

Carnaval knowledge

Can't make it to Brazil? Celebrate the four-day *fiesta* a little closer to home

By MERCEDES SANCHEZ

WHILE some lucky locals have already jetted off to take part in the annual Brazilian Carnaval, most of us will be left behind in the bitter cold.

Wait, don't break out the Prozac just yet. If you can't afford to make the trip to the Carnaval capital of the world, we can hip you to five places that are bringing the festivities to the Big Apple — with live music, samba dancers, and delicious traditional dishes.

■ **BED**

Party the night away at one of the top clubs in the city. BED will be hosting one of the most elaborate Carnaval celebrations in New York with a live broadcast from Rio de Janeiro, samba dancers and performers decked out in traditional costumes and masks. *Saturday, 530 W. 27th St., between Tenth and 11th avenues. \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door. www.BedNy.com. 10 p.m.*

■ **Sushi Samba**

From Saturday to Tuesday, both

Sushi Samba restaurants will serve Carnaval-inspired menus suitable for wallets of all sizes, as well as the one-of-a-kind Carnaval cocktail, *Vitamina de Carnaval*. The drink is served in a martini glass and made with avocado, banana, *cachaca* (a spirit made from sugarcane) and OJ. Both restaurants will have samba and *capoeira* performances, plus live satellite coverage from Brazil.

Sushi Samba, 245 Park Ave. South at 20th Street. 8 p.m., 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. Sushi Samba 7, 87 Seventh Ave. at Bleecker Street. 8:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m.

■ **S.O.B.'s**

S.O.B.'s Brazilian concert series presents a full night of fun as part of its regular Samba Saturday celebration. Start the evening with a free dinner reservation until 10 p.m. and music by Brazilian Energy. But the fun doesn't end there — dance the night away to the high-energy sounds of DJs Mondo Mundo and Globesonic after 1 a.m.

S.O.B.'s, 204 Varick St. at West Houston Street. (212) 243-4940. \$20. Brazilian Energy concert starts at



Okay, so it's not quite Rio, but you can still enjoy a thrilling Carnaval right here in the Big Apple.

8:30 p.m., dance party begins at 1 a.m. \$10 after midnight.

■ **Churrascaria Tribeca**

Enjoy an all-you-can-eat, buffet-style meal for \$59.95. Churrascaria Tribeca offers a Rodizio dinner, which includes a gourmet salad bar and over 15 selections of grilled

meat with side dishes. During dinner, samba dancers will shake their stuff to the sounds of a Brazilian band, while servers pass out party favors. Reservations are available for 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Friday and Saturday, 221 W. Broadway between White and Franklin streets. (212) 925-6969.

LEGENDS



Anthony J. Causi

We'll miss you, Ray

A memorial service for master musician Ray Barretto, who died this past Friday at a New Jersey hospital, will be held today at Riverside Memorial. The all-day service will be the only public viewing of the Grammy-winning percussionist, who leaves behind a rich discography of classic works in jazz and salsa.

A family spokeswoman said the memorial will end with a musical salute by musician friends of the late icon.

For nearly 40 years, the Brooklyn-born Boricua bandleader was one of the leading forces in Latin jazz and a pioneer in *salsa dura*.

Today, Riverside Memorial Chapel, 180 W. 76th Street, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and 6 p.m.-10 p.m.

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ERIC SOLER

Eric Soler is a Nuyorican soul brother who humbly admits he knows a little bit about fashion, the arts, and how to entertain people. For the past ten years, he has organized, hosted, and promoted parties and events at some of New York City's hottest nightclubs, lounges and bars.

He started "clubbing" at the age of 16, haunting such hotspots as Tunnel, Mars, Red Zone, MK's, and Nell's.

To this day he still wonders how he managed to get in to all these places at such a tender age. He thinks the door people must have felt sorry for him.

Being a veteran of what he considers the last true heyday of NYC nightclubs (in the early '90s), Eric got tight with a number of club promoters, door people and DJs. His passionate connection to Big Apple nightlife is what motivated him to start hosting events himself.

Growing up in The Bronx, Queens and Long Island, Soler decided to join the Army at 17, where he says he learned the discipline this wild party guy sorely needed.

After serving two years in the military, he went on to work for a not-for-profit organization that taught social workers how to foster



independent living skills in youth. His self-taught computer skills helped him

work his way up from the mailroom to program coordinator and then LAN administrator there.

After six years he set his sights on the corporate world, landing a job at a top-rated brokerage research firm as a technician.

All along the way, however, he maintained a love of nightclubs and often hosted events. He finally decided one day to give up his regular job and work fulltime as an event coordinator/host/promoter.

Now, he holds some of NYC's trendiest urban events along with his team of organized, diverse and high-profile promoters.

Parasonic nabbed him recently when they were searching for a New York representative for a nightlife blog (www.afterhourscity.com/nyc).

Eric says his ultimate goal is to know as many people as he can. He is a social butterfly, to say the least. Feel free to email him at eric@ericandluck.com.

For more on his events, go to www.ericandluck.com.

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