

VIBES

by Fred Lee



Mi-Jung Lee looked stunning in a silver gown at CHANEL.



Desperate Housewives Marcia Cross partied with media gals Gloria Macarenko, Coleen Christie, Dawn Chubai and Tamara Taggart at Holt's opening.



Director Glenn McPherson welcomed Hollywood's Jackie Collins and David Niven to the Face the World Party.

Vancouverites have come of age and never looked better. It was all glamour and glitz this summer as fashion fête dominated the social calendar. "Vanhattan's" best-dressed crowded into some of the city's biggest openings and fundraisers.

At the Vancouver Art Gallery it was a meeting of high art and high fashion. Kathleen Bartels, the VAG's Chief Director, kicked off the lavish Monet to Dalí Ball. Roaming through floral designer Hitomi Gilliam's outdoor interpretation of Monet's beloved Giverny garden, more than 500 fabulously dressed gala-goers sipped on fine bubbles while enjoying the exclusive preview of the most comprehensive showing of European paintings and sculptures – some 80 pieces – from such masters as Cezanne, Gauguin, Picasso, Renoir, van Gogh, Monet and Dali, on loan from the Cleveland Museum of Art. Following the garden reception, guests sashayed across the street to the Hotel Vancouver to enjoy a sumptuous dinner by Executive Chef Robert LeCrom followed by the highlight of the evening - the North American Premiere of CHANEL's Ready-To-Wear Fall Collection. The stunning CHANEL runway show took place in the hotel's ballroom, designed to replicate the setting of the Fall/Winter line's début at the Grand Palais in Paris. Chaired by Sherry Killam and Jamie Pitblado and sponsored by Delta Land Development President Bruce Langereis to promote his Private Residences at the Hotel Georgia, the black tie affair raised more than \$300,000 in support of the gallery's operations, exhibitions and programming.

Holt Renfrew CEO and President Cary Lerner and General Manager Gary Balaski rolled out the magenta-coloured carpet for the fortunate few lucky enough to receive an invitation to the season's most anticipated retail opening. Following its \$50-million facelift, power shoppers revelled in the 135,000 square feet of fabulousness – home to the world's most expensive and exclusive labels. Dressed in designer outfits from Armani to Dolce and Gabbana to Gucci, label-conscious fashionistas and the well-heeled were treated to the party of the year. No expense was spared for the lavish opening. Adding a touch of Hollywood, singer Patti Labelle performed while Desperate Housewives' Marcia Cross made an appearance, joining in on the star-studded retail celebrations.

Jacqui Cohen's annual waterfront gala raised \$1 million for the less fortunate. Buoyed by steel magnate Ron McNeil and restaurateur David Aisenstat's top contributions of \$100,000 and \$65,000 respectively, the Army & Navy department store owner and local philanthropist was singing in the rain as her Face the World black tie gala raised a record million dollars for local charities. The wet weather did not dampen the spirit or enthusiasm of the 250 fashionably attired attendees who paid \$1,250 a ticket to rub elbows with Cohen and her friends. Flying in from L.A., celebrated author Jackie Collins, actress Michelle Phillips and Hollywood Producer David Niven Jr. joined Cohen at her Point Grey home for the Night Under the African Sky fundraiser and Umberto Menghi-designed dinner.