

BEST RESIDENT DJ



MARK LEVENTHAL, RUMI MIAMI

DJ to the stars Mark Leventhal loves playing for the likes of Cindy Crawford, Billy Baldwin, and Madonna, but it's his residency at Miami Beach hotspot Rumi that really makes him happy. "Rumi is a venue that keeps you in touch with the people," Leventhal says. His popular Thursday night party attracts a diverse SoBe crowd and everyone, Leventhal maintains, is welcome, from "white trash" to "the creme de la creme of south Florida." Playing what the *Miami Herald* describes as a "lively mix of house, hip-hop, funk, and pop," Leventhal has built an enviable following by thinking outside of the record box. At Rumi, the veteran DJ is free to get creative behind the decks. "Any decent DJ can go to a club and pound away the top 50 progressive house songs or the top 100 hip-hop songs," Leventhal explains, "but currently no DJs mix all of that together, from Kneedeep to Beyoncé to Def Leppard to the Cure to Bell Biv DeVoe to Outkast. Rumi allows me to do that." —*JL*



JONATHAN PETERS, SOUND FACTORY NEW YORK

Meet the quintessential resident DJ. Jonathan Peters is a native New Yorker who honed his DJ skills and built a reputation in the Big Apple by spinning at some of its landmark parties, like the original Limelight and Save the Robots. But for seven years his name has been synonymous with Saturdays at Sound Factory, drawing thousands of people, encompassing almost every archetype in the city and tri-state area, every single Saturday to hear his legendary 20-hour sets. His parties are "musical journeys" that don't stick to one genre. "I don't have the shutters on. I play all styles of dance music, so when I approach the party, I approach it as a party," says Peters. "I think my style comes from the way I actually play the records. It's the ability to hear what a great record is." But the most amazing part about Peters is that his parties are not promoted: He built a dedicated following by word-of-mouth alone. And with his time at Sound Factory now over and a new residency on the horizon, his loyal fans are anxiously awaiting his return. —*LG*



DANNY TENAGLIA, ARC NEW YORK

To the rest of the world it seems impossible, unfair, even, that the same city and crowd get Danny Tenaglia every Friday night. How can a DJ like DT, in-demand in literally every corner of the earth, begged and plied with sky-high fees and promises of deity-level treatment, chose to stay at home, in the same 1,000-cap club, week after week, year after year? The answer's clear: While Tenaglia is the "DJ's DJ" the rest of the world makes him out to be, and does bear the mystique that international clubbers conjure for him, at home in New York he's just Danny, the people's jock, approachable, involved, and in-tune with the crowd he's cultivated for the past five years. His party is Be Yourself, and the Phazon-equipped Arc is its home, the club that Tenaglia likes to call his "living room." But playing adventurous sets that average eight hours each week, running the gamut from techno to deep house, to classics and unknown gems in the after hours, Tenaglia uses it more like a classroom. —*KLM*



MARQUES WYATT, SIXTEEN-FIFTY SANTA MONICA

Since the early '80s, local hero Marques Wyatt has been the West Coast's passport to New York's brand of deep, soulful house music. He has been a pivotal figure in the Cali club scene for almost two decades, releasing compilations on seminal San Fran label Om, and launching, promoting, and playing a daunting number of parties including BBC, Brass, MAC's Garage, Does Your Mama Know?, and currently Deep. Deep features both East and West Coast sounds, and a crowd of regulars that's like family, united by a love of the music. For five years and counting, the Sunday party has been thriving, and Wyatt is the glue holding it together. He serves as creator, promoter, and resident DJ, and alongside his own sets, Wyatt lends the decks to the likes of Derrick Carter, Kerri Chandler, Joe Claussell, Mark Farina, Tony Humphries, Frankie Knuckles, David Morales, Timmy Regisford, Ron Trent, and Louie Vega — just to name a few. —*LG*