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## Eclectic Avenue: Lush and Lively



In New York City one can occasionally get transported back to a time that one never lived through. When I went to [Lush and Lively](#), the monthly party at The Time Out New York Lounge, I was first reminded of the early 1970s when I watched [Playboy After Dark](#) on TV. The drinks were reasonably priced, which in New York means inexpensive, and the bartender was more than willing to surprise us with his most recent concoction -- a cranberry-vodka mix that set the writing of this piece back a week. Other drink specials include strawberry-kiwi martinis, ice cream martinis and the purple people eater (with grape vodka).

The music is at once familiar and strange, and about eclectic as music gets with a DJ. Dan Fortune spun Herbie Mann, several covers of Simon and Garfunkel and something called "The Theme from Jaguar," which was a British TV series from the 70s.

This rock-and-roll baby was surprised to find out how much he enjoyed all of them. The music was well-modulated and I could actually hear what the person sitting opposite me was saying.

To break the experience down doesn't do Lush and Lively justice. It's how all the elements come together. After a drink or two, some music and alert people-watching, you might just feel like you've stepped into an old Bond movie or Rick's Café Américain.

*Lush and Lively takes place the first Friday of the month from about 9 p.m. to Midnight, located at 340 West 50th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues in New York City.*

**--Joseph Westerfield**