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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

As one new dance club opened its doors last weekend in the East Village, another in Hell's Kitchen was getting shut down by the police (again). If you just can't make it to Happy Valley on Tuesdays or Duvet on Thursdays, but love the bohemian, anything-goes vibe of those parties, then this weekend you might want to check out the East Village's hottest new dance club, element.

Grand opening festivities peppered the holiday weekend with an interesting mix of talent and crowds. **Tommie Sunshine** and **Adultnapper** kicked things off on Thursday, followed by "Turntables on the Hudson" on Friday, presented by **Nickodemus** and **Mariano** with special guests **Spiritual South** and **Nappy G**. Saturday belonged to promoter **Josh Wood** and **DJ Larry Tee** (both of Duvet fame) who capitalized on the building's original design with the new weekly *Bank Heist* party. Sunday was a winter-white fantasy as the *Souvenirs* tea dance resurfaced with **DJs Randy Bettis** and **Michael Wilson**.

The bank-cum-nightclub has weathered several incarnations over the decades, but the original architecture remains intact. So the new owners took care to preserve its foundation while elegantly renovating the tri-level venue's 10,000 square feet. Capacity clocks in around 300 people, so the dance space is limited. But I predict this midsized hotspot is destined to host the sort of kick-ass soirees to become the East Side's answer to Cielo. Visit elementny.com for a full schedule.

Meanwhile, the latest nightclub to be shut down by the NYPD is Exit, following a raid on Friday night. Although unrelated, the club's sudden closure forced DJ drifter **Jonathan Peters** to find another venue for his birthday party on Sunday. Notice quickly went out that he settled on Copacabana. While the Copa is a fine space—which worked beautifully for **Suzanne Bartsch's** Halloween parties—it is the antithesis of Exit (bright décor; mutli-colored carpeting; clean, functioning restrooms), so one can only imagine the sort of terrain shock (relief?) Peter's followers endured.

Details are still sketchy about the raid (honestly, I didn't even know Exit was still open!), but it reportedly happened during the club's hip-hop party. Given the venue's dubious history, maybe it's time to start taking those Wal-Mart offers seriously (kidding!).

Looking ahead, here are my picks for mega-clubbing in the



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coming weeks: **Tracy Young** and **Luciano Pardini's** *Brazilia Erotica* at Spirit or **Cevin Fisher's** *Twisted* with **Adam Freemer** and **Rob di Stefano** at Element on Friday, Feb. 24; **Victor Calderone's** monthly Evolve after-hours party at Crobar on Sunday morning, Feb. 26 (and again for his birthday party on Mar 11 with **DJ Vibe**); **Timo Mas** at Pacha on Friday, March 3; **Paul van Dyk** at Roseland on Saturday, March 4; and **Deep Dish** at Crobar on Saturday, March 10.

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