

# Rock records roll

## Vintage vinyl latest spin from club DJs

By MARY HUHN

**L**ADY Dawn, who sports a blond flip hairdo, frosted lipstick and a vintage pink wool dress, looks as if she were airlifted from the Age of Aquarius.

The British host of the monthly "Subway Soul Club" in the East Village, she has helped usher in the revival of New York's rock 'n' soul deejay scene.

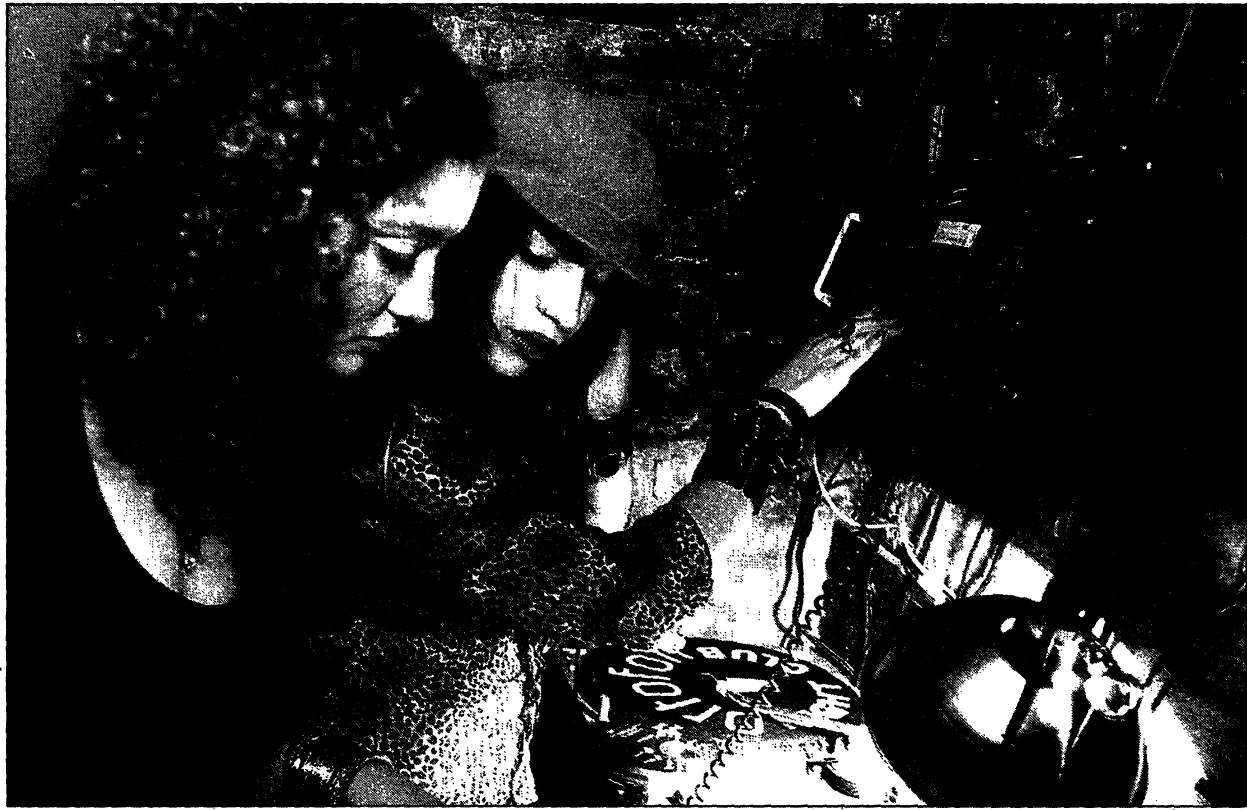
These mixmasters aren't just playing newcomers such as the Hives or the Strokes, but also garage, psychedelic rock and funky soul from the '60s, punk rock from the '70s and '80s, and metal from the '80s and '90s.

Rock fans finally have choices — from big venues like Halloween's Motherf\*\*er party at Club New York to up-and-coming places like BABY!, Sundays at Double Happiness — without having to battle the techno scene or bridge-and-tunnel clubs.

"For years, the music I was playing was the music you'd put on to clear a room," says deejay Todd-O-Phonic Todd.

"Now, not only are people not running away, the places are often packed."

Friday nights at Niagara Bar on the Lower East Side, Todd-O-Phonic is one guest deejay who spins old tunes, drawing young kids and older fans alike.



Deejays Kate Ruby (left) and Korby are part of the rock 'n' roll revival, spinning tunes at Double Happiness on Mott Street

"These deejays play some of the rarest records," says Niagara co-owner Johnny T. "Even though [the guests] don't know what they're being treated to, they still have a good time."

At Manitoba's on Monday nights, regulars enjoy strictly pre-'90s rock.

"There's no BS — no dance music or new stuff," says Tommy Volume, a guitarist with the Star Spangles.

This past Monday, Handsome Dick Manitoba of the Dictators stopped by to hear legendary transsexual punk rocker Jayne County play a Bowie cover of The Who's "Can't Explain" and early Clash.

Over at Rififi (332 East 11th St. at First Ave.; [212]

677-1027), pink-clad Lady Dawn presides as folks shake their groove thangs to Northern soul, Motown and organ swirls.

"For fans," says Todd-O-Phonic, "the only way to enjoy this music is to go out, because it's not on the radio."

That said, one radio show is making air-waves. "Underground Garage," which airs on Sunday nights on Q-104, is hosted by Little Steven — a.k.a. Steven Van Zandt, E Street Band guitarist and star of "The Sopranos."

"Traditional rock 'n' roll became an endangered species for 10 years," says Little Steven.

"Now people are discovering how cool these records are. It's wild magic."



Legendary punk rocker Jayne County offers a Bowie cover of a Who tune or some early Clash at Manitoba's

Anthony J. Causi

## Where it's at

**H**ERE'S where to find the hottest rock and soul:

■ **MONDAY:** It's old-school rock only at **GaRaGeLaNd** at **Manitoba's** (99 Avenue B, at Sixth Street; [212] 982-2511) — no Strokes here.

■ **TUESDAY:** **Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame** night at **Tapis Rouge** (9 Avenue A, at First Street; [212] 358-1440) boasts rock 'n' roll party animal, Motherf\*\*ers' Georgie Seville.

■ **WEDNESDAY:** Sweeten your night with **Rock Candy**, which plays "NYC Rock 'n' Roll" at **Don Hill's** (511 Greenwich St., at Spring Street; [212] 334-1390).

■ **THURSDAY:** **Rock 'n' Roll** at the cozy **Three of Cups** (83 First Ave., at Fifth Street; [212] 388-0059) where deejays mix Led Zep, the Ramones and Van Halen and new indie rockers.

■ **FRIDAY:** **Wowsville A-Go-Go** at **Niagara Bar** (112 Avenue A, at Seventh Street; [212] 420-9517), is a rock and soul lover's paradise, with vintage deejays who've been lugging their top 45s from club to club since the '80s.

■ **SATURDAY:** **The Seen** at **LIT**, (93 Second Ave., at Fifth Street; [212] 777-7987), mixes up rock, soul, punk and British Invasion music, but leans to '80s metal on Saturdays.

■ **SUNDAY:** **BABY!** was just launched at **Double Happiness** (173 Mott St., at Broome Street; [212] 941-1282) where you get a shot of Kiss, Motley Crue, Journey, X-Ray Spex, Pulp or Aretha — *Mary Huhn*