

54 captures excitement of disco scene

by Jon Stubbs
Features Editor

Mark Christopher captures the lights, sounds, sex and drugs of the late 1970's disco scene in his feature film debut, *54*. The film is a recollection of the actual Manhattan disco club Studio 54 in its prime.

Ryan Phillippe stars as Shane O'Shea, a Jersey City kid who makes his pilgrimage across the Hudson to the exciting world of Studio 54, where he eventually lands a job as bartender, serving the likes of Olivia Newton John, Truman Capote, and Andy Warhol.

Mike Myers makes his dramatic debut as the tranquilizer-popping, IRS-avoiding owner of the club, Steve Rubell. "Steve is sort of the Wizard of Oz of this amazing hedonistic pleasure dome, and the catalyst for Shane's transformation from innocence to experience," says Myers.

Salma Hayek plays the role of Anita, an aspiring singer who works as a coat-check girl at Studio 54. She is ceaselessly trying to push her demo tapes on to the record executives that frequent the club. "Anita is talented, the dedicated and frustrated," says Hayek.

"And she's constantly changing her look because she's frustrated." Anita is married to a busboy at the club, Greg, played by Breckin Meyer.

Neve Campbell has the small role of Julie Black, a soap opera star who is often seen at Studio 54. Shane idolizes her because she is also from New Jersey. Campbell describes her character: "She's not the classiest woman in the world, but she tries. She's had just enough success to become lost. She represents Shane's fantasy of what Studio 54 is. But she reflects Shane's reality, too, because she's also from New Jersey, and has changed her life, just as Shane hopes to do."

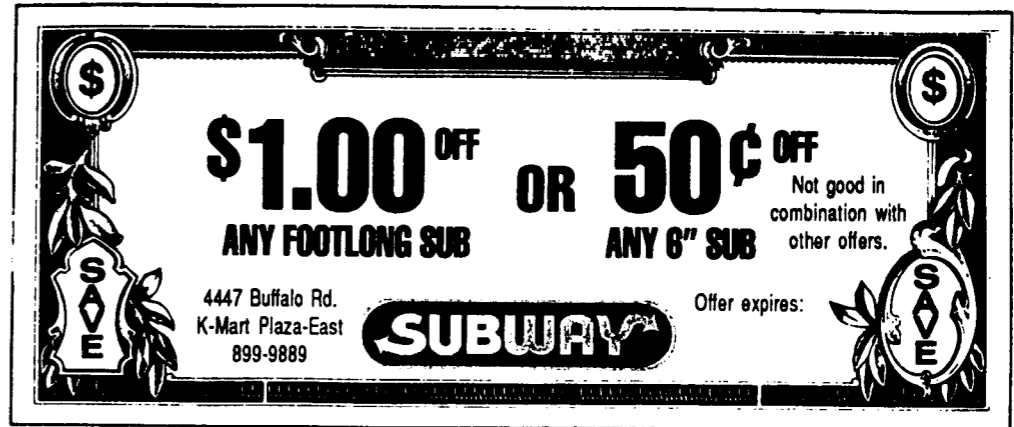
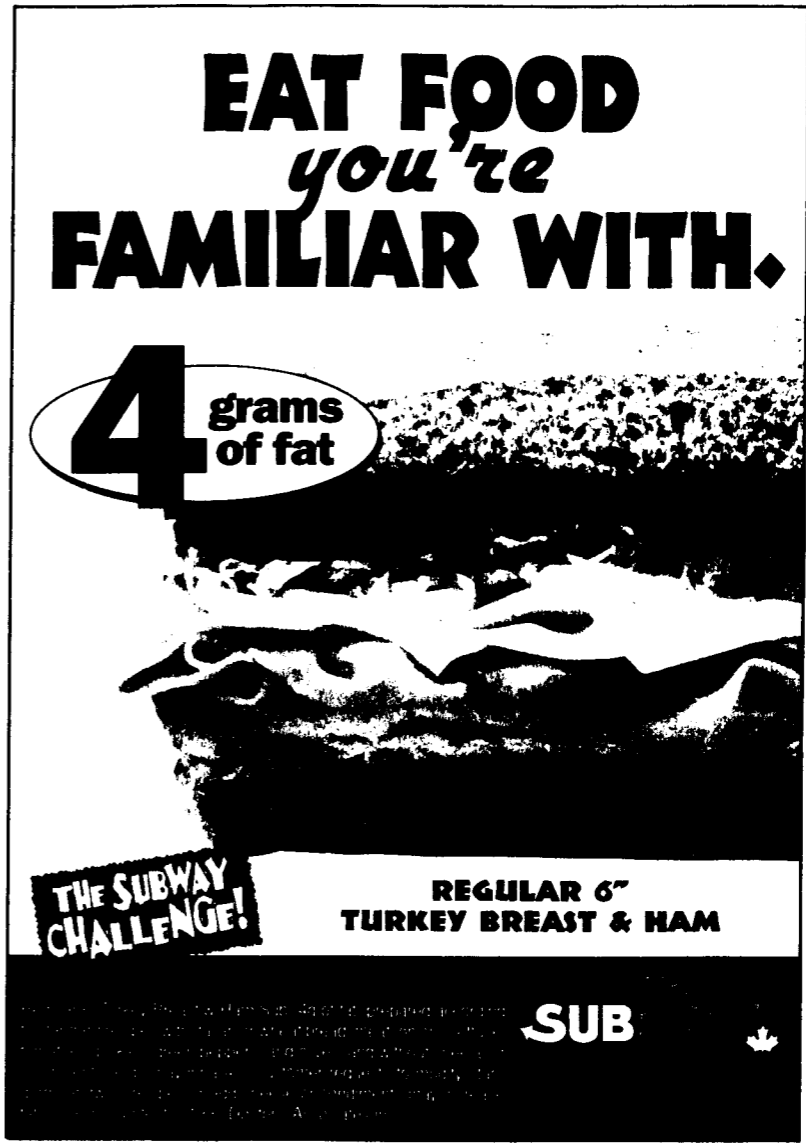
Filming of *54* began September 1997 in Toronto and finished only eight weeks later in New York City. Some of the cast members such as Sela Ward, Lauren Hutton, and Michael York had experienced the original Studio 54 at its peak. "It was everything that you've read about and heard about, quite a circus," said Ward.

Many of the elements of the original Studio 54 were recreated for

the filming of *54*, such as the diamond-shaped bar and the huge facade of the man in the moon with his cocaine-filled spoon. Mark Christopher's replica of the club is slightly smaller than the original 90 feet long by 70 feet wide Studio.

Christopher is successful at capturing the glamour and excitement of the high class disco scene of yesterday; there is rarely a dull or somber moment in the entire film. All of the main characters display an adequate amount of development. However, considering that the film was only about 85 minutes long, there seems to be room for even deeper character explorations.

The viewer will not feel cheated after watching *54*, but may feel a little bit teased. The film is at full throttle from beginning to end, giving the viewer just enough of a taste of Studio 54. Perhaps more insight into Steve Rubell and how he created Studio 54 is needed. ★★★



Evelyn's Hallmark

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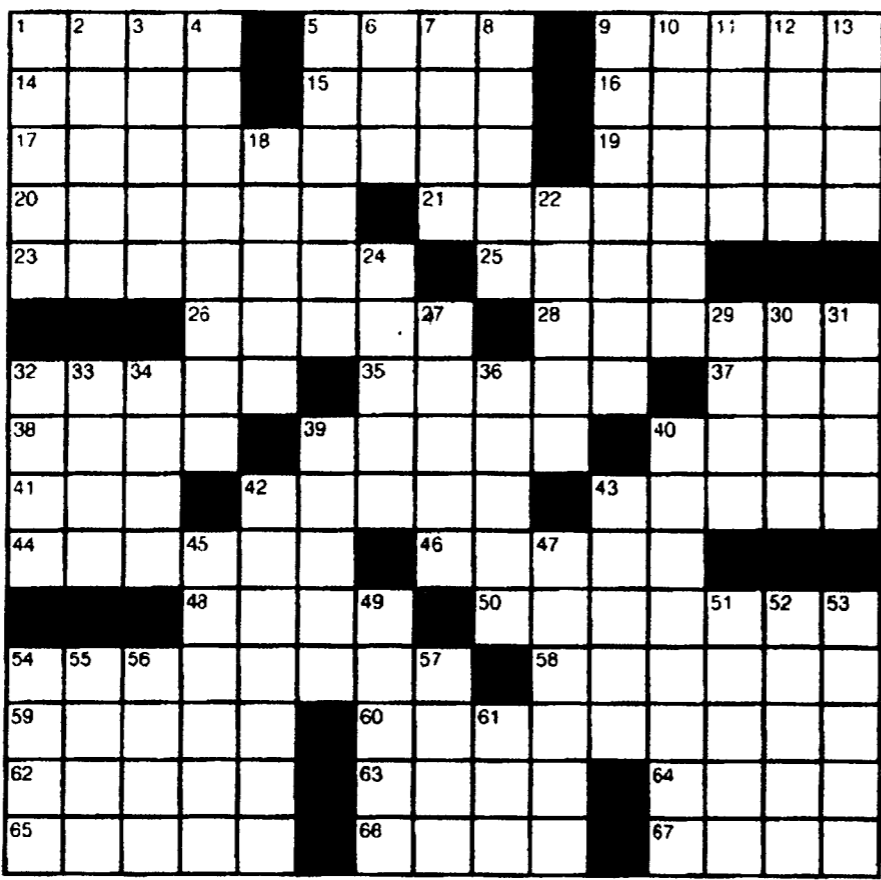
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Welcome Back!

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tibetan monk
 - 5 Pass out cards
 - 9 Smelting leftovers
 - 14 Currier and _____
 - 15 Puget Sound whale
 - 16 Established custom
 - 17 Samuel Clemens
 - 19 Mosey along
 - 20 Swindler's mark
 - 21 IOU defaulter
 - 23 Went by sleigh
 - 25 Squeal to a halt
 - 26 Paddled
 - 28 Evidences a response
 - 32 "The Stranger" author
 - 35 Latticework for vines
 - 37 Feel poorly
 - 38 Free-for-all
 - 39 Clean feathers
 - 40 Machu Picchu honcho
 - 41 Fuss
 - 42 Herbs with oily seeds
 - 43 Fidgety
 - 44 St. Sebastian, e.g.
 - 46 Bruce and Laura
 - 48 Involved with
 - 50 Professors' statuses
 - 54 Gods' food
 - 58 Mouth moisture
 - 59 Plastic wrap brand
 - 60 Rescuer
 - 62 Roman writer
 - 63 Early garden
 - 64 Zesty flavor
 - 65 Water vapor
 - 66 Fender damage
 - 67 Ultimatum word



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- DOWN**
- 1 Walks lamely
 - 2 Effective use
 - 3 Commingle
 - 4 Made a date
 - 5 Depressing experience

- Solutions**
- 6 Time stretch
 - 7 Kind of rock or rain
 - 8 Bowling alleys
 - 9 More protected from the sun
 - 10 Fraternity letter
 - 11 French clergyman
 - 12 _____ monster
 - 13 Editor's directive
 - 18 Forum garb
 - 22 Rubber city?
 - 24 Sweetie
 - 27 Anticipate warily
 - 29 Is unable
 - 30 Muscle spasms
 - 31 Kill
 - 32 Prepare for finals
 - 33 Verdi opera
 - 34 Othello, e.g.
 - 36 Plague (with)
 - 39 Harbors
 - 40 Weatherproof
 - 42 Equivalent word
 - 43 Magnani and

- 45 Albanian capital
- 47 Act offended
- 49 Lubricated
- 51 Other beau
- 52 Finger-thrower's call
- 53 Mil. address
- 54 Nile cobras
- 55 Milkshake's cousin
- 56 Runny cheese
- 57 Assistant
- 61 Wetland

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