



Great electronic music venues struggle to stay open

# Falling Behind

Why can't **good dance clubs** stay open in Beijing?

White Rabbit couldn't stay open. Lantern couldn't stay open. Then House abruptly closed in June, leaving Beijing's dedicated clubbers with few places (Mo Lounge, Tango 3/F and Yugong Yishan) to hear decent dance music in Beijing. Why can't dance clubs with great electronic music survive in the capital?

Miao Wong, of Acupuncture Records (co-owners of the recently closed House) cited financial problems as the main reason for House's demise. "The reason we closed is very simple: however popular among partiers, and however high the expectations, House simply wasn't making enough profit to stay open."

The cost of running a club that showcases great DJs in a good location is staggering. "In comparison to big clubs, where people just sit, play dice and drink (spending money), these electro venues were mainly frequented by music lovers throwing shapes until morning," says DJ Tnem of The Drop.

"How sustainable is a club that specializes in a relatively small after-hour clientele?" asks promoter Philipp Grefer who just brought over Pitchtuner. He adds

that "electronic music traditionally arrives later to a country than rock" and that scene has a long way to go in Beijing to attract a sizable crowd.

Finding a great location is also difficult. "All the commercial businesses are expanding so fast that sub-cultures get squeezed

**The underground scene just needs a chance to survive**

farther away from the hot centers," Wong explains. "No one has ever done a place like The House in a location like that."

The White Rabbit crew have confirmed that they will be opening a new venue called Haze in the CBD in the coming months that will focus on house and techno-house tunes in a lounge environment. Acupuncture is also planning a return. "We are still working on the location of our new club ... We are not in a big rush; there is a long, long road ahead of us," says Wong.

"The underground music scene just needs a chance to survive in this city," quips a hopeful DJ Kay-C. ■ **Lauren Johnson**

## NEWS & GOSSIP

### An Ode to the 'Jing

The city's nightlife scene is constantly in a state of flux. It waxes. It wanes. But it always bounces back to a capital obsessed with drinking, dancing and enjoying great music. We were blessed with the **Great Wall Music Festival** recently, and the **Great Aircraft Carrier Party** on July 2 will be a homage to the capital's partygoers. July 9 brings a musical psychedelic wonderland to the woods with **Forest Magic**. Beijing's nightlife enthusiasts are enjoying a seemingly endless string of jaw-dropping events, including an intimate performance by soul diva **Macy Gray**. House closed in May, bringing us to tears. But we brushed ourselves off, put on our sleuth outfits and investigated the changing electronic music scene, uncovering details of the upcoming new venue **Haze**, White Rabbit's brainchild. We also learned that **Beer Mania** will be reopening this month with more seating, more beer and entertainment. It also seems our lovely city has gone gaga for dancing: a productive, thigh-shaping activity that we think makes us an even sexier and provocative nightlife crowd. Try the Sunday tango lessons at the newly opened **Zajia Bar** for added sex appeal.



Lauren  
Nightlife Editor

Check my Beijing Weekender post every Thursday for the weekend's best parties and rock shows.  
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## Parties

FRIDAY, JULY 1

### Electric Cafe

Germany's DJ Tobi takes to the decks with a potent blend of funk, jazz electro and house that's bound to get things percolating. 10pm

Q Bar 6595-9239, party@qbarbeijing.com  
[www.qbarbeijing.com](http://www.qbarbeijing.com)

### Moonlighting

Following a successful first show on May 27, DJ Usami and Patrick Yu, two of the longest serving guards of the Beijing electronic dance music scene, have decided to take their cause to the rooftop of Migas. Taking a different swing at it, you can expect nothing but the best electro, drum 'n' bass, house and techno under the moonlight. Free. 10pm

Migas 5208-6061

### Scrambled

DJ Tnem of The Drop brings electric, multi-genre tunes, ranging from dubstep to drum 'n' bass and more, to Siif from 10pm until early the next morning. Drink specials include ¥10 beer and ¥20 cocktails. Free entry.

Siif 136-9916-2201, ekki@ekki.com  
[www.eggbash.com](http://www.eggbash.com)

SATURDAY, JULY 2

### Great Aircraft Carrier Party

After the success of last year's event, the Great Aircraft Carrier Party returns to the coast of Tianjin with three stages of hot music. El-Mar, Suki, Patrick Yu, Ou Yang and QQ rock the flight

deck with two additional stages for non-stop electronic dance music. ¥300 includes transport to and from the venue. We suggest you rent rooms on board the boat or at the nearby Holiday Inn (22-6628-3388). Presale tickets available: Yugong Yishan (8402-8477), Kokomo (6413-1019), Fish Nation (6415-0119), Serve the People (8454-4580) and Nola (8563-6215). 2pm

**BinHai Aircraft Carrier, Tianjin**  
136-8126-3981  
[www.greataircraftcarrierparty.com](http://www.greataircraftcarrierparty.com)

### Sherlock Groove

DJ Wang Bei keeps the sounds of the basskillvilles at bay with a groove-oriented mix of nu sound, soul and electronica. Other mysteries await when he cracks open the record case. 10pm

Q Bar 6595-9239, party@qbarbeijing.com  
[www.qbarbeijing.com](http://www.qbarbeijing.com)

FRIDAY, JULY 8

### The Drop 10 Feat. Clir

Oshi & Tnem bring you The Drop 10—the tenth installment of the finest electro, dubstep and tropical sound in the capital. The night is held at Earl Bar, one of the city's most renowned underground electronic music venues, and features a special performance by DJ Clir. 10pm

Earl Bar 8511-6646, info@basskake.com

### Electric Cafe Vol. 2

Germany's DJ Tobi takes to the decks with a potent blend of funk, jazz, electro and house to keep your summer lively, hip and cool. This is the second installment of the Electric Cafe party in July. 10pm

Q Bar 6595-9239, party@qbarbeijing.com  
[www.qbarbeijing.com](http://www.qbarbeijing.com)

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We're featuring the full-length interviews with the DJs and promoters mentioned above on our blog daily from July 1-July 5. Check it out at:

[www.cityweekend.com.cn](http://www.cityweekend.com.cn)

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