

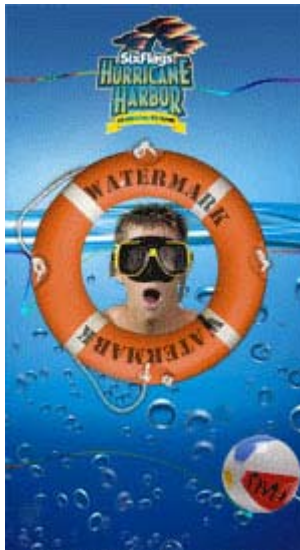


▶▶ Nightlife Features

MattUnleashed on Nightlife :: Six Flags, Taylor Dayne, and more

by Matt Kalkhoff
EDGE Nightlife Contributor
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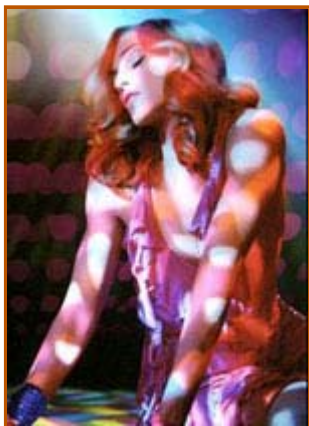
The scorching heat earlier this week may have subsided, but it's still going to be a hot one this weekend. So why not cool off at Watermark, Hurricane Harbor water park's first gay party at Six Flags? Co-produced by Mark Nelson Events, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting Heritage of the Pride, the park will be open exclusively to the LGBT community from 8:00pm until midnight. Watermark attendees, however, may arrive as early as 4:00pm (just be aware that you will be sharing the facilities with other guests until 8:00). DJ Alex Lauterstein will supply the splash-splashing tunes throughout the evening, while Speedo-clad hotties provide plenty of visual stimulation. Advance tickets are \$30 (\$45 at the gate), and can be purchased at various outlets around town or through www.marknelson.biz.



Campus Thursdays at Splash

A couple weeks ago I finally got a chance to check out Campus Thursdays at Splash, and my, what a fun time that was. Although I'm not generally into the "barely legal" look, the numerous young strippers displaying their wares throughout the bar were awfully cute. And I finally got to see that shower area put to good use. Egged on by surprise host Jai Rodriguez, about a dozen or more frisky fellas gyrated and pranced about the soaked stage, but refused to get too down and dirty. Even Jai's pleading for more skin and a dousing of whipped cream couldn't arouse any

extracurricular antics. But I guess we can't blame Splash for playing by the rules considering the watchful eye of Big Brother lately.



Madonnarama

As luck would have it, this particular night was also a tribute to the grand dame of the dance floor as the Madonnarama Tour touched down at the club. The continuous Madonna video and music montage was courtesy of special guest DJ Ed Bailey from Washington, D.C. (You may have experienced his infamous Madonnarama parties at either Tracks or Velvet Nation - R.I.P.) I thought that this was the closest I was going to get to Madge during the Confessions Tour. But in a last-minute twist last week, I found myself down in Philly witnessing one of the most visually spectacular concerts I've ever seen. I still think Blond Ambition and Reinvention

were better shows overall, but this one still packed quite a punch, and

Madonna has never looked or sounded better.

By the way, did you know that some of the most infectious lyrics in "Hung Up" were actually recycled, verbatim, from another Madonna song? Check out "Love Song" on the Like A Prayer album: "Time goes by so slowly for those who wait. And those who run seem to have all the fun." Impress your friends with that little tidbit of trivia.



Taylor Dayne

Another more economically-priced diva who's been around almost as long (if not having maintained anywhere near the level of success), Taylor Dayne strolled into town on Tuesday for a special performance at B.B. King Blues Club in Times Square. The intimate cabaret setting was perfect for this show, and Ms. Dayne took full advantage. Belting out nearly every one of her many hits ("With Every Beat of My Heart," "Prove Your Love," "Can't Get Enough of Your Love," etc.), the 44-year-old mother of two (notice a theme?) was a sultry vision of beauty in a flowing white frock that revealed her ample assets and some serious nipple action.

Playfully interacting with both her band and the audience throughout the show, it was during a rousing rendition of "I'll Be Your Shelter" that the Long Island native left the stage and bravely traversed the overflowing audience. Upon encountering a congested aisle way, she shouted (without missing a beat, natch), "I'm coming through - get the hell out of my way!" "Tell It To My Heart" also brought the house down, as did her powerhouse vocals on several ballads, including the closing number "Love Will Lead You Back." We were treated to some new material as well, a few songs of which will likely be included on her forthcoming EP of new recordings and classic soul tracks. Visit www.taylordayne.com for more info.



Dance Vault

Taylor Dayne is just one of many artists whose classic dance hits are showcased in the Dance Music Vault. Spearheaded by RCA Music Group's Hosh Gureli, this important project was launched a few months ago in an ambitious effort to digitize both new and classic dance recordings that might otherwise be relegated to vinyl obscurity. Teaming up with iTunes (for the broadest possible reach), Gureli has found the perfect outlet for his pet project, and he's hoping its success thus far

will convince other labels to get in on the act. Hundreds of songs, including such standards as Robert Owens' "I'll Be Your Friend," Alison Limerick's "Where Love Lives" and "Native New Yorker" by Odyssey, are already uploaded to the site with new bundles being added every month.

Featured remixes by other artists include Whitney Houston, Christina Aguilera, Deborah Cox, Heather Headly, Exposé, Pointer Sisters and Lisa Stansfield. Check out www.dancevault.com or iTunes Music Store to start (legally) downloading now. Some of the pricing may seem a bit high at first glance, but those items are probably bundles containing several remixes of the same song. Individual tracks are quite affordable, often at just \$0.99 a pop.



Wolfgang's Vault

You may also want to keep your eye on www.wolfgangsvault.com, where, according to the Canadian online music mag Dose.ca, "Up to 100,000 recordings of such rock legends as Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, Madonna, Elton John and Elvis Costello - the world's largest independent rock/pop archive - might soon be opened to the world for the

first time." The vast collection, estimated to be worth \$103 million, was personally compiled by the late concert promoter Bill Graham. Already, select items from the collection, like vintage t-shirts, backstage passes and posters, are available for purchase.



The Passing of a Friend

I hate to end this column on a somber note, but old-school DJ and Heartbeat Records founder Louis Morhaim passed away earlier this week. My deepest condolences go out to his many friends and family. He was a true visionary whose kind spirit and inspiring work will live on forever. May God rest his soul.

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

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Matt Kalkhoff is a New York-based freelance writer whose love for dance music is only surpassed by the depth and passion with which he writes about it. A full collection of Matt's work can be viewed at his website :: <http://www.mattunleashed.com>

Comments

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