



Did somebody cut the music?

by Matt Kalkhoff

Nothing kills the peak hour vibe at a raging dance party quite like abruptly shutting off the music and raising the house lights. Yet that's exactly what happened around 2:00am on Saturday, February 19, at New York's famed Roxy nightclub. Everything seemed fine as resident DJ **Peter Rauhofer** prepared to take over the decks from opening DJ **Merritt**. That is, until the music suddenly cut out.

After nearly 10 minutes of precious Phazon deprivation, the house lights flashed on and then off again, almost as quickly as Rauhofer bolted out of the booth and out the back door. To say he looked displeased as he exited would be an understatement.

Then a voice -- presumably that of promoter **John Blair** or producer **Jason McCarthy** -- pierced the buzz-inhibiting silence with a public service announcement to inform [restless] patrons that Rauhofer was having "a bit of a diva moment" and had left the building. Merritt would be spinning the remainder of the party. Rumors ran rampant, naturally, yet it was anyone's guess as to what could have possibly prompted such a dramatic departure.

Both sides have since offered convincing (if somewhat contrary) explanations. So at the risk of sounding Pollyannaish, let's just chalk it up to creative differences and call it a day. Which is pretty much what Rauhofer did immediately following the incident, as future dates for his long-standing bi-monthly residency at the club were quickly scrubbed from his website (www.peterrauhofer.com).

In a stroke of luck (or what may seem like more than mere coincidence to the cynical observer), **Jonathan Peters** concurrently announced that he was leaving his weekly residency at the nearby Spirit in West Chelsea. A few days later, voila, Rauhofer announced a new monthly residency at the legendary venue formerly known as Twilo and Sound Factory. Intent on rekindling the innovative spirit and diverse zaniness of an erstwhile downtown vibe, Rauhofer punched in for his first day of Work at the new venue on Saturday, March

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12, and is planning some serious overtime when he hits the decks again on April 30 to celebrate his birthday.

"Let me tell you something, honey, if you want drama, you came to the right place, because I'll give it to you."

And those lyrics above? They're from Rauhofer's 1997 camp classic "Drama," of course, a song he wrote with **Junior Vasquez** in mind and recorded with **Kim Cooper** under the moniker Club 69. Got all that? Good.

In related news, Rauhofer's long-awaited Live @ Roxy 4 compilation CD was released amidst all the confusion and restructuring. The fourth (and presumably final) double-CD in the series feels like a reunion of sorts, a mélange of the Grammy award-winning DJ/producer's many pseudonyms adapted for today's discriminating dance floor.

From the campy stylings of Club 69 to the provocative innuendo of Size Queen, both discs offer a potent fusion of sub-genres expertly melded to satisfy a wide range of house music palettes. Incessant drop-outs and all (hasn't that annoying trend run its course yet?), it is a compelling exercise in the sophisticated instrumentation and progressive deep house experimentation for which Rauhofer's former residency at Roxy was known.

Track titles like "Psykofuk," "Do I Look Like A Slut," "Sexercise" and "Insanity" set the tone. But it's Rauhofer's brilliant Re-Invention Remix of **Madonna's** "Mother & Father" and his Re-Construction Mix of **David Morales'** "How Would U Feel" (the best dance song of 2004, in this writer's opinion) that render this compilation essential. Other stand outs include "I Like It" by **Decibel f/La Veetra** ("What's a matter with this song?"), Decibel's "Mighty Wind" ("Like a mighty wind, spirit come down, come rushing in" -- a prelude, perhaps, to the new residency?) and **FC Nond's** "Re Used".

Also out on Star 69 is Juicy Music, Vol. 1, a beatmix by **Robbie Rivera**, and Divas To The Dancefloor, Vol. 2, which includes the killer tracks "Nasty Girl" by **Inaya Day**, **Sheila Brody's** "U Ain't That Good" and **Beat Hustlerz** haunting Club Mix of **Suzanne Palmer's** "Home."

Visit www.star69records.com for all the divas, drama and more.

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