

## Last Scene Here { JONATHAN SOROFF }

# A FAMILY AFFAIR



### Life Imitating Art?

It was creepy. It was kooky. Mysterious and spooky. It was altogether ooky. The Addams Family was the theme of the **Wang Center's 85th anniversary gala** (snap, snap!).

The party began with cocktails in the costume and scene shops, which were transformed into speakeasies/dungeons for the evening, and then continued with dinner on the stage.

Present and accounted for: über-philanthropists **Esta** and **Bob Epstein**, 24-hour party people **Mary Cashman** and **Rich Doucette**, grande dames **Lorraine** and **Courtney Wang**, lovebirds-about-town **Christine** and **Jeff McCormick**, several **Celtics** (easy to spot because of their height) and **Celtics Dancers** (easy to spot because of how they filled out their uniforms), and others too lovely to mention.

There were also a lot of costumes, including more *Morticias* than you could shake a stick at, but unfortunately no Cousin Itts. The prize for true Addams family connoisseurship went to **Shannon Pastuszak**, who knew that when the actress who played Wednesday, Lisa Loring, grew up, "She married a porn star and became a heroin addict."

### How Many Big Shots Can You Fit in a Hotel Ballroom?

It's a testament to how many people love the organization and its honorees that guests were packed like sardines at the **Copley Plaza** ballroom for the annual **Welcome Home** gala to benefit **Rogerson Communities**.

You couldn't turn around without bumping into someone like cochairs **Carolyn** and **Joe Campanelli** with their daughter, **Allie**, and son-of-a-speaker man **Tom O'Neill** and his lovely other half, **Shelly**, broadcasting behemoth **Peter Smyth**, interior design avatar **Eric Roseff**, ice-skating great **Collin Sullivan**, and just about everybody else with a big heart and/or bulging wallet in Boston.

The evening raised beaucoup dinero for the charity (which battles elder homelessness), and a dance group even managed to pull off a flash mob performance, despite the tight quarters. As corporate titan **Mike Fish** put it: "If a salsa flash mob and a nice meal won't open up your wallet, I don't know what will."



Jesse Aaron Green and Esta and Bob Epstein at the Wang Center



Mike Fish at Welcome Home

Carolyn and Joe Campanelli at Welcome Home



Dana Duong and Daren Bascome at Have a Seat

Charlotte Riggs at Have a Seat



Maggie Feazell and Juan Guillermo Uribe Rubio at Horsin' Around at the Ritz



Mikko Nissenen, Babak Bina, Keith Lockhart and Cynthia Darehshori at Horsin' Around at the Ritz

### Know Thyself

Talk about taking things literally. The guests at **Have a Seat**, the **Artists for Humanity** 20th anniversary gala, went home with hand-painted chairs by artists participating in the program.

The evening took place at AFH's **EpiCenter** space in South Boston. Cocktails and dinner were only a preamble to a raging after-party (*The Improper Bostonian*, not coincidentally, was a sponsor), where an eclectic and sexy crowd included the likes of MFA grand poobah **Malcolm Rogers**, eminence grise **Peter Lynch** and the bubbly **Carolyn**, the improbably attractive **Christine** and **Billy Meara**, virtuous newlyweds **Charity McCourt** and the always-contrite **Ryan**, lifelong besties **Charlotte Lewis** and the **Strauss** sisters, **Sam** and **Kim**, the Hon. **Nonnie Burnes** and her venture capital pioneering husband, **Rick**, art consultant/Bond girl **Charlotte Riggs**, iconoclastic artists **Tristan Govignon** and **Betsi Graves Ackerman**, and equally groovy others.

Best exchange of the night:

"Are you a Buddhist?"

"No, I'm a nymphomaniac."

### Everyone Has a Kink

**Horsin' Around at the Ritz** was part Marx Brothers movie (**Keith** and **Emiley Lockhart** appeared in a horse costume), part gameshow/marriage counseling session for founders **Babak** and **Coryn Bina** (they did a *Newlywed Game* shtick), and altogether delightful.

A fund-raiser for the **Bina Farm**, which provides therapeutic services to disabled kids, it was (not surprisingly) held at the **Ritz**, and it attracted the likes of everyone's favorite Finn, Boston Ballet's **Mikko Nissenen**, the dashing **Juan Guillermo Uribe Rubio** and his beautiful brunette fiancée, **Maggie Feazell**, the flawless **Harris Krupp**, the naturally effervescent **Patty Ribakoff**, iconoclastic Brahmin **Sukey Forbes**, and so on and so forth.

Dinner was delicious, the entertainment was outstanding (especially the guy who got wheeled into the ballroom on a massage table), and as for who had the riding crop? It seems ungentlemanly to name names, but let's just say it's someone with a sporting attitude. \*\*\*

**Avez-vous dish?** Dirt? A spectacular social occasion? Call JS at 617-859-1400, ext. 303, or send an e-mail to jonathan@improper.com.