



Life and Death on the New York Dance Floor, 1980–1983

By **LAWRENCE, TIM**

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REVIEWS

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New York in the early 1980s was marked by urban deterioration and a poor financial outlook; yet this same landscape brought revitalized creative energy to club culture. Dozens of spaces from the Mudd Club to the Garage featured a fusion of many musical styles—postdisco, rap, salsa, techno, retro, punk, and more—spawning a vibrant dance scene and a new breed of DJs, promoters, musicians, dancers, and celebrities. Lawrence (cultural studies, Univ. of East London; *Love Saves the Day: A History of American Dance Music Culture, 1970–1979*) goes into remarkable depth to portray this world which, during its few short years, gained expansive popularity and had a significant impact on art, film, literature, and culture. His meticulous research, with details on the leading figures, trends, events, places, and music that made it all happen, also provides critical/analytical commentary on the social backdrop of the times, the genesis of the emerging and eclectic music/dance styles, and the essence of this artistic renaissance. In addition to the well-selected photographs, notes, and bibliography, set lists, discographies, and a filmography add to the title's impressive breadth.

VERDICT Cultural historians and those familiar with the 1980s milieu will find this informative and insightful.—**CAROL J. BINKOWSKI, BLOOMFIELD, NJ**