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MattUnleashed on Nightlife :: StereoNY eats over Octagon, Venue eats Roxy Saturday nights (for now), and Junior eats turkey for Thanksgiving

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Veteran DJ Angel Moraes brings his expertise, both as a club manager (from Montreal's Stereo) and DJ to StereoNY, a new club opening on the old Octagon site

What could be any riskier than opening a nightclub in New York City these days? Maybe working for Naomi Campbell. Even in the wake of three more of Manhattan's biggest nightclubs being shut down, however, some brave folks are still out there working hard to make sure us revelers won't be displaced for too long.

On Saturday, November 18, Angel Moraes and Alan Sax step up to the plate in a valiant attempt to reenergize the city's underground club scene with the grand opening of StereoNY. Safely located just outside the reach of West Chelsea's notorious anti-nightlife police precinct, the former Octagon space on West 33rd Street has been rescued from obscurity

with a desperately needed extreme makeover and all the passion and expertise that these two veterans bring to the table.

During its former incarnation, the venue hosted its share of gay events, like many of Susan Morabito's legendary Equinox and Climax parties, but has fallen out of favor with both gay and straight clubgoers in recent years. Moraes and Sax are hoping to change that.

"I think people are going to be surprised," Moraes says of the venue's dramatic transformation. "It's the same general layout, but we've upgraded everything and really cleaned the place up. We've given it the TLC it needed."

That, plus an epic analog sound system that Moraes himself designed and custom-built for the club, just as he had done years ago for the club's Montreal namesake, whose system is widely hailed as one of the best in the world. (Moraes was also one of Stereo's founding partners in Montreal but is no longer affiliated with it).

The opening of StereoNY is a dream Moraes' has been working to make a reality ever since he first stepped foot on the Paradise Garage dance floor back in the day. After an exhaustive 10-year search, Moraes is thrilled to have finally found what he believes is the perfect space to accomplish his ambitious goal.

"I wanted to create a modern version of [the original] Sound Factory and the Garage," he explains. "The room just lends itself to [that same] raw, underground feel." And the crowd? "A mix of all colors and creeds, from millionaires to street sweepers. Now that's a party!"

An accomplished DJ and producer in his own right, Moraes will man the decks on opening night following a warm-up set by his good friend Jay Vinates. For now the club will be open on Fridays and Saturdays, as well as for special events, with Moraes spinning at least a couple times a month.

John Creamer, Dave Vasquez and Alan Sax are on tap for the following Friday, as are Hex Hector and Quentin Harris that Saturday. But the party that's generating the most buzz at the moment is the Junior Classics event on Thanksgiving Eve. Dubbed "Bass Line" and presented by Christina Visca, Junior Vasquez will take the helm at Stereo NY on Wednesday for a night of pre-Turkey indulgence and dance floor flashbacks spanning his vast, legendary career. Check out www.stereony.com for more info.

With Roxy's fate uncertain (the club has been closed for several weeks due to non-payment of taxes but hope remains that it will reopen), an enterprising group of individuals is launching Venue on Saturday, November 25. Spearheaded by Ray DeForest, Jim McGinnis, Mark Nelson, Matt Tratner, Adam Capuano and Scott Aguiar, this new weekly gay Saturday night megadance party will be held at Deep, the same 2000-plus venue on West 22nd Street that is home to Krash on Friday nights.

DJ Eddie X will kick off the festivities on opening night in the main room along with special guest host Michael Lucas while resident DJ Jon Jon Battles plays the lower level. A rotating roster of talent for upcoming events includes Brett Henrichsen, Randy Bettis, Billy Carroll, Eddie Elias and porn star Erik Rhodes (who is appearing along with Henrichsen during the Atlantis Cruises party at the club on December 2). Check out www.marknelson.biz for guest list and other info.

If you haven't had a chance yet to visit RCA's Dance Vault yet, go to iTunes (or www.dancevault.com) and do a search for "dance vault." Hundreds of new classic dance tracks have been added recently with more on the way. And while you're enjoying your favorite icons of yesteryear like the Pointer Sisters, Aretha Franklin and Allison Limerick (most priced at just \$0.99), be sure to check out Christina Aguilera's latest, "Hurt." With epic remixes by Jonathan Peters and others, this is one gorgeous anthem you won't want to miss.

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

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>

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