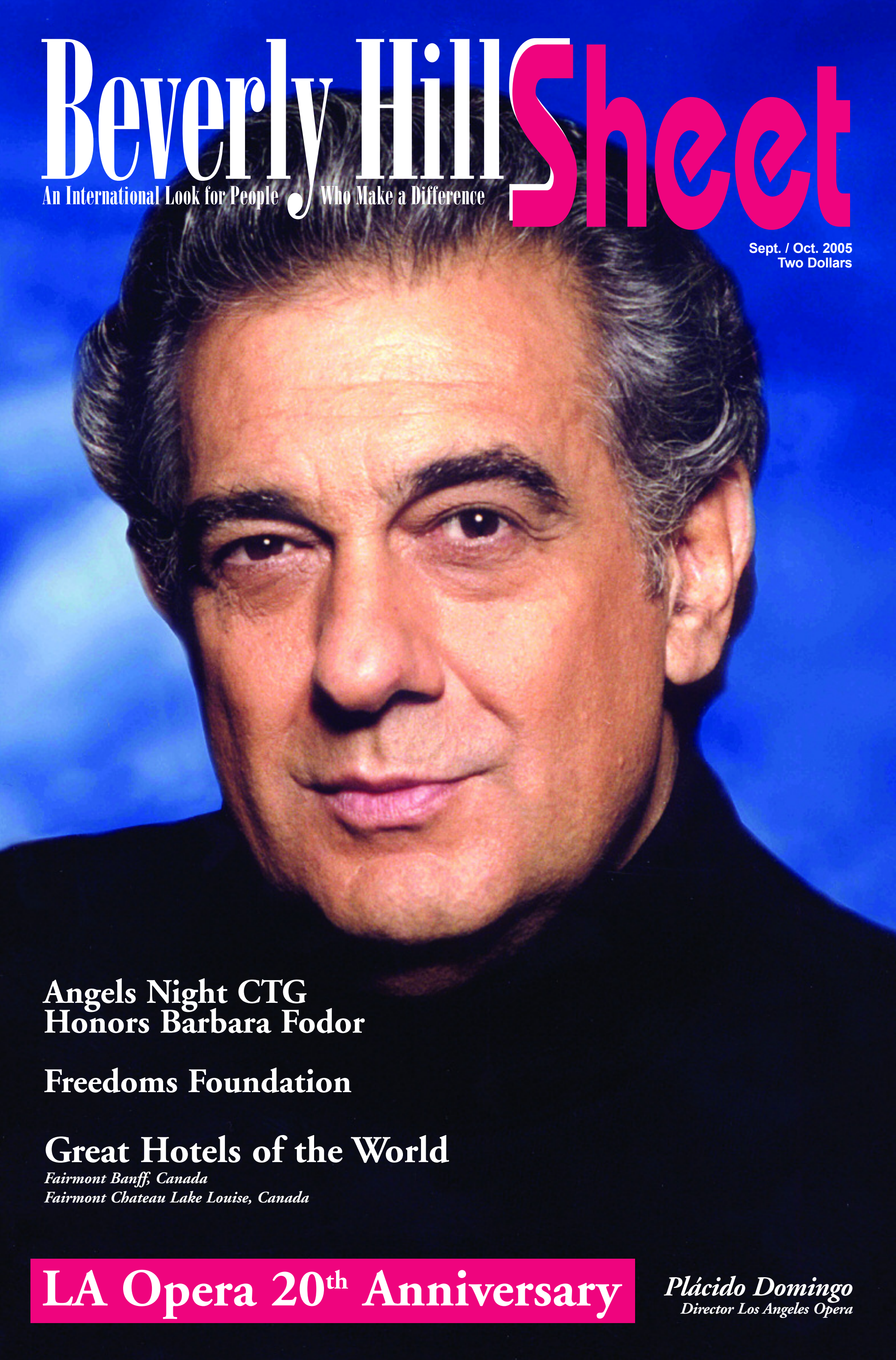


# Beverly Hills Sheet

An International Look for People Who Make a Difference

Sept. / Oct. 2005  
Two Dollars



**Angels Night CTG  
Honors Barbara Fodor**

**Freedoms Foundation**

**Great Hotels of the World**

*Fairmont Banff, Canada*

*Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise, Canada*

**LA Opera 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Plácido Domingo*  
*Director Los Angeles Opera*



# de Young





# *New Life for a Legend, October 14, 2005 Gala* *The de Young Museum, San Francisco*

*D*ede Wilsey, President of the Board of Trustees, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, has been a philanthropic leader in the Bay Area since she came to California from Washington, DC in 1965. Mrs. Wilsey, who has served as Chairman of the de Young's capital campaign since 1996 and President of the Board of Trustees since 1998, has remained steadfast in her conviction to build a world-class museum in Golden Gate Park. Mrs. Wilsey, as Chairman of the capital campaign, successfully led the museum in securing more than \$180 million in funding from nearly 7,000 private donors. In her role as President of the Museums' Board of Trustees, Mrs. Wilsey had the leading role in the de Young's reinvention into a world-class institution and the largest privately funded cultural gift ever given to the city of San Francisco.



**DEDE WILSEY**



**HARRY S. PARKER III**

## *D*IRECTOR OF THE FINE ARTS MUSEUMS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Since 1987, Harry S. Parker III has served as the Director of the Fine Art Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), which comprises the de Young museum in Golden Gate Park and the Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park. During his tenure, Mr. Parker has contributed significantly to the growth and enhancement of both museums through building and expansion projects, fundraising and acquisitions, and by reorganizing and differentiating the museums' respective collections—focusing the Legion of Honor on European art and the de Young on art of the Americas, the Pacific Islands, and Africa. Most recently, Mr. Parker has overseen the planning and realization of a new building for the de Young, designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron and set to open on October 15, 2005.

Mission accomplished, Fine Arts Museums Executive Director Harry Parker, will retire at the end of the year. Parker has deftly guided the de Young project through a decade of legal battles and fund raising challenges to the completion of a world class new home.



**Belva Davis,**  
Television host KQED-TV  
San Francisco

*O*pening week will be special for Belva Davis, a member of the new de Young Building committee for the past ten years. The television program host for KQED-TV in San Francisco, will serve as the Mistress of Ceremony for the Grand Opening ceremonies. The de Young has been closed for five years.

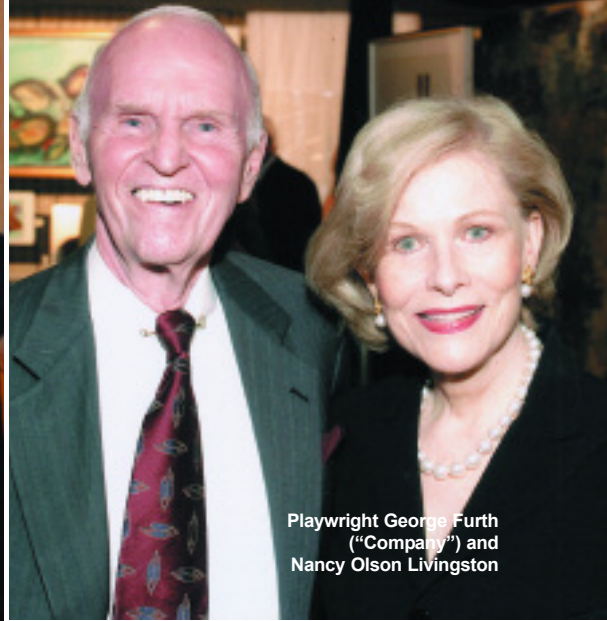


*F*irst Lady of California,  
Maria Shriver will be present  
for the Opening Ceremonies.





Kay & Robert Rehme



Playwright George Furth  
("Company") and  
Nancy Olson Livingston



Vin Di Bona & Eric Gerard



Artists Julie Feldman Jim Morphesis



Front: Honorees Jon and Lillian Lovelace  
Back: Co-Chairs: Janice Wallace,  
Gina Posalski, Sue Tsao



Frank and Sally Raab



New and outgoing CTG Artistic Directors  
Michaela Ritchie (L) and Gordon Davidson



Judi Davidson, Thomas and Judy Beckman



CTG Affiliates President Diane Kessler ( R ) with daughter Lori (L) and Christine Harte



# *CTG Affiliates' Angels Night Raises \$500,000 Despite Beverly Hills Power Blackout*

Photo by: Steve Cohn



The Alley Cats serenades honoree Barbara Fodor

New LA art patrons Noah Makman (5) with his silent auction purchase, a word sculpture by Eugene Sturman, and sister Naomi (6) with hers, Howard Barskey's "Iceland Poppy"



Jacquie and Clarence Avant



Carol & Doug Mancino



Barbra Fodor ( C ) with Honorary Chairs Ava & Chuck Fries



Christie's LA President Andrea Fiucznski used a bullhorn as auctioneer when the power failed



Cindy Garvey with the chocolate Labrador puppy that sold for \$5,000



# Plácido Domingo Announces LA Opera 20<sup>th</sup> Season

## Gala Weekend, September 9, 10 & 11

Opening Gala Performances of Garry Marshall's production of *The Grand Duchess* and Franco Zeffirelli's production of *Pagliacci*. Will be Celebrated with Exclusive Dinner Party, Black-Tie Gala and More 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend Chaired by Mary Hayley and Underwritten by The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Foundation 20th Anniversary Celebration Chaired by Carol Henry.

LA Opera will begin its 2005/06 20th Anniversary Season with a dazzling weekend of music, dining and dancing, September 9 through 11. Over 600 guests from the arts and entertainment community will join General Director Plácido Domingo, Hollywood legend Garry Marshall and opera stars Frederica von Stade, Angela Gheorghiu and Roberto Alagna for an array of events to celebrate the Company's opening performances of *The Grand Duchess* (Saturday, September 10) and *Pagliacci* (Sunday, September 11). The Gala Weekend, underwritten by The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Foundation, is expected to raise approximately \$1 million for LA Opera. Mary Hayley is the Chair of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend and the 20th Anniversary Season is chaired by Carol Henry.

LA Opera's production of *Pagliacci* is made possible by a generous gift from The Eli and Edythe L. Broad Foundation. The new production of *The Grand Duchess* is made possible by a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. Milan Panic.

The Gala Weekend festivities will begin on Friday, September 9, with an exclusive dinner party for top-level Platinum Ticket and Table buyers who purchase the entire weekend package. This event will be held at a private residence.

LA Opera will launch the 2005/06 Season on Saturday, September 10 at 6 PM with Offenbach's boisterous operetta *The Grand Duchess*, starring the internationally celebrated Frederica von Stade. Directed and adapted by Garry Marshall in his operatic debut, this all-new production will be led by conductor Emmanuel Villaume and features sets by Heidi Ettinger, costumes by Constance Hoffman, lighting by Mary Louise Geiger and choreography by Vincent Paterson. The black-tie evening will continue with a post-performance Gala Dinner with the artists on the Music Center Plaza where guests will enjoy dancing and a gourmet dinner created by Patina.

LA Opera's 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend

On Sunday, September 11 at 2 PM, a festive Italian Luncheon on the Music Center Plaza will precede the opening performance of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* at 4 PM. Director/set designer Franco Zeffirelli's epic production fills the stage with a lavish recreation of a contemporary urban landscape. Conducted by Nicola Luisotti, the opera brings back the star husband and wife couple Roberto Alagna as Canio, the brutal leader of a troupe of traveling performers, and Angela Gheorghiu as his young, beautiful wife Nedda. Following the performance, the 20th Anniversary Weekend will culminate with a celebratory gathering with the artists in the Grand Hall of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion.

In addition, Aria, LA Opera's new young professional arts and cultural group, will also honor the Company's 20th Anniversary Weekend with its own special celebration. The group will inaugurate the season with a post-performance celebration with cast members of *Pagliacci* on Sunday, September 11 on the Fifth Floor of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Visit <http://www.laopera.com/aria/index.asp>.

Other sponsors of the evening include Laetitia Vineyard & Winery, the season's official still wine sponsors; The Henry Wine Group, the season's official sparkling wine sponsor; Fiji, the official water sponsor of the 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend and Rodnik Vodka, the official vodka sponsor for Aria.

**For more information on purchasing tickets to LA Opera's 20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend, call (213) 972-3027. For more information on LA Opera's 2005/06 Season, visit the Company's website at [www.LAOpera.com](http://www.LAOpera.com).**

- Friday, September 9**  
20th Anniversary Celebration Weekend Timeline  
7 PM – Exclusive Dinner party for Platinum Table and Ticket Buyers
- Saturday, September 10**  
6 PM – Opening Night Performance of *The Grand Duchess*, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion  
9 PM – Grand Opening Night Gala with Dinner and Dancing, Music Center Plaza
- Sunday, September 11**  
2 PM – Italian Luncheon, Music Center Plaza  
4 PM – Opening performance of *Pagliacci*  
5:30 PM – Aria 20th Anniversary Celebration, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Fifth Floor  
5:30 PM – Grand Finale Celebration with the artists, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Grand Hall



### KENT NAGANO, Music Director Los Angeles Opera

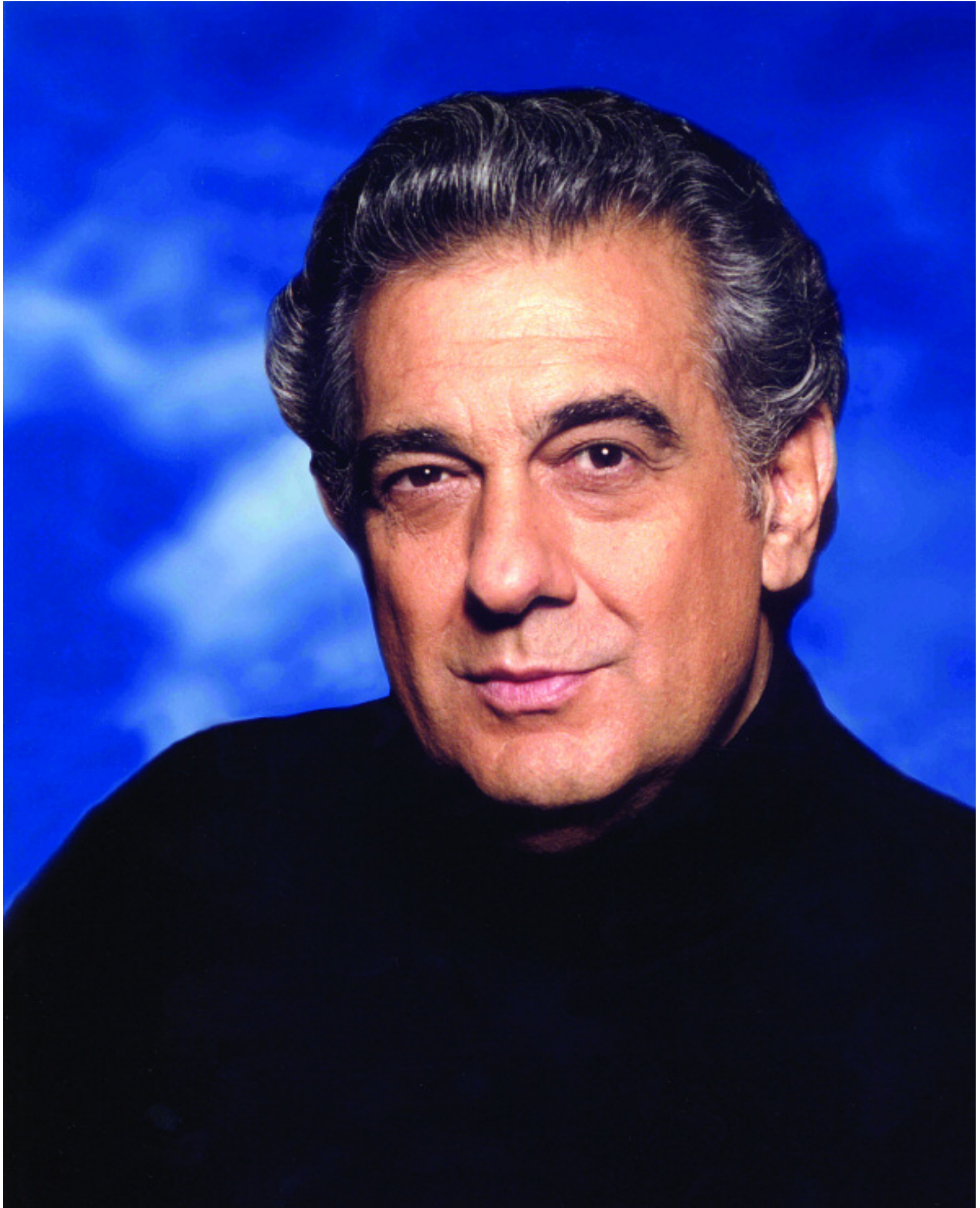
Kent Nagano is a conductor whose musical versatility has led to a number of prestigious posts with some of the world's foremost musical ensembles. From 1991-2000, he was Music Director of England's esteemed Manchester Hallé orchestra. Maestro Nagano was also head of the Lyon Opera of France for ten years from 1989-1998. During his tenure with that organization, he played an integral role in placing the Lyon Opera on the forefront of the international musical scene. Maestro Nagano led the Lyon Opera through presentations of the standard repertoire, while also including many unusual 20th century works such as Busoni's *Doktor Faust*. Maestro Nagano continues to serve as Music Director of Berlin's Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester and the Berkeley Symphony, as well as guest conducting for many of the world's most venerated orchestras and opera companies. In 2006, he will become Music Director at the Bavarian State Opera.

In recent years, Maestro Nagano has made successful appearances at the Metropolitan Opera with *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, and at the Opéra National de Paris, with works such as Messiaen's *Saint Francis of Assisi*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, and Strauss' *Salome* and *Elektra*. Maestro Nagano's numerous recordings have received many prestigious awards including 4 Grammy Awards, 2 Grand Prix du Disque Awards, and the Diapason d'Or. He has recorded the works of composers such as Stravinsky, Weill, Varèse, Britten and Shostakovich.

A California native, Maestro Nagano became Los Angeles Opera's first Music Director in May of 2003, having served as the Company's first Principal Conductor since July 2001. This appointment furthers his relationship with Los Angeles Opera – a partnership that began with productions of John Adams' *Nixon in China* and Kurt Weill's *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*. Maestro Nagano's first season as Music Director is highlighted by four productions: *Idomeneo* (September 2004), *Ariadne auf Naxos* (September 2004), *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (May-June 2005) and *Der Rosenkavalier* (May-June 2005).



# *The “Heart” of the Los Angeles Opera*



*P*lácido Domingo has achieved worldwide renown as a singer, conductor and arts administrator. He has performed 121 different roles – more than any other tenor in the history of music. He has sung in every major opera house in the world and has made well over 100 recordings (earning 11 Grammy Awards), more than 50 videos and three theatrically released films: *La Traviata*, *Otello* and *Carmen*. More than one billion people in 117 different countries saw his live telecast of *Tosca* from the authentic locations in Rome. He has conducted at the Vienna Staatsoper, Metropolitan Opera and Covent Garden, and has led symphonic ensembles including the Berlin Philharmonic and Chicago Symphony.

In 2000, he became Artistic Director of Los Angeles Opera, continuing his ongoing involvement with the Company since its inception in 1986; he was named General Director in 2003. He first gained recognition as an arts administrator as Music Director of the 1992 Seville World's Fair. He continues as General Director of Washington National Opera and is the founder and guiding force of Operalia, the international vocal competition.

In 2000, he received the Kennedy Center Honor for his unique contributions to American cultural life. In 2002, he received the

Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest civilian honor in the U.S.), Spain's Gran Cruz de la Orden del Mérito Civil and he was made Knight Commander of the British Empire and Commandeur de la Legion d'Honneur, an honor rarely given to a non-French citizen.

The “Heart” of Los Angeles Opera is Plácido Domingo. Plácido's vision and enthusiastic leadership as General Manager is the reason the Los Angeles Opera is so successful. However, it's not Plácido's stature as one of the greatest tenors of all time that drives this company, rather it's his stature as a person. Plácido's graciousness, generosity and passion for opera and its performers are the true hallmarks of greatness. He eagerly waits, usually for an hour or more, to greet and introduce each show's cast at the gala reception. Once the casts' appeared he introduced everyone with equal enthusiasm: the stars, production crew, even the “water boy” and all the individuals who make a performance truly great. He is such a huge star in so many ways he makes everyone feel like a giant. This is why so many people follow the Los Angeles Opera. We are so lucky to have him. Bravo and thank you Plácido! L.F.



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September/October 2005

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# Hollywood Bowl

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Actress Jeri Ryan with friend Tania Handling during the VIP reception



Virginia Madsen & son Jack



Principal Conductor John Mauceri with Joshua Bell and Josh Groban, backstage at the Bowl



Tina, Frank Jr. and Nancy Sinatra accept the Hall of Fame Tribute to their father. (the legendary Frank Sinatra)



Etta James



Natalie Cole



Brian Wilson



Josh Groban, Joshua Bell, Trista Yearwood and Kris Kristofferson



# Young Musicians Foundation Gala

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Honoring

**John Mauceri,**  
Conductor of the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra

**Fred and Betty Hayman**  
Humanitarian Awards

For more info: 818.242.9108



Betty and Fred Hayman



John Mauceri

# DALE OLSON

A note from Mike Evans, of Bedford, New York, brings memorable childhood memories. Mike is the son of Broadway musical star Wilbur Evans and 40's film musical star Susanna Foster, with whom I fell in love as a child of nine when she starred with Nelson Eddy and Claude Rains in "Phantom of the Opera," the first talkie of the venerable classic first made famous in the silents with Lon Chaney. Not only was she refreshingly beautiful, but the young lyric soprano sang like a nightingale in the story of a tragic romance between a rising opera singer and a disfigured mentor who lived and roamed in the darkest realms of the Paris opera, certainly a vivid image of romance to affect a nine year old boy. I couldn't wait for other pictures, like "Frisco Sal" with my later old pal Jack Oakie, several with Jackie Cooper and Donald O'Connor until she suddenly gave up the movies to go into operetta, later to plunge into her own tragedies worthy of a book and movie that would equal "I'll Cry Tomorrow" (Lillian Roth) or the story of Frances Farmer. Great drama. Mike has put together wonderful DVDs and CDs of the lives and musical careers of both his parents and I have re-lived the Foster and Evans careers over and over to great delight. Evans rose to fame as one of Broadway's stellar icons, appearing opposite Kitty Carlisle, Eleanor Steber and the like and becoming a sensation as Ezio Pinza's replacement opposite Mary Martin in the heralded London production of "South Pacific," among so many others. Great collectors items, the CD's and DVD's can be ordered through the internet, MicahVita@aol.com, but, listen up, you movie and tv producers, this is a great story...Speaking of Broadway leading men, I was saddened by the untimely death of George Wallace, Broadway leading man to opera star Helen Traubel in Rodgers & Hammerstein's "Pipe Dream," Gwen Verdon in "New Girl in Town" and Mary Martin in "Jennie," then King Arthur in the national tour of "Camelot." I remember George before those great roles as Commander Cody in the cult sci-fi classic "Radar Man From the Moon" and you have all seen him in some 75 major films and well over 100 television appearances. Condolences to his widow of 40 years, the great musical star Jane A. Johnston. They met when Jane was the top attraction at the Long Beach Civic Light Opera and they appeared together in "Most Happy Fella" and later on Broadway and on tour in "Company." The crowd of theatre and film colleagues applauded and gave the genial George a standing ovation at his Hollywood Forever memorial and I shed more than a tear or two...I was thrilled when Shelley Winters called to invite me to her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday party, where friends like Jane Russell, Beryl Davis with Tony Anselmo, Diane (Ladd) and Robert Hunter, Lainie Kazan, Terry Moore, Nanette Fabray, Robert Blake, Martin Landau Shirley (Jones) and Marty Ingels, Kevin Thomas, Betty Garrett, Maray Ayres, Henry Silva and, particularly, Carol Lynley, one of the first friends I made in Hollywood, still looking gorgeous, with Trent Dolan. One of the great actresses of our time – and so sexy (remember when Shelley and Farley Granger were Hollywood's most beautiful couple?) - Shelley has been a mentor to people like Diane Ladd, Susan Strasberg, Sally Kirkland and so many others, yet an example of how the young newcomers of today's Hollywood lack a knowledge of history. I think my favorite Hollywood story is when a young casting director called her a few years ago to say her producer boss was interested in talking to her about a role in his picture. The youngster asked her if she would come in for a meeting. "Sure," said Shelley. Then the girl said "Could you bring something with you to show what you have done?" Again, she said, "Sure." Arriving at the office, the ill-informed casting agent welcomed her and asked what material she had brought. Reaching into two brown grocery bags, Shelley set two "Oscars" on the desk ("A Patch of Blue," "The Diary of Anne Frank") and said, "Will these do?" They certainly did! Bravo, Shelley! And bravo to her great friends Jerry DeFord and Skip E. Lowe for putting it all together to give her – and us - a memorable night of smiles...Super music promoter Don Graham invited us back to Santa Monica's Vic, the best jazz room in the city, where the green eye on the door allowed us in when I gave the secret password, "Live the Life," and I discovered the wonderful Ilona Knopfler, a statuesque blonde beauty who looks like a society hostess and sings with the same classic style. Again, I was flooded by memories – of the great supper clubs that used to pepper America's cities – Chicago's Chez Paree, LA's Mocambo, Ciro's and Coconut Grove, New York's Copacabana, San Francisco's Persian Room, where we saw the elegant and tasteful like Hildegard, Lena Horne, Peggy Lee. Alas, they are gone, but for jazz the Vic is now here and Ray Slayton's expert ear ensures a night of musical splendor. A native of France, Knopfler mixes her diverse show with French and American classics, like an inspired Thomas Dorsey's "I'm Going to Live the Life I Sing About in My Song," from which she took the title "Live the Life" for her stirring new Mack Avenue CD; Charles Aznavour's "Parce Que" and a particularly smoldering "Alone Together." As pure and refreshing are Knopfler's vocals, it is a joy to watch and listen to the intense pianistics of Alain Mallet, who soars and simmers throughout, an exceptional artist...We were happy to welcome Cynthia Lloyd Jones, nee Farley, back to her Pasadena roots when Pasadena's elite gathered to launch her new At Home Unpacking Service, an unique company that offers the busy housewife, executive or simply the well-to-do who don't want to bother, an expert unpacking service when the moving truck arrives. Cynthia, the offspring of the famed Pasadena Farley Bros. vanlines, has returned to Pasadena after 25 years of decorating experience in Australia, where she was married to a scion of the famed Lloyd Jones department store family. Cynthia has gathered a team of expert craftspeople who "know the difference between baccarat and glass or jade and soapstone and how to handle those treasures with care." Welcome back, Cynthia, you add a new dimension to the business of moving and decorating...What a joyful night it was when hundreds of supporters of Project Angel Food packed the parking lot for cocktails and dinner honoring four-time Emmy winner Doris Roberts and 13-year volunteers Carol and Jerry Coben, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep feeding the homeless, persons with AIDS and life-threatening diseases. We're thrilled to learn that PAF now feeds more than 1200 daily since it was founded 16 years ago by Marianne Williamson. Lily Tomlin had everyone in stitches as she presented the award to longtime friend Roberts and revealed a few secrets about the venerable stage, screen and TV star, who has gone directly into three new movies after her nine year stint as the beloved Marie Barone on "Everybody Loves Raymond." And K. D. Lang wowed the crowd with her incredible voice, donating not only her own talent but her amazing musicians to the cause. I was impressed by the eloquence of PAF Exec Director John Gile as he deftly thanked the donors and still managed to let us know how great the need is. Once a fundraiser, always a fundraiser, but he does it with style. What a nice reunion it was, too, with Stefanie Powers, who does her own great job with the William Holden Wildlife Fund in between gigs like her recent sellout musical tour, and with the brilliant photographer Michael Childers who, with his late partner director John Schlesinger, has been one of the stalwart supporters of PAF. Congratulations and thanks to the evenings chairs Janet and Eric McCormack, for their generosity. It was a grand and joyful night... We bid a very fond farewell to the great Brock Peters. We were friends since I was 16 and met him in Portland, Oregon as a singer with the Leonard DePaur chorus. Brock had made a name on Broadway before he stunned film audiences with Greg Peck in "To Kill A Mockingbird" His work raised the status of his race and his and late wife Dede's humanitarian efforts in the community raised the status of mankind. We will miss him a lot...Off to N. Y. for show biz Bible Variety's 100th reunion party at Sardi's, hosted by Syd Silverman, son of Variety Founder Sime. Wonder which of us early day Variety Muggs are still here, but it will be fun to see the old gang again. Only those working for Variety before 1987, when it was sold, are invited so even the powerful current managing editor Peter Bart wasn't on the list. Too bad, he missed the "Golden Years."



# *Freedom's Foundation* *at Valley Forge*

The Los Angeles Chapter of Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge held its 41st Annual Patriotic Gala at the Regency Club to fund scholarships for high school students and teachers to attend the foundation's programs in American History, Constitutional rights and responsibilities. The theme of the Gala was "Celebrating America's Sprit". The Honoree for the Benefit will be Anne Jefferys, a well-known musical and movie star. Anne Jefferys was introduced by David Hayes, a noted Los Angeles fashion designer. Are Linkletter was the Master of Ceremonies with Robbie Britt, Bass Baritone, providing entertainment. Dancing for the evening was the Bob Morris' Leadmen Orchestra.. Suzanne Dillard (Mrs. Warren) of Beverly Hills is the President of the Los Angeles Chapter and Sherry Shelley (Mrs. Robert E.) of Bel Air is the Benefit Chair. Freedom's Foundation at Valley forge is a National organization dedicated to effectively communicate to young people the principles upon which our nation was founded. L.F.

Photos by Bonnie Toman



Nadine Acker, Paul and Carol Acker



Donna Tohidi, Emily and Fred Nason



Sherry Shelley, Gala Chair, Anne Jefferys, Honoree, Suzanne Dillard, Los Angeles Chapter President



Ray and Sally Sanders



Gordon and Mary Roskam, Jacqueline and Baxter Hallaian



Art Linkletter, Master of Ceremonies, Lois Linkletter, Aaron Siegel, National President And CEO



Standing: Patti Scriven, Charlotte Meier, Seated: Dr. Woodrow Wilson Meier



Chuck Lily and Joyce O'Gar



Jayne Mapes and Kith Walker



Marcela and Bill McKenna



Kathy Ballsun, Gerald Palmer, Alice Spieth, Doris Ballsun



Pat and Glenda Patton, Anne Jeffery, David Hayes



Marian Hope, Vince and Trish guarino



Bob Hicks and Gloria Dahl



# Society of Singers

Honors

## Elton John, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005



## Nothing Dark about Dining in the Dark

*H*ugely popular in Europe "Dining in the Dark" is hitting the Los Angeles Scene. At Opaque in the Hyatt on Sunset, you dine in a pitch-black room while being served by blind waiters. Dining in the Dark offers a new Dining Experience to people that seem to have seen it all.

When I arrived with my friend on a Friday evening at the Opaque Restaurant we had no idea what we were getting into, the name might have given us a hint. Everything is different from any other Dining Experience at a regular Restaurant: Before you enter the Restaurant you are handed your menu presented in black and before you enter the Restaurant you already make your selection of your menu and drinks. Also different from all other Dining Experiences is that you get to meet your waiter already outside the Restaurant and it's him who will escort you to your table. In our case we were greeted by this lovely Black waiter, his name Michael. Michael had us line-up right behind him, my hand on his shoulder, my friends hand on my shoulder and off we went to our new Dining Experience. Darkness hits you, you absolutely see nothing. Michael made sure that we safely found our table, fully in the dark. Dining in the Dark is a fun experience, you hear people laughing, hear fun discussions. My friend and I couldn't get over that we never actually saw each other, we made fun about having all dressed-up to sit in the dark where nobody could actually see us. At our table sat two other people, which we never actually got to see! Eating itself is hilarious: finding your wine-glass, finding your plate, Honey: where's my chicken? ..... the ultimate challenge? To toast each other! The beauty about this new dining experience? You start seeing! We even watched a Blind Video presented while we were eating.

Words cannot describe the experience, you need to check-it out yourself. OPAQUE to no surprise is already hugely popular and booked weeks in advance, reserve your table now: There is a three month waiting list.

Opaque, Hyatt West Hollywood, 8401 W. Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, 800.710.1270 or visit [www.Darkdining.com](http://www.Darkdining.com)

MAJA

## ANITA TALBERT

**NEW FACE IN TOWN ... Jason Alexander**, the guy who was married to **Britney Spears** for less than 55 hours has fled the vicious gossip back home to pursue a career as an actor/model in Los Angeles. The 23 year old hunk from Kentwood Louisiana tells me all hell broke loose after Spear's mom and brother found out about the marriage. They swooped in, dragged Spears (literally) out of his arms and took care of the annulment quicker than water beads on a duck's back. "I was hustled on a plane out of Las Vegas so fast (with the indignity of an economy class ticket) that I didn't even have time to call my dad and tell him to pick me up at the airport at home", says Alexander.

Here's the kicker, Alexander didn't get a dime for his troubles, there was no pay-off, no settlement as had been reported by Spear's camp. Not that he was looking for one, in fact Alexander has refused to sue or go after anything. "I would never do that, our families go way back in Kentwood", he says. Now that's a gentleman.

**WHERE DOES PAMELA ANDERSON LIKE TO HANG OUT ...** besides her Malibu mansion with an Olympic-sized swimming pool, guest house, full staff and more? The blonde bombshell also loves to check into the Viceroy (no pun intended) Hotel in Santa Monica where she spends long weekends. Seen flitting through the lobby barefoot recently with her two kids, you could tell Anderson feels very much at home there. She likes being pampered here", said a staff member, "she gets massages, room service and lots of attention." Apparently Anderson isn't the only celebrity who craves being pampered at small boutique hotels, there are hordes more.

**THERE WAS OSCAR-WINNER ADRIAN BRODY ....** Seen at Whole Foods in Beverly Hills with his cute blonde psychiatrist girlfriend pouring over the ingredients on a box of Carb Escape faux ice cream bars, like he really needs to count carbs, the guy weighs about 110 pounds dripping wet. Furthermore, Brody has just finished "King Kong" and is the guy who rescues the damsel in the clutches of Kong. So go know.

**SPOTTED LUNCHING AT BARNEY'S GREEN-GRASS ...** in Beverly Hills was **Demi Moore** and her love **Ashton Kutcher** along with Moore's daughters Rumor and Scout. Moore seemed to hang on Kutcher's every word and gazed at him adoringly as he spoke. You can scotch those pregnancy rumors, Moore barely ate, nor did look pregnant, so fugged-about it. Ain't young love grand?

**IT SEEMS PLAYBOY PLAYMATE ... Shauna Sand's** heart has finally healed after hubby **Lorenzo Lamas** abruptly ended their marriage in which they have 3 little children together. Spotted at the Perry Ellis Swimwear debut hosted by **Arianne Zucker** and **Brody Hultzer** (Days Of Our Lives) at the Viceroy Hotel for the entertainment charity, Stop the Violence/Face the Music, Sand looked great. With a new love in her life, handsome actor Loren Birdwell, Sand was definitely in an upbeat mood. "We met in New York and haven't been apart yet", says Birdwell obviously smitten with Sands' charms. It was good to see the sweet Sand happy again.

**LINDSEY LOHAN RAN FOR HER CAR ...** in the Fred Segal parking lot on Melrose, but she couldn't escape the hordes of paparazzi who had been alerted that she was there. Holding a bag in front of her face, several Italian paparazzi and the others converged like hunters with a deer in their headlights. It isn't the first run-in with the paparazzi for Lohan, the young star suffered minor cuts and bruises in June when a paparazzo crashed into her car after she made a sudden U-turn.

**PAT BOONE STILL WEARS WHITE BUCK SHOES ...** and looks absolutely fantastic for his age. At Connie Steven's beautiful Beverly Hills home where she hosted a cocktail party for the dynamic Republican candidate for Arkansas governor, Asa Hutchinson and his lovely wife Susan, Boone was as always, charming. The youthful-looking crooner tells me he is on fire with 5 albums coming out one of which is a tribute to Billy Graham. When the subject of his relative (through marriage) George Clooney came up, I asked Boone if he thought he'd ever get married, Boone said absolutely not. That seemed to bring up Boone's bachelor days and his old friend **Elvis Presley**. "People used to ask Elvis why he couldn't be more like me and settle down, to which Elvis replied, "why buy the cow when you can get the milk through the fence?" Boone says that remark sparked off great criticism towards Presley at the time.

Boone also remembers Presley's style of dating. "I was with him and his pals when he had a date with a beautiful starlet. He told his pal to pick her up and bring her back to Presley's home. When she got there Elvis showed her around and that was the date", says Boone. I guess The King wasn't much of a romantic. Boone has been married many decades to the same lady and is definitely what we gals would classify as "marriage material".

Anita Talbert can also be found at:  
[www.hollywoodknowitall.com](http://www.hollywoodknowitall.com).



# Experts Choice Range Rover

**L**and Rover featuring the Range Rover Sport, was the official vehicle for the 35th Annual J P Morgan Chase Open Tennis Tournament, which was held at the Home Depot Center in Carson California. Invited guests navigated through the terrain with the aid of a professional driver who made one feel safe and confident and when it was over one came away with a sense of accomplishment and power.

The Range Rover Experience was more than just an adrenaline rush. It was also an adventure in the gardening and culinary arts, and astronomy. The event was designed to give guests the opportunity to experience the luxurious lifestyle that Land Rover represents.

Once the driving was completed it was off to hear Katherine Whiteside AKA the Garden Goddess, author of Forcing, etc and columnist for House Beautiful Magazine, eloquently describe the history of bulb forcing. As she stood among tall white lilies, she talked about how the wilderness came to our window seals, beginning with the Black Death in Europe and the development of the English Cottage Garden. She has traveled around the equator looking for the most remote and amazing tropical gardens from Sri Lanka to the interiors of Bali to the Dominican Republic and China.

The next adventure featured executive chef James Boyce from Studio in the famous Montage Resort. He greeted each guest with a classy beverage consisting of guava and lemon juice, crushed strawberries and club soda. He then demonstrated and served a fabulous crab salad which contained apples and celery and was drizzled with hibiscus vinegar dressing. He then tempted everyone with salad skewers of exotic tomatoes mozzarella cheese wrapped in arugula leaves and all of this was bathed in a vinegar based basil dressing. He gave culinary tips and recipes and everyone left with a desire to run to his restaurant.

The last adventure was a trip to the solar system with stop overs in Pluto, Saturn, Uranus and Mars. Ron Miller co author of The Grand Tour a travel guide to the solar system, showcased his real life drawings of many solar locations which could parallel some of the most beautiful placed on Earth. The drawings looked like phonographs and gave you a sense that he actually stood on the planet surface and took a picture. The talk made you want to space travel.

Not only was the adventure great but so was the staff, Debbie, Lori and Sue and Larry made everyone feel welcome, while Lea helped navigate the driving course. There was also a bonus. Land Rover sponsored a Club House which was richly and comfortably decorated where you could cool off with a cool beverage and eat a snack while watching the tennis tournament.

Concurrently, the tennis tournament took place. Kim Clijsters showed style and grace as she competed her way through match after match to claim victory as she defeated Daniella Hantuchova in the final found. Fashion and strength were demonstrated as the women battled it out. The elicited beauty adorned in an array of colored fabrics made into the most stylish tennis outfits ranging form short pleated skirts to strait skirts. Flattering tops were worn and the head was crowned with either a headband, visor or bucket hat. Other competing players included Maria Sharapova, Elena Dementieva, and Nadia Petrova.

A beautiful vesuvius colored range rover sport was parked on a corner of the court as if it was presiding over the tournament, reminding me that this adventure of luxury, sports, adrenaline, culture and astronomy is an experience which needs to be enjoyed by all.

Chonita Holmes





# *Fairmont Banff Castle in the Wilderness*



*N*ot enough time for Europe? Tired of Palm Springs? Drunk on Napa? Looking for a getaway where the accommodations are opulent, the service luxurious, and the scenery breathtaking?

Welcome to the Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel, situated high in the Canadian Rockies. This regal hotel was originally conceived by Canadian Railroad magnate William Van Horne as a luxurious “stop over” hotel for his railway patrons. Patterned after Scottish Baronial Castles, this majestic beauty beckons distinguished travelers from all parts of the globe. The grand entry, sitting, game and library rooms offer unparalleled vistas of the Bow and Spray Rivers lazily snaking through the Bow Valley, surrounded by the striking Canadian Rockies.

The room accommodations are as luxurious as the beautiful castle-like facade. Luxurious baths, large rooms and multi-level suites abound. Suites have sweeping views of the Bow and Stray rivers, tranquil meadows, and of course the mountains. Services include personal concierge, personal gourmet chefs, and a myriad of other opulent touches that help you “commune with nature”.

If you yearn for sport, then the Fairmont Banff Springs hotel is your call from the wild. Banff Springs offers 27 holes of Stanley Thompson designed championship golf with fairways winding along the Bow River through the meadows and foothills. In the winter skiing is the sport of choice. Banff is internationally known for formidable slopes, short lines and spectacularly groomed mountains. Seasonally there are also lake cruises, gondola rides, canoeing, nature walks and riding. For those looking for a break from the slopes, downtown Banff has numerous quaint shops and opulent boutiques in which to enjoy a leisurely, less frost-bitten afternoon.

Nothing helps to promote the tranquility and peacefulness of the mountains like a spa, and ooh what a spa! The Willow Stream Spa is consistently one of the top international spas. This 38,000 square foot marvel envelopes and pampers guests in a host of unique treatments using mountain herbs, flowers and wraps. After the massages it's off to the showcase Mineral Pool. The large circular Hungarian Mineral Pool sits under a soothing “sky” painted rotunda, surrounded by three waterfall plunge pools. Patrons are encouraged to soak in each waterfall of varying temperatures, and then relax in the mineral pool to soothe and enrich muscles, skin and the soul. As you float in the body-temperature pool, minerals sooth your body and piped-in under water music soothes your soul. The rotunda room has floor to ceiling windows, and comfortable lounges to appreciate the idyllic scenery while you relax, read, or sip beverages. For the more adventurous souls, a winter-time plunge in the outdoor Jacuzzi delights the senses as the steam rises into the chilled air.

No luxurious hotel is complete without a fabulous restaurant, and the Banff Springs Hotel Banffshire Club is just that. Recognized for its culinary and wine excellence, the Banffshire Club is the recipient of many international awards including Wine Spectator's Best Award, as well as many four and five-diamond awards. The Banffshire Club continues the hotel's Scottish theme with Malcolm tartan drapes, an enchanting harpist, and of course the spectacular views. The cuisine is North American based using the freshest ingredients. Particularly recommended are local trout and salmon appetizer and the date & pecan Alberta White Tail Deer loin, simply delectable.

The Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel is the perfect getaway to enjoy unparalleled natural beauty, tranquility and serenity in a regal setting fit for a king. Reservations: 405 Spray Avenue, Banff Canada Phone 403.762.2211 fax 403.762.5755

Terry King







## *The Lady of The Lake Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise*

The hauntingly beautiful Fairmont Chateau, Lake Louise has long been the hideaway for some of the world's most distinguished, seclusion-seeking travelers. The Chateau at Lake Louise is perched on the shore of the deep turquoise Lake Louise, which was named after Queen Victoria's fourth daughter Princess Louise Caroline Alberta. First surveyed in 1882 by Thomas Wilson as a site for the Canadian Railway, Wilson would later write in his journal "As God is my judge, I never in all my explorations saw such a matchless scene." Over the many decades since its original conception, the Chateau's guest list gives testament to its beauty and solitude, opening its doors to royalty, dignitaries, and retreat seeking Hollywood icons such as Fairbanks, Hitchcock, Monroe, and Barrymore.

Guests need only a glimpse at their surroundings upon arrival at the Chateau Lake Louise to understand what has drawn so many to this place. The blue-white hues of glaciers play stark contrast to the deep green pines climbing the steep peaks surrounding intense turquoise glow of the lake. Accommodations at the Chateau are as spectacular as the scenery with commanding views of nature's splendor. Selected larger suites have fireplaces, sitting rooms, spiral staircases and guest reception facilities. Suites are individually finished with an array of unique fabrics, opulent amenities and intricate details. Private check in, personal concierges, personal chefs, in bed dining and exclusive lounges secure each distinguished guest's quest for privacy.

Winters at Chateau Lake Louise are devoted to the snow. The Chateau offers horse drawn sleigh rides along the edge of the lake, winter hikes to glaciers and frozen waterfalls, snowshoeing, cross country skiing and ice climbing, as well as ice-skating on Lake Louise itself! However, the real star is the sensational Lake Louise ski area! Home to the annual World Cup Men's and Women's downhill events, Lake Louise has one of the most prolific snow falls in North America averaging 179 inches annually and ski seasons running from November through mid-May. In January 2006, the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise will hold its annual Celebrity Sports Invitational hosted by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. This annual event pits celebrities such as Michael Douglas, Meg Ryan, Alec Baldwin, Catherine Zeta-Jones and many others in winter sports competitions to raise money for the environmental protection group, The Waterkeepers.

Summer and fall in Lake Louise beckon to the outdoor enthusiast who fancies the finer things: fly-fishing in mountain lakes, canoeing on Lake Louise, nature hikes, moonlit romantic strolls, and horseback riding abound. Summer is also the time of the mountain guides. The Lake Louise Mountain Guides are the modern descendants of the Swiss Mountain Guides originally hired by the Canadian Railway at the turn of the century to teach Chateau guests how to climb. The guides provide technical climbing instruction, and guided nature hikes and walks. After a hard day of "relaxation" treat yourself to the Aveda bannered day spa, Escape. Escape offers signature herbal treatments including hydrotherapy and in room massage service.

Dinning is a very serious business at the Chateau, offering a wide variety of gastronomic delights. At the signature Fairview Lounge diners indulge in North American delicacies including my personal favorite the Takaki Bison loin. The Fairview has an extensive 400 plus label wine cellar for excellent pairings or for that perfect special occasion. For the culinary adventurers, Fairview also offers exquisite seasonal European style tasting menus with wine pairings from around the world, a treat for the wine enthusiast. Other restaurants include the Walliser Stube Swiss fondue restaurant. The Walliser offers 11 different types of traditional fondue, an extensive wine list and an unparalleled après ski atmosphere. Be sure to try the Tolberone fondue dessert, divine! It's hard to put into words the profound beauty of the Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise. The intricate ballet of the majestic Canadian Rockies, Victoria Glacier and Lake Louise combine to create an awe inspiring, soul stirring tranquility that transports guests to another state of being.

Reservations: 111 Lake Louise Drive, Lake Louise, Alberta Canada. Phone 403.522.3511

Terry King



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