

NIGHT MOVES!

FROM THE FUNKY DIVA THAT SINGS HER WAY TO THE WEE HOURS OF THE A.M. TO THE COOL CAT WHO MAKES HIS LIVING THROWING DOWN, NIGHTTIME IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR THESE FIVE ATLANTA HIPSTERS. WE ASKED THEM TO SPILL THE DIRT ON THEIR FAVORITE PLACES TO PLAY ACROSS TOWN FROM DUSK TO DAWN.

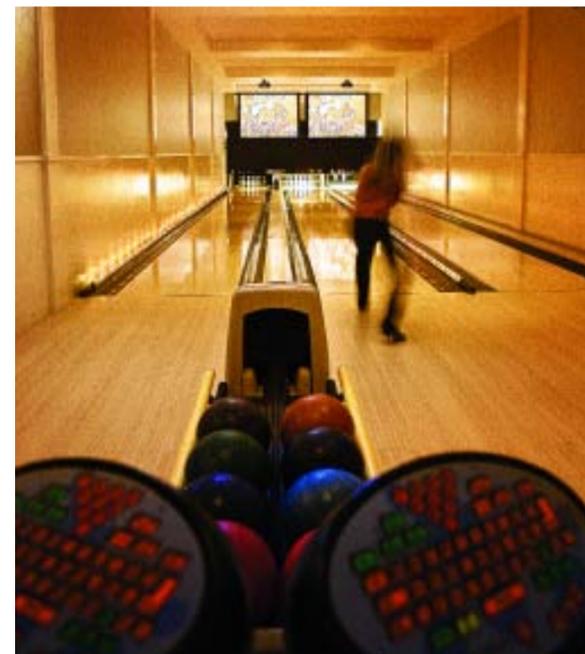
PRODUCED BY SARAH GLEIM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY YVONNE BOYD

THE SONGSTRESS: JANELLE MONÁE

Steppin' out in her signature Willits black-and-white saddle oxfords and Sophia Anderson bowtie, Janelle Monáe, the quirky Atlanta singer who considers her true profession a cross between "inventor, recording artist and magician," is hard to miss. She's got a style all her own: Her hobbies include an eclectic mix of magic tricks, golf, screaming contests and climbing trees. She says she's a proud member of the Wondaland Arts Society, a "secret society of inventors and thinkers who strategize ways to help alter history." (Her words, not ours!) The think-tank's "secret" clubhouse/hideout is the spot where she spends time with other Wondaland members before they head out for a night out. With her debut album, *Metropolis, Suite I of IV: The Chase*, in stores now and the follow-up, *Suite II of IV: Locked Inside*, slated for release on December 24, Monáe's got a lot going on, and that's the way she likes it. —Christopher Barry

BOWLED OVER

TEN PIN BOWLING ALLEY/LOUNGE (261 19TH ST., 404.872.3364) IS ONE OF MONÁE'S FAVORITE PLACES. "THE INTERIOR DESIGN THERE IS SICK," SHE SAYS, ADDING IT'S THE IDEAL PLACE FOR HER TO BE SURROUNDED BY THE DIVERSE PEOPLE SHE CRAVES. AND WHEN THE CROWD WATCHING AND BOWLING AREN'T ENOUGH, "MY FRIENDS AND I HAVE FUN TAKING PHOTOS IN THE PHOTO BOOTH," SHE SAYS.



STAGE RIGHT

A Midtown standard for many years now, the dark and gritty Smith's Olde Bar (1578 Piedmont Ave., 404.875.1522) is one of the ATL's best spots to see an intimate show and, according to Monáe, a great place to perform as well. "I am not a drinker," she says, "but it's fun performing for all the drunk people who come and watch me."

It's no surprise that one of Monáe's favorite restaurants, Pearl Restaurant and Lounge (253 Peters St., 404.523.2121), is in the Castleberry Hill district—by far one of the ATL's hippest, funkier neighborhoods. But the scene isn't the only thing that keeps her going back. "I love eating there," she says. "They have excellent French fries and mussels."

CLASSICAL ACT

Probably the only place that Monáe's bowtie gets little recognition is at 1280 Peachtree Street, home to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (1280 Peachtree St., 404.733.5000) and the more than occasional black tie. "Visiting the ASO is an event that I enjoy the most, especially when they play Rachmaninoff," Monáe says.



ALL HAIL QUEEN MONÁE!

When clubbing is on her agenda, Monáe likes to hit up The Royal (255 Trinity Ave., 404.653.1644) for the "Broke and Boujee" event, which appeals to the street culture demographic in town. "I'm into hanging at The Royal on [event organizer] Fadia Kadar's night," Monáe says. "I find all the pieces [at The Royal] pretty interesting, especially the black-and-white Victorian-style furniture and wallpaper." She soaks it all in with a cranberry and orange juice with extra cherries (no alcohol!), her drink of choice.

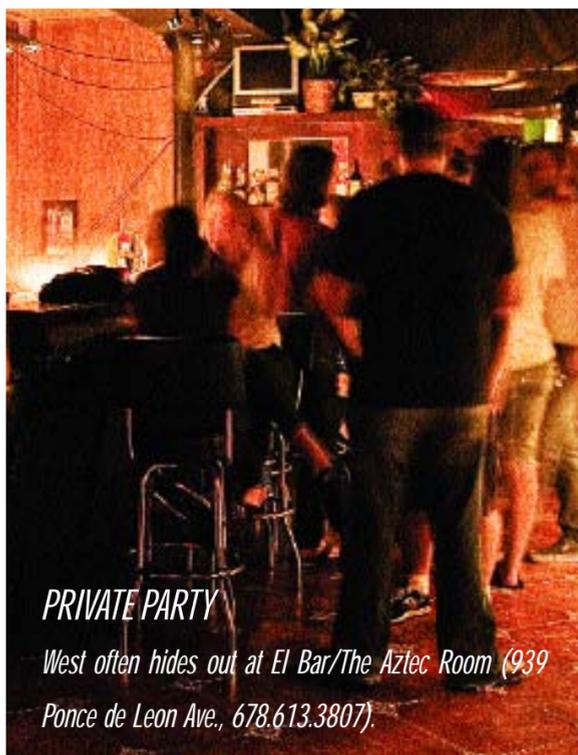


WILD WILD WEST

On just about any given night, you can probably find West at Studio 4. No, this isn't Atlanta's answer to the famed Studio 54 where West could have flaunted her favorite vintage find: a "brown vintage Pucci floor-length dress that actually looks very Halston-esque." Studio 4 is the rooftop deck attached to her Atlanta office on Boulevard where she likes to chill and joke with friends after work.

GO GLOBAL!

West says she could write a novel about where to eat and drink in Atlanta. If that happened, we'd bet *The Globe* (75 Fifth St., 404.541.1487) would be in Chapter 1. It's "über hip and an ideal haunt to relax with friends," says West, who likes the atmosphere and unique events like movie nights.



PRIVATE PARTY

West often hides out at El Bar/The Aztec Room (939 Ponce de Leon Ave., 678.613.3807).



West calls herself a "proud bar connoisseur," which is why she loves P'cheen (701-5 Highland Ave., 404.529.8800) in the Old Fourth Ward. "[The beer selection] is phenomenal and the atmosphere is so inviting. It is obvious owners Alex Friedman and Kieran Neely poured their heart and souls into making it hip and unpretentious." But, West really goes to P'cheen for the mussels—she admits she's fully addicted. "If I don't eat them at least once a week, all systems shut down."



THE DEAL MAKER: CAREN WEST

If you go out at night in Atlanta, you've probably crossed paths with Caren West. This 33-year-old public relations pro (she co-owns her eponymous PR firm) and *The Sunday Paper* columnist is, by her own admission, constantly out on the town. "I am an event enthusiast. Atlanta is an amazing city because there is always so much to do." She's also totally on top of the ATL music scene. She just wrapped up her second season as the publicist for the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's Classic Chastain Concert Series, and now she's diving head first into her next big musical event: The Echo Project. It's a huge, eco-friendly, three-day show (featuring bands like The Killers and Cypress Hill on multiple stages) taking place this month on the banks of the Chattahoochee. But that's just a small part of what's on her plate: She's also working with Queen Latifah on her upcoming performance at Atlanta Symphony Hall, and Grammy Award-winning producer Ben Allen. So, what does a stylish music maven who is just as likely to frequent a black-tie gala as she is an alternative rock show do to unwind? Indulge at Atlanta's top restaurants. "I'm a lover of good food and a card-carrying chef stalker," she says. "Gerry Klaskala, co-owner and executive chef of Aria, is the man." —Sarah Crosland

Every now and then at Studio 4, West busts out her very best "running man" or even her version of Mr. Robot.



THE HOST: NATHAN ABBOTT

Thirty-five-year-old Nathan Abbott is the total package: He's smart, funny and the guy knows how to throw a party. His parties are so good, he actually figured out how to make a living hosting them. After getting laid off when the dot com bubble burst, he launched the Wednesday Night Drinking Club, a networking group that gets its members together monthly at bars across town. (He calls WNDC "a shadowy, multi-national organization dedicated to providing quality drinking occasions at a reasonable price.") Regardless, WNDC now has more than 15,000 members—between 800 and 1,000 generally show each month, and his larger parties attract thousands. So at any given time Abbott's brewing up some sort of event (a Halloween festival this month and an SEC Championship party in December), and now he's expanding WDNC's reach to Nashville, Charlotte and Tampa. And even though he parties for his job, he prefers chilling with friends. "I'm fast becoming a fan of cookouts, given that my liver takes a beating so I can earn a living!" —Sarah Gleim



NATHAN ABBOTT: OUTSIDE CELEBRATION GALLERY



AMAZING GRACELAND

ABBOTT DABBLES A BIT AT PLAYING THE PIANO AND GUITAR, SO IT'S NO SURPRISE HE'S A FAN OF LIVE MUSIC. BUT THE AVANT-GARDE LINEUPS AT THE STAR BAR (437 MORELAND AVE., 404.681.9018), THE LATE-NIGHT MAINSTAY IN LITTLE FIVE POINTS, AREN'T THE ONLY THINGS THAT KEEP HIM GOING BACK. "THEY HAVE AN ELVIS SHRINE," HE SAYS. "THAT'S ALL YOU REALLY NEED."

GET ABBOTT'S GAME ON

Most nights Abbott's chained to his laptop, but on the occasional 2 a.m. outing, he heads to Bazaar (654 Peachtree St., 404.885.7505) because owner Bill Kaelin is a "rock star. He's gay but every girl in the city has a crush on him," Abbott says. "That makes the odds at Bazaar pretty good for a single straight guy with minimal game."

Abbott feels at home in the "dirty, dilapidated, smoky dive" better known as Northside Tavern (1058 Howell Mill Road, 404.874.8745), where he loves to "go see Mudcat lay down some greasy blues. They'll own your soul by midnight." But he's equally happy with cocktails at more refined establishments, like Park 75 at the Four Seasons (75 14th St., 404.881.9898).

FAT EQUALS FLAVOR

So where exactly does Abbott, who admits he's on "a strict liquid diet of Guinness and Anheuser-Busch products," go when he's hungry for solid food? Bones (3130 Piedmont Road, 404.237.2663) in Buckhead—for the beef, of course. "Old age isn't worth it if you have to eat bean sprouts and tofu to get there."



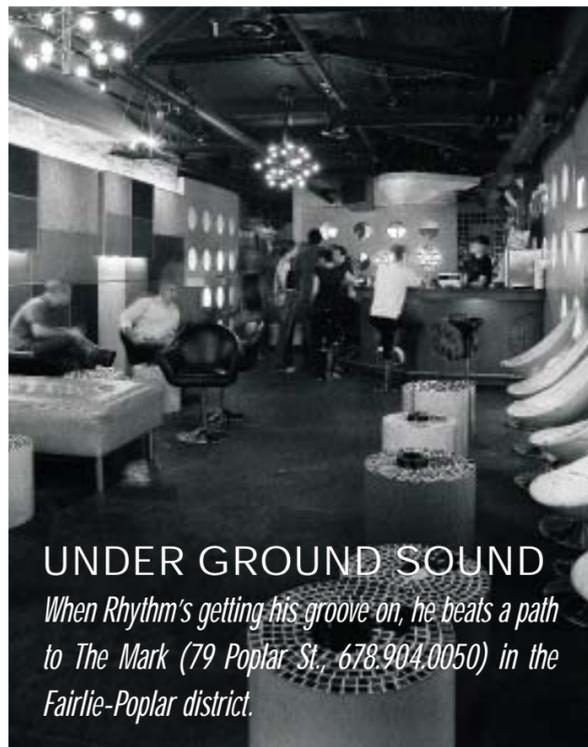
MUY LOCO!

Abbott admits he's not much of a nightclub guy. "Dancing isn't a good look for me," he says, "and the DJ's bass is always the exact same frequency as my voice, so it looks like I'm just moving my lips but not talking." But even that doesn't keep him from one of his faves, Loca Luna (836 Juniper St., 404.875.4494), where the salsa dancing and funky décor is legendary. "It looks like they hired Vincent Van Gogh, Fidel Castro and Abby Hoffman for their interior design," he says. "And if the devil made tapas, they would taste like Loca Luna's."



TWIST AND SHOUT!

When he's not blending beats, chances are you can find Rhythm in Buckhead enjoying the "very cool and laid-back" vibe at Twist (3500 Peachtree Road, 404.869.1191), where he goes "to enjoy good food with good friends." His favorite dish? The shrimp dumplings in Thai curry cream. And even though Twist's drink menu has enough to satisfy just about everyone, he prefers the drink he's dubbed the "Rhythm cocktail," a non-alcoholic mix of cranberry, orange and pineapple juices.



UNDER GROUND SOUND

When Rhythm's getting his groove on, he beats a path to The Mark (79 Poplar St., 678.904.0050) in the Fairlie-Poplar district.

RHYTHM IS A DANCER

Rhythm's social event company, Beneath The Noise, produced the 2006 New Year's Eve party at Compound (1008 Brady Ave., 404.872.4621), which drew a crowd of more than 3,000. "It's a great place to throw big events," he says, "and it has great visual presence and design. The Asian Tenshi gardens are the best place to hang out."



Rhythm and his fellow "5 Star Generals"—the DJ crew he's part of—salute the eclectic eatery R. Thomas (1812 Peachtree St., 404.872.2942) when they're hungry for a late-night hangout after a night of spinning on the club scene. "It's the best place to hit after 2 a.m." he says. He bypasses the Benedict Thomas and breakfast quesadilla and heads straight for the French toast because it's "not too heavy, but satisfying after a long club night." Landmark Diner (620 Peachtree St., 404.477.9600) takes a close second when it comes to satisfying his late-night hunger.



THE BEAT MASTER: DJ RHYTHM

With one hand on the turntable and the other on his headphones, DJ Rhythm, aka Don Sparks, keeps the groove moving every Saturday night at Opera with his mega-mix of Deep House music. Outside the club, Rhythm keeps multiple projects spinning as well: He's founder and CEO of Abstract Rhythms, an event design company; a partner of Beneath The Noise, an underground marketing and event company; and partner and producer of Trafik Tradeshow, a fashion tradeshow held biannually in South Beach. This fall, Rhythm is headlines his second national tour as DJ for *ESPN The Magazine* at 11 of the biggest college football games, and spending every spare second with his wife, Bry, and daughter, Imani, in their basement movie theater. "Why? Because the popcorn's all-you-can-eat!" —Danny Bonvissuto

DJ Rhythm spins a mix of Deep House music on Saturdays at Opera, a place he says "sets the bar for beautiful nightclubs."

THE DESIGNER: PATTI KROHNGOLD

This "over 21" scene-maker admits she's not exactly a night owl anymore (2 a.m. is "way past my bedtime!"), but Patti Krohngold is one of the most prolific design masterminds behind some of the hippest hangouts in Atlanta. Her interior design studio, Art Mix Productions, specializes in turning raw spaces into bar, nightclub and restaurant interiors. She's known for styling the late greats Vision Nightclub, Fusebox Restaurant, and Mumbo Jumbo Bar and Grill; most recently her projects have included the brand new Sweetwater Draft & Grill House, Georgia Brown's Juke Joint (both at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport), and VIA Restaurant in Buckhead. This fall, look for her imprint on Tongue and Groove V2.0, which is set to open on Peachtree just blocks from the original, and is owned by her nightlife impresario husband, Michael. Plus, keep your eyes open for what she calls a "top secret female-staffed nouveau Rock and Roll Club" she wouldn't name at presstime. —Travis Ward

PARTY DOWN LIKE PATTI

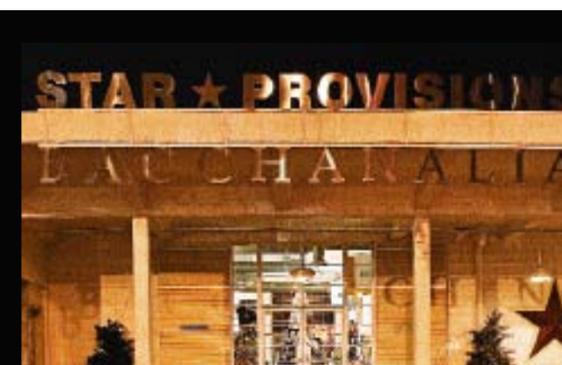
So, where would this party girl who mostly hangs with friends and family stage an all-night, after-hours bash? Simple: One of the two top hotels in town, The Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead (3434 Peachtree Road, 404.237.2700) or The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta (181 Peachtree St., 404.659.0400).



BREAKING ALL THE RULES!

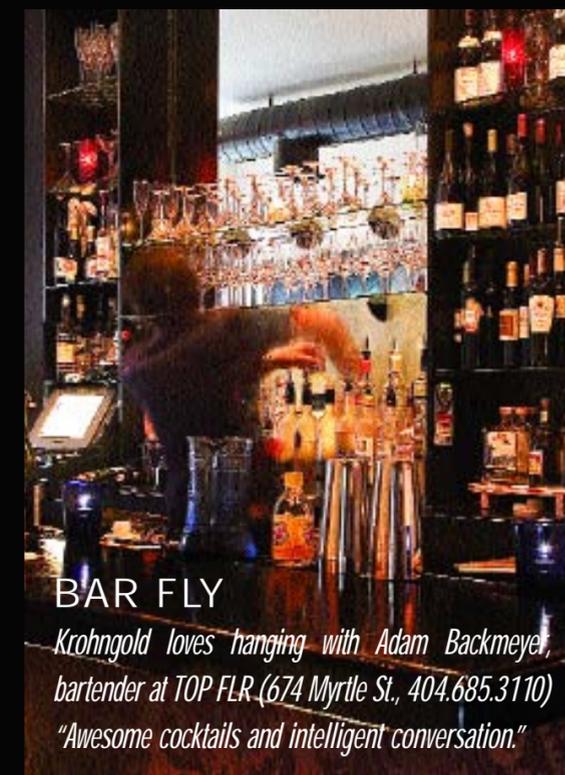
KROHNGOLD SAYS SHE WORKS TOO HARD TO PLAY LATE AT NIGHT AND SAVES ALCOHOL FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS. SO, WHERE MIGHT YOU FIND HER BREAKING THESE RULES? KROG BAR (112 KROG ST., 404.524.1618) IN INMAN PARK, WHERE SHE SAYS "BOOZE AND A PATIO WITH KEVIN [RATHBUN]" MAKE FOR A STANDOUT EVENING.

Of course Krohngold loves the spots she's designed most, but beyond those her hands-down favorite is longtime ATL staple MJQ Concourse (736 Ponce de Leon Ave., 404.870.0575), where night owls lounge and listen to everything from hip-hop to reggae. "Music is huge to me... MJQ always has been [my favorite club]," she says. "They have the best DJs."



WINE AND DINE

Topping her list of places for some serious and sophisticated dining is Bacchanalia (1198 Howell Mill Road, 404.365.0410), the Westside tour de force of modern American cuisine. "Anything from that kitchen is HEAVEN!" Krohngold says. It's also at the top of her favorite bars. "I love good service," she says, adding that bartender Jeff Hagley "is great! The food and wine pairings are outrageous!" Her other top two picks for gourmet cravings: Sotto Sotto (313 North Highland Ave., 404.523.6678) for the risotto and Watershed (406 West Ponce de Leon Ave., 404.378.4900) in Decatur.



BAR FLY

Krohngold loves hanging with Adam Backmeyer, bartender at TOP FLR (674 Myrtle St., 404.685.3110) "Awesome cocktails and intelligent conversation."