



MY LIFE IN THE PARADISE GARAGE-C

By Mel Cheren, Gabriel Rotello

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Keep on Dancin' is the story of the rise and fall of the legendary Paradise Garage, the underground disco that was ruled by the greatest DJ of all time and rivaled only by Studio 54 in its soulful and decadent magnificence. Set against the passionate love affair of two men who would both eventually rate as two of New York City's greatest style and scene makers, the story traces the hypnotic birth of disco, the Garage inspired technical innovations that changed the music industry, the erotic life of gay New York and the devastating rise of AIDS. What started out as a whisper of an idea between lovers - Garage owner Michael Brody and financial backer Mel Cheren - eventually culminated into a dance palace that existed for more than a decade and is still spoken about with reverence. *Keep on Dancin'* gives hundreds of private recollections from the people who were there: Tom Moulton, Francois Kevorkian, Grace Jones, Thelma Houston, Frankie Knuckles, Junior Vasquez and others help recreate the moment when love was the message.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

"Nothing happens by accident," Cheren repeats like a mantra in unwitting tribute to his own survival. The "godfather of disco" is one of the few left who remembers the innocent yet repressed pre-Stonewall New York of the 1960s, the orgiastic heyday of disco of the Seventies, and the deluge of AIDS that swept it away in the Eighties. This is the stuff of two decades of gay history, but Cheren (with Rotello) redeems the familiar material with his unsparing candor and forthright energy. As a founder of the influential West End Records, Cheren was present at the creation of disco, and his glimpses into the recording industry are fascinating. Despite a tendency to telegraph future events too emphatically, he evokes the sleazy glamour of disco precisely, with its symbiotic relationships to drugs and gay sexuality, culminating in the brainchild of Cheren's ex-lover Michael Brody: the fabled Paradise Garage disco. Recommended for libraries with large gay studies and pop music collections.

Richard J. Violette, Special Libs. Cataloguing, Victoria, BC

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Review

"Stonewall. Gay Liberation. The early days of disco. The Paradise Garage. AIDS. House Music. Finally, a New York Story that is captivating, intriguing, and educational. The sights and sounds of Manhattan will never be the same." -- *Michael Paoletta, Dance Music Editor, Billboard Magazine.*

"This book is about the every night fever of disco in the 1970s, the splendors and miseries of the A-List-and the brilliant social and musical innovations of Mel Cheren, fantasy impresario of that delirious epoch." -- *Edmund White, author of The Farewell Symphony*

... details the makings of modern dance music in a tangle of friendships, aesthetic imperatives, business deals and sexual liaisons. -- *The New York Times*

From the Publisher

Cheren, though respected for his record label, is loved by many for making possible one of the world's most revered nightclubs, The Paradise Garage. He was the financial backer for the club which was owned and operated by his former partner, Michael Brody. During the Garage years, Cheren's relationship with the club's influential DJ Larry Levan blossomed, resulting in some of the most memorable records to come out of the late Seventies and early Eighties. (A collection of these digitally remastered singles is out now: Larry Levan's Classic West End Records Remixes [Made Famous at the Legendary Paradise Garage]. In addition to his role in music history (he was featured in the April, 1979 issue of Rolling Stone--"Disco's Top Thirty": "His small independent West End label makes some of disco's finest records such as last year's "Hot Shot by Karen Young), and being dubbed "The Godfather of Disco" by trade magazine Dance Music Report), Cheren is one of the most dedicated AIDS awareness activists on the planet. Often referring to himself as a "charity junkie," Mel was first recognized in 1982 when he became actively involved with the Gay Men's Health Crisis. During that year, he donated his building in Chelsea (now a bed & breakfast hotel-The Colonial House Inn-and his home) to GMHC for use as their headquarters. No rent was paid to Cheren for the first year, and GMHC paid only basic upkeep costs until they moved into larger quarters in 1984. Cheren's philanthropic efforts remained an integral part of his life and in 1987 he formed 24 Hours For Life, a not-for-profit organization of media and music professionals which produced fundraising events for AIDS relief and education. Gladys Knight was its chairperson and some of New York City's most prominent names sat on the

founding board. 24 Hours For Life initially served as the fiscal sponsor of LIFEbeat, the music industry's AIDS awareness and resource organization, of which Cheren is an active member on the Board of Directors. "Personally, I have known over 500 people who have died of AIDS. I put together 24 Hours For Life so that they will not have died in vain," says Cheren. He feels that this is his "Payback" for surviving and remaining HIV negative. He notes one unexpected frustration that popped up in his charity efforts, "When you want to do something without taking a profit for yourself, people are always suspicious of an ulterior motive. Frankly, if knowing 500 who have died of AIDS isn't a good enough reason, I don't know what is."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Lawless:

Information is provisions for people to get better life, information these days can get by anyone in everywhere. The information can be a know-how or any news even a huge concern. What people must be consider when those information which is within the former life are challenging to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is acceptable to believe or which one the particular resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you obtain it as your main information you will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen with you if you take MY LIFE IN THE PARADISE GARAGE-C as your daily resource information.

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