our vampire lifestyle and nocturnal tendencies in a carefree, non-judgmental environment.

As usual, just about every venue in town is getting in on the action. Perhaps the most intriguing option is Ric Sena's "Little Shop of Horror" party Oct. 30 at Crobar. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who might find the usual Alegria events a bit too intense to experience the phenomenon in slightly milder conditions.

You see, not only does this installment of the steadfast soiree begin at 8 p.m., but people actually cooperate by showing up early. By 9:30 last year, the dance floor was already packed and DJ Abel had the boys simmering at a medium boil. Sure, the party goes until 8 a.m., allowing just enough time for the diehards to grab a quick shower before scaring co-workers on Monday morning, should they opt for the full-throttle Alegria experience. But personally, I was home around midnight last year and felt quite fulfilled after three solid hours of dancing.

In related news, Tommy Boy's Silver Label offers up a tasty treat to help balance out all those tricks. Abel's latest pressing in Sena's unstoppable franchise is the double-CD set "Alegria Musica." As someone who basically listens to club music 24/7, even I wasn't sure if that reliably harsh Alegria sound would (or should) translate to my iPod. But Abel, Sena and Tommy Boy know what they're doing. The album arrives Oct. 25.

Divided into two sets, "The Midnight Session" and "AM:PM Session," this second installment features lots of exclusive music, including Rosabel's latest, "Rhythm Intoxication," and new singles by Inaya Day and Jeanie Tracy.

As if our expectations weren't already high enough for Madonna's forthcoming album, "Confessions on a Dancefloor," I attended the Billboard Q&A session with her main producer/collaborator, Stuart Price (aka Jacques Lu Cont), last month. Part of the magazine's annual Dance Music Summit at the Union Square Ballroom, Price spoke candidly about his work with Madonna. We learned that not only was the



Bananarama proves they weren't just an '80s punchline with the release of their new album, 'Drama.'

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entire album recorded in Price's modest London loft, but that his female neighbor can be heard faintly sobbing in the background on certain parts of the album.

So will the diva surprise New Yorkers on Oct. 22 by performing at Roxy, as speculated on the DrownedMadonna.com fansite? Considering Peter Rauhofer states on his site that he's returning to the club for "one night only" on that date. Why not?

For all you holdover Bananarama fans like myself, get ready for Sara Dallin and Karen Woodward's long-awaited new album, "Drama." The first single, "Move in My Direction" is already working its way up the charts while the follow-up, "Look on the Floor (Hypnotic Tango)," is slated for an early November release.

Finally, beginning this weekend for a glorious two-week run is Harvey Finklestein's "Sock Puppet Showgirls." Billed as a "new and improved" version of the 2002 cult classic, this "adults only" comedic puppet show retells the Joe Eszterhas opus, "Showgirls," with the flash and flair that only worn fabric can convey.

The fun happens at the Ace of Clubs for just \$15.

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