

**CLUBS**

## INSOMNIA

Back in the Limelight...again. By Lorie Caval

**T**he last thing I wanted to write about this month was the **Limelight**. It's not that I disliked the place; I've enjoyed many wild evenings there. But any follower of nightlife now considers it the club that cried wolf, after rumor upon rumor that the fabled club would reopen two years after the police closed it. I've mentioned at least three such false alarms to date.

After much controversy and courtroom conflict, owner **Peter Gatien** has finally received permission to unlock the doors. As of press time, **Limelight** was set to reopen "sometime in September," according to publicists, and although the vague date does make me wary, I do believe it will happen this time.

Those who've never been to the **Limelight** might wonder why such a fuss has been made about the club-within-a-church. After all, it was just another New York nightspot, right? Apart from all the controversy surrounding the club (everything from alleged drug rings to murder), **Limelight** catalyzed a scene. Few would dispute that Disco 2000 promoter **Michael Alig** and the countless other club kids who made **Limelight** their home were the beating heart of the nightclub body. Once **Limelight** closed, many of these characters were displaced—some to L.A., others to Rikers—and no one has taken their place.

Two years later, plenty of things have changed in clubland. In addition to new musical genres, new promoters and a move toward a more laid-back "lounge culture," Mayor **Giuliani** has cracked down on life after dark with his "quality of life" campaign. If Peter Gatien were to try to re-create the **Limelight** of yesteryear, it

would surely fail for a number of reasons. But being the business brain that he is, Gatien has a whole new plan in mind. (Though he was unavailable to talk to us about it.)

By day, **Limelight** will be a community-oriented art gallery and café. By night, it will house innovative parties promoted by the likes of **Marc Berkley**. The space has been completely renovated with a look that highlights the church's architecture,



including restored stained-glass windows and pulpit (the latter made into a DJ booth). In a nod to the **Limelight** of old, many of the room's decor will change to keep up with all of us nightcrawlers who seem to have attention deficit disorder. Scheduled designers include **Jane Miller** and **H.R. Giger** (of *Alien* and *Species* fame).

Word is that DJ **Danny Tenaglia** will move from Gatien's other club, **Tunnel**, to take over Saturday nights and every other Sunday (alternating with **Victor Calderone**). Now, you didn't hear it from me, but rumor has it that **Junior Vasquez** (New York's most sought-after DJ) will leave his residency at **Twilo** to defect to **Limelight**. By the time this article is on the stands, you'll be able to tell me whether I gave you the good scoop or should have kept my big mouth shut. Until then. •