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BOÎTE
XL



Dustin Fenstermacher for The New York Times

The main dance space at XL draws a crowd of many colors.

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IT'S been a while since New York welcomed a large new gay venue to its club roster. In late January, a triumvirate of gay night-life doyens — John Blair, Beto Sutter and a relative newcomer, Brandon Voss — opened XL at the far end of West 42nd Street. It is a veritable one-stop shop for gay men of various stripes.

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Attendees of a cabaret act take photographs at a performance.

By booking a different party, D.J. and crowd each night of the week, the place could have more staying power than most. And it is situated at the just opened “gay urban resort” OUT NYC, so that even after jaded New Yorkers think it has lost its luster, there will still be plenty of tourists around.

THE SPACE Not quite cavernous enough to be a mega-club but too big to be just a bar, the jet-black space has a lounge up front, with tables that are cleared away for late-night dancing. Past a wide hallway, there are two bars, a long stage backlit by a huge L.E.D. screen (the better for showing off go-go boys in silhouette) and a sunken dance floor.

THE CROWD What’s your pleasure? Every night features a different scene. At the moment, Friday is popular with clean-cut young professionals, while Saturday draws an older, well-muscled crowd from Chelsea. Sunday is Latino night. Earlier in the week, there are also occasional cabaret shows featuring drag queens and other acts. And starting today is a new party called 20-Something Thursday.

GETTING IN The door is somewhat egalitarian. Weekends bring longer waits and no one jumps the line, except for the following: friends of the doorman, promoters or owners, and those getting V.I.P. bottle service. Everyone else waits, much of the time inside — much appreciated on winter nights.

THE PLAYLIST Like a drag queen’s wig, the music changes nightly. Thursday and Friday is danceable pop, while Saturday brings circuit party-style house beats. Sunday is Latin rhythms.

DRINKS A forthcoming cocktail list will offer fruity martinis. In the meantime, there’s a full bar, with more than enough vodka and Red Bull for everyone.

XL, 512 West 42nd Street (off 10th Avenue); (212) 239-2999; xlnightclub.com. Open daily, 4 p.m. to 4 a.m.

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