



I have the good fortune to be friends with a guy named Dan Fortune, a DJ with an incredible knack for hunting down obscure tracks--mostly show tune oriented--performed by unexpected artists (Stevie Wonder singing "Hello Young Lovers" from "The King & I," Nina Simone singing a medley of songs from "Hair," James Brown singing "September Song.") Dan's talent for weaving these songs together into a cogent stream of music has won him a large New York following; and because of that following, Dan often gets asked to DJ celebrity events. And, being his friend, he's now invited me to two: one was Chris March's book party (remember Chris March from "Project Runway"?) and the other, more recent event was Michael Musto's party celebrating 25 years at The Village Voice.



I've been reading Michael Musto forever. I read Michael Musto before I was old enough to read Michael Musto; the world he described, as interpreted by a nerdy not-yet-out-of-the-closet teenager in Boca Raton, wasn't just exotic and fabulous, it was scary! Amazonian drag queens scratching each other's faces off, dark dance clubs where groping was the equivalent of a handshake--this was a world I found both terrifying and, yet, strangely alluring. Was that what living in New York City would be like?

Years later, as I was getting ready to move to New York, I wrote Michael Musto an e-mail asking for advice (I wanted to write for The Village Voice). My e-mail was a little over-the-top (I was eager to impress) and the kind of e-mail any established writer with sense would ignore. But Michael Musto wrote me back, letting me know that the Voice wasn't hiring at the moment, but that I should "hang in there!"

The fact that he responded meant a lot to me. When I reflect on it now, his acidic, breezy style (he was a blogger before there was blogging) certainly had an influence on my writing and I'm really happy to say I was there to celebrate his 25th anniversary along with him (and Joan Rivers! and Michael Urie!) Thanks to Dan, again, for inviting me.

*Posted by Adam Roberts on March 15, 2010 at 10:28 AM*