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IT ALL STARTS AT JR's BAR & GRILL



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A full-page advertisement for Andrew Christian underwear. It features a shirtless, muscular man with a beard, wearing yellow and blue briefs. He is holding two black objects to his ears, and his briefs have 'ANDREW CHRISTIAN' printed on the waistband. The background is a metallic, industrial-looking vault. Text elements include 'Exclusively Sold' in yellow, a red shield with a white cross and 'ANDREW CHRISTIAN' in black, 'NOW OPEN' in large yellow and blue letters, 'THE VAULT' in large yellow letters, and the address '3407 Montrose Boulevard (Next to Berry Hill)' at the bottom right.

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LIFE According to Charo

Well hello Mr Smelly!

Talk about a punch in the nose. As some of you may remember, I previously wrote an article regarding bottoms and the art of the douche. This one goes out to all my top counterparts.

Whether you are a man, woman or dog, one must be aware of the scents their body can make. Now don't get me wrong, there are some freak nasties that are in to that sord of thing, I am not judging those freaks.

I had an experience recently that I just have to share. Trade was going to come over. So being the responsible queer, I did what one does. Or what everyone should do at least. Girl, I was ready! I had said to myself "Miss Charo girl, you out did yourself....your water bill is going to be high this month!". You could eat off that buffet floor Mary!

So trade gets here and gets naked. So the doll goes under....

BIIIIIITCH! When I tell you his junk had smelled worse than a hot bag of wet Alpo in the middle of July! I would of taken that option instead! I jumped up and in my best Scarlett O'Hara voice said "Get up and get the Fuck up out my house and never return".

Moral of the story, tops if you want your stuff taken care of, please do us all a favor and wash under your nuts! Also, just because you don't want anything done back there, don't skip it during you shower, it takes 1 minute!

Yall Nasty!!!

XOXO
Miss Charo...

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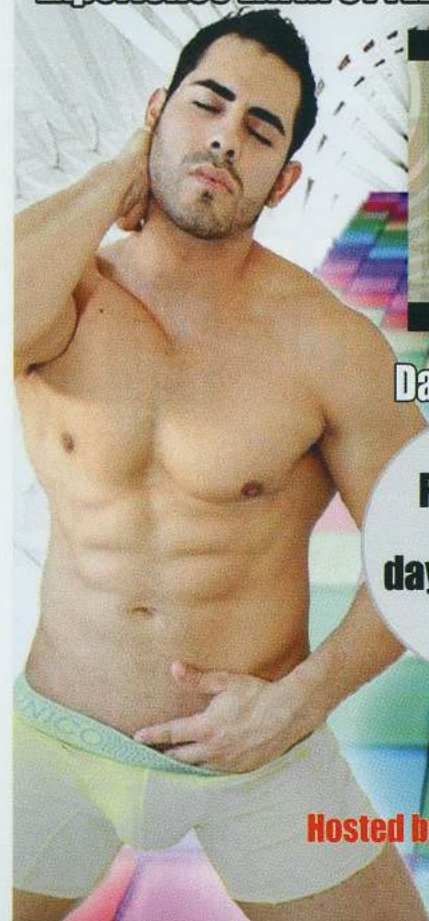
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BARBARELLA

HOUSTON

By Cade Michals

Grand Opening

Barbarella Brings A New Breath Of Air To The Vibrant Night Life Scene In Houston

The unique video dance club has been a staple of the Austin nightlife scene since it's debut in 2009. Owned by two DJs, John Gardner and Harvey Graham, with an inspiring 50 years of DJing between them, Barbarella seeks to play dance music with integrity and AbOUT Magazine sat down with both Harvey and John for an inside look.

Barbarella's Houston concept is an extension of the original Barbarella that started in Orlando, in the early nineties extending from the 80's New Wave dance clubs that started popping up. Harvey tells me, "In 2010 when we decided to open a new club in Austin. Our 'counter culture' concept is also unique in that the club is owned by DJs, and that the music comes first- In that regard I hesitate to even refer to us as DJs because that bring to mind the image of an artist behind two turntables scratching and beat mixing and remixing

songs. That's not what we do nor is it what we are about. I admire and respect the DJs that take songs and mix them together and scratch and blend beats etc, but at that point it becomes more about the DJ and less about the song."

Barbarella Houston is located across the street from the now closed "Rich's Houston" at 2404 San Jacinto, and has been plans to become the diverse club Houston has been lacking.

"What makes Barbarella so great is the diversity. We get gays, hipsters and douchebags all to peacefully come in one place" Harvey says. "Our goal is to create an environment for anyone who loves music. Again, the music comes first. You can dress however you want to as long as you are wearing shoes and shirt when you enter" he states with a big smile then adds "shirts optional once you get inside"

Barbarella Austin can largely be attributed to the popularity of the club's weekly themed nights which allow the patrons to show up on any given night knowing exactly what to expect. No surprises. This model will be replicated in Houston, and one that should be dully noted is "Sungayz", and will be hosted and DJed by Houston native theGlitoris of theGlitoris.com fame.

"When I was in high school trying to accept and embrace my sexuality, I couldn't wait to be around other queer people. I wanted to feel accepted in a comfortable social "safe zone." When I turned 18 and graduated, I was thrilled to finally be able to go to gay bars. I remember at my first drag show hearing one of the performers say to an audience member, "Who cares if you're gay or straight, hunny! Let's just have fun ya' big bottom!" After so many years of always feeling different, I could finally engage with the people around me and not feel judged." States John.

"After several years of exploring the gay bar scene in many national markets such as LA, Houston, Chicago, San Antonio, Austin and Miami, I realized that not one bar really embraced ALL facets of the community. I began to think about the commonality between the various gayborhoods in different cities and came to realize that in almost all cases the gayborhood offered many different bars owned by the same people. As a result, many of the bars hired the same DJ's, emcees, drag queens and staff."

"I felt the gay scene had become so homogenized, and as a result people in our community were being left out including me. I'd go to 4 different bars in the same city and hear the same Britney remix within an hour of each other. They labeled it the "leather bar" but played the same music as the twinkie 18+ bar across the street, and offered the same drag queens, etc."

"So I sought to create my own party, my own environment where I could hear artists that I liked such as indie artists like Grimes, Charli XCX, Le Tigre, Brooke Candy while also paying tribute to artists who inspired them like Depeche Mode, Ace Of Base, Prince and Whitney Houston."

"SunGayz will offer a wide variety of contemporary artists and the artists that have influenced them. The music serves to unite all music lovers which is why just as many straight people as gay people are found on the dance floor. There are just as many gay men as lesbian women and just as many daddies as gaybies in attendance.


People work during the week and want to go out and have fun. I created a party with a fun, diverse environment that I am there to facilitate. I am not the center of the party, the guest is."

"For me, it's more about the energy of the party rather than how well I can mix Gaga with Rihanna. It's about you being engaged by the environment, getting off your cell phones, discovering new music and hearing old favorites."

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A photograph of three muscular men posing together. The man in the center is holding a black beach ball with the 'ES collection' logo. The man on the right is wearing sunglasses and has his mouth open in a shout. The man on the left has a large tattoo on his chest. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blue wall with white graffiti. A diagonal banner at the top left of the image reads 'Summers not over yet! Come get your ES Collection SwimwearSee'.

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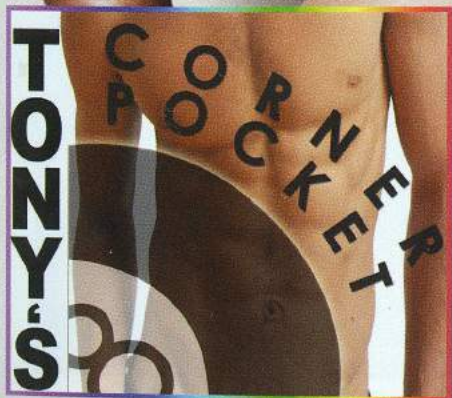
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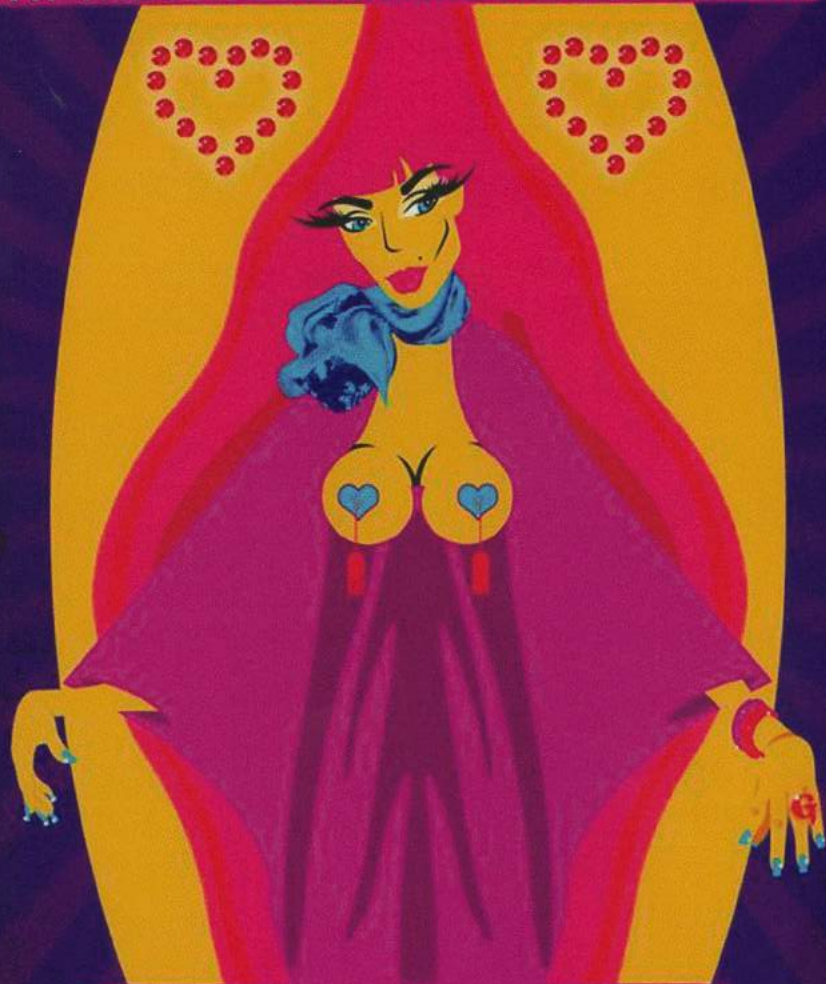
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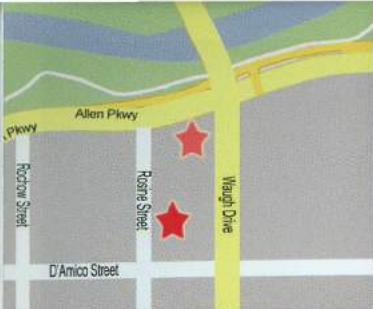


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★ **Blur Nightclub**
710 Pacific, Houston TX 77006

★ **Crocker Bar**
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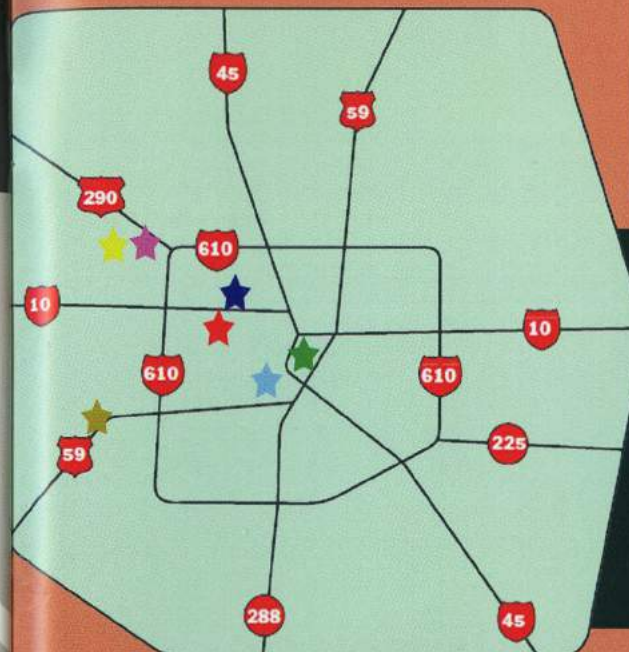
★ **TC's Bar & Club**
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Montrose Entertainment District THE BAR/CLUB GUIDE

www.AbOUT-Online.com The Bar/Club Guide



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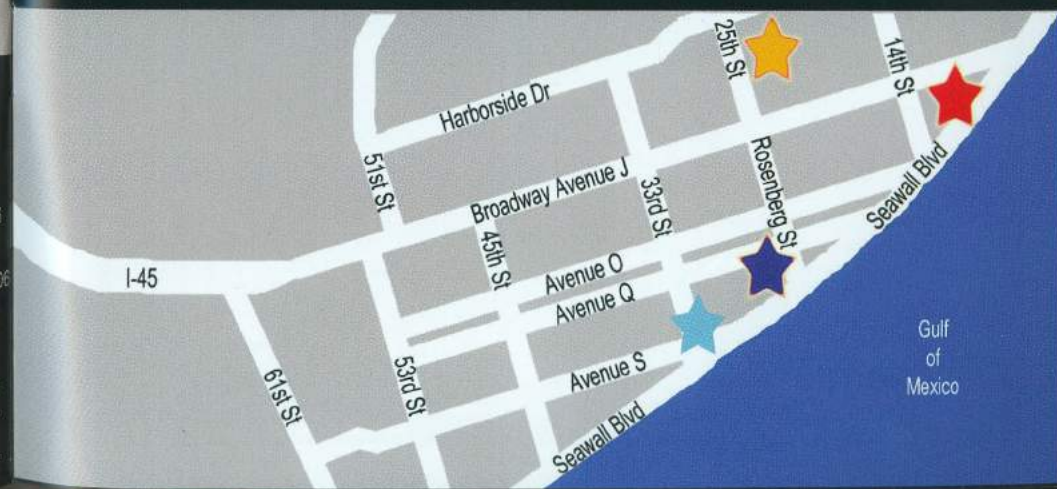
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the beat

DJ Spotlight

By DJ Mark D

The beat of Montrose

There's a local guy right in the Gayborhood that's making a lot of noise, and you need to know about it! I'm speaking of is DJ Alex Live.

A music lover, he started his DJ path just recently - about three and a half years ago, which is pretty young for a DJ. "Before I became a DJ I was a Dancer (B-BOY, Choreography) so I already had the drive of music in me" Alex explains, "during one of my promo nights at bar, I realized that there would be no promo without the DJ...and the CD that was playing ended and there wasn't a guy standing in the booth cueing the next record! My first thought was 'Omg what am I gonna do!' Then without even having five minutes to gather some thoughts and plan out a set, I had to jump in the DJ booth and just take it from there." As therapists would say: that apparently was the 'break through' moment; Alex was hooked!

Not everything goes as smoothly as they appear, so Alex really had to put in the time behind the turntables to get the hang of things.

Night after night after the 'day job', he kept DJing; giving him the much needed exposure to an audience, "I must admit I was horrible my first night hahaha" he says. Alex began to get other offers and found himself DJing all over Houston - he was everywhere. Then he found Montrose! "That's why I knew I'd found my home, it's always a really good time and the peeps party night after night - it's nothing I had ever seen before!"

DJ Alex Live currently spins at Bayou City Bar (2409 Grant) on Saturdays for their "Sinful Saturdays" night. He claims to be quite versatile (couldn't resist)! He says "you name it I might be able to play it!" Alex says the music that really drives him is Old School Hip-Hop, Latin, Top 40 Dance and Rock/Alternative.

What a huge span of music! Alex sees the nightclub/bar experience as evolving into something that is less "cool" and more "party." In my opinion, they're looking to find an intimate place that can throw down with the same feel as if it was a party at their own house. We used to call it the "House Party" vibe lol - it's comfortable and you're around friends, hearing hit music that makes you shake your ass!"

He demonstrates for me, but it's a little awkward to write about - so I'm moving on. "I think the mark of a good DJ is versatility" he says! Remember, you heard it first from me lol! So the next time you're looking to get those hips moving, remember the name Alex Live on Saturdays nights at Bayou City Bar in Houston- and look for me, under their giant mirrorball!

Retro Rewind with Chaka Khan

There are not many divas that continue to have hits after 40 years of success but the person I have chosen this week has done just that. Her aptly titled current single 'It's Not Over' is packing the dance floors just as her first big hit did in 1974.

At that time Chaka Khan was the lead singer of Rufus and that early hit was the groundbreaking 'Tell Me Something Good', a sensual groove track written by Stevie Wonder. It went on to become a crossover pop hit, peaking at number three on the Billboard pop charts and earning the group their first Grammy.

Chaka Khan's career has produced so many club hits over the years that it was really hard for me to choose this week's Retro Rewind, but I narrowed it down to a couple of tracks.

I considered the hugely popular 'I Feel For You', which was a massive club hit in 1984 written by Prince, and then consider the Ashford & Simpson penned classic 'I'm Every Woman' which became Chaka's first hit without Rufus. My personal favorite dance track by Rufus & Chaka Khan is the lesser known 'One Million Kisses' but I finally decided on 'Ain't Nobody', a mid tempo stomper that gives full range to Chaka's amazing vocals.

It was released in 1983 during a time when the main Gay dance clubs were open on the weekends until 8am. Plenty of time for me to peak at 144 beats per minute at 2am and then slide into that early morning groove from 5am until 8am. 'Ain't Nobody' was perfect for the latter and was soon one of my most requested after-hours tracks

The song was almost given to Michael Jackson for inclusion on his multi platinum album 'Thriller' but luckily it ended up becoming a showcase for Chaka's vocal prowess and soon was one of her trademark performance pieces.



Chaka recorded this track with Rufus but she had already branched out as a solo artist with the album 'Chake Khan'. Both her solo album and 'Ain't Nobody' won Grammys in 1984 establishing Chaka Khan as a superstar. 'Ain't Nobody' reached number one on the r&b charts and was included on the soundtrack of the break-dance movie 'Breakin'.

So many people have successfully covered the track over the years but nobody does it like Chaka not even Mary J Blige (2011) or LL Cool J (which hit number one in the UK in 1996)!

For many years Chaka Khan was my favorite singer. I even named my first Chow-Chow Chaka when I was living in The Netherlands and then in England my second Chow-Chow was of course Khan. All my dogs in the US have the last name of Khan. Not sure if the real Chaka Khan would approve of having dogs named after her but it proves her lasting influence on me!

'Ain't Nobody' is still Chaka Khan's most requested dance track at 54 Sundays, my Disco night at The Eagle, so feel free to hit me up for a request for that or any other vintage Chaka Khan track!

If you Can't

Say Something

Nice....

Come sit by us

YES Ma'am
NO! Ma'am



Nothing SCREAMS
GAY like a "Sugar-
FLY" with her
hands on the hips!

In this issue we touch on the topic of
"When it is appropriate to place hands
on the hips!"--This is not one of the times!

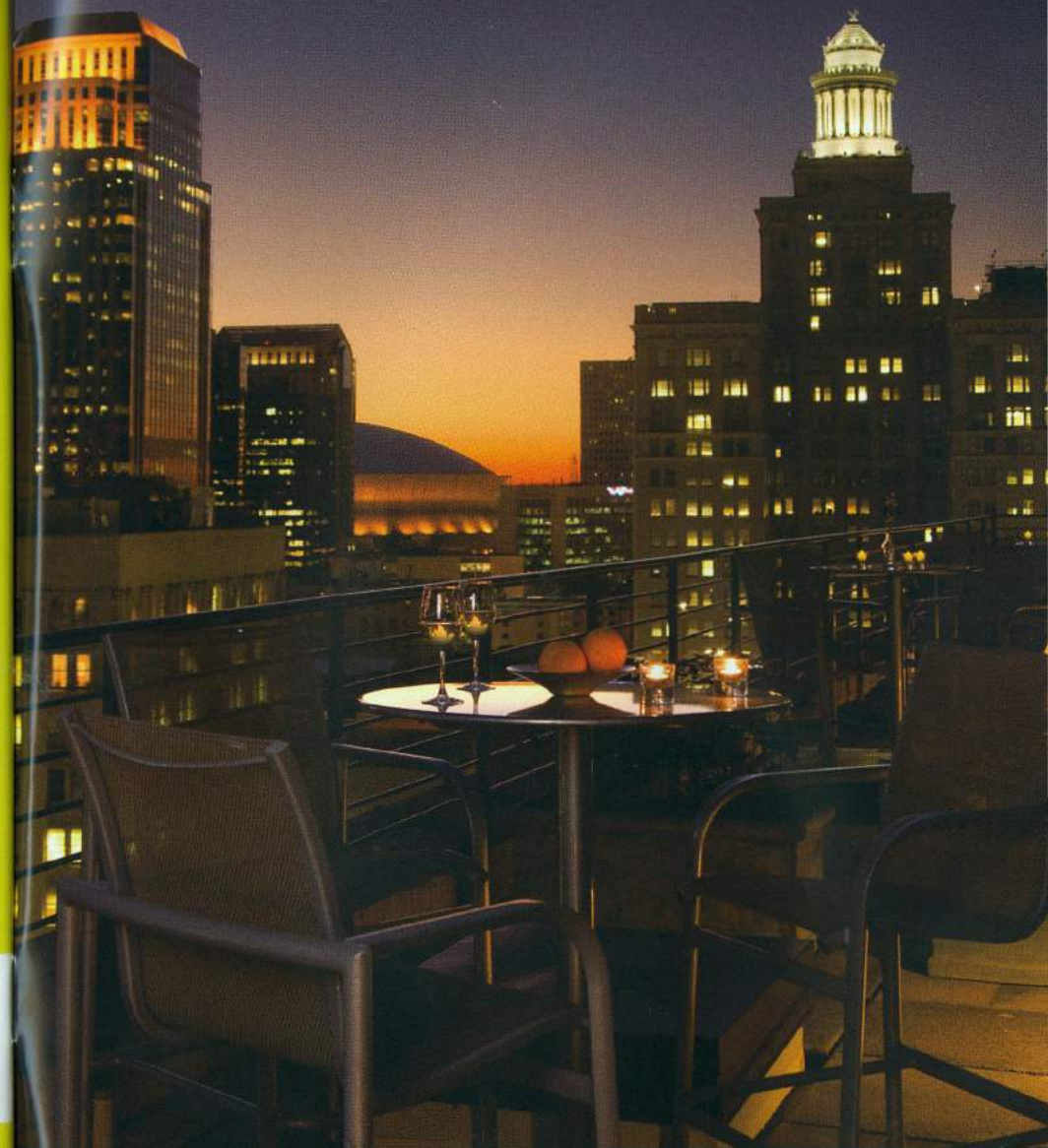


Not often do we get a "Yes! Ma'am!
But this couple is dishing out
"FABULOUS" We could all learn from
this pose!



Another example of
not an appropriate
time... that includes
the "Tinkerbell"
inspired costume.
All she's missing is
some "Fairy dust."

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