



# ARTS & LIFE

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## DAFFODIL NIGHT FEVER

MOVERS and shakers show how deep is their love at cancer benefit ball



**DIM ALL THE LIGHTS** Daffodil Ball's disco decor does Studio 54 justice.



**FLASHBACK** Models strut their psychedelic stuff.

*Photos by  
Tyrel Featherstone, The Gazette*



**AT THE BAR** Fishnet fun and folly.



**DELECTABLY DISCO** The theme carried through to the hors d'oeuvres.

## SOCIAL NOTES



JENNIFER CAMPBELL

Every year her Daffodilship (yes, award-winning event producer Alison Silcoff, attending with hub Joel) dips into her seemingly bottomless bag of party tricks and manages to abracadabra an even more divine Daffodil (Ball) for the benefit of the Canadian Cancer Society.

And this year, despite obvious challenges, Alison and her spirited team spun Daffodil gold once again. This time, around (and around) the Disco Ball (inspired by her stint as marketing director at '70s play palladium Regine), much to the delight of the 500 well-platformed, très belle-bottomed mmmovers and shake-shake-shakers in Windsor Station. (Think VIP everyone with spouses, loves, even frenemies in tow, from prettiest politician **Yolande James** and vedettes **Dennis Trudeau**, **Patricia Paquin**, **Hilary Radley**, **Patrick Angélil** and **Dominique Bertrand** to corporate captains **George Cope**, **Pierre Karl Péladeau**, **Alain Bouchard**, **Norman Hébert**, **Joey Basmaji** and **Jeffrey Orr**).

For your Sunday satisfaction, the premium boogie night's booggiest notes:

**So much more than 54:** The creatives behind the final concept and execution of this year's disco design, *Décor and More*, did the psychedelic theme jumbo justice (shock). Touches that added more sunshine than KC and the band included: "Donna Summer" perched atop a swinging trapeze, greeting appropriately gobsmacked guests like **Jeannie and Nelson Saunders**, and mean, green sparkly disco boots brimming with daffodils lining the stairway to the cocktail bar.

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## The real doc who finds maladies for Dr. House to cure

### DAVID FOSTER, MEDICAL CONSULTANT Show's mystery ailments rooted in fact

ALEX STRACHAN  
CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

David Foster M.D. has his own office on the set of TV's *House*, and it's just as well.

Foster is the full-time medical consultant, supervising producer and occasional script writer for a medical drama that every week reaches more than 13 million in the U.S., and another 2 million in Canada.

Fans admire *House* for its roller-coaster medical mysteries and for its cranky but

lovable leading man, played by Emmy nominee and Screen Actors Guild-winner Hugh Laurie.

Those very same viewers could be forgiven, however, for thinking "That could never happen" every time Laurie's brilliant-but-abrasive Dr. House pulls off a last-minute miracle cure for an ailment virtually no one has heard of.

Foster has news for them: House's medical mysteries are based on actual cases, culled from Foster's years as a physician, the experience of

his doctor colleagues and cases drawn from the dozens of medical journals that line the shelves of his on-set office.

That was decided early on, Foster says, during House's pilot episode, written by the show's London, Ont.-born creator, David Shore. House's production teams takes pains to mirror actual cases.

And so, House's odd cases – a teenager adopted at birth who almost dies because his birth mother didn't get a measles shot; a 16-year-old rugby player whose double vision is caused not by a playing injury but by a mutated virus in his brain, etc. – are rooted in fact. The case must be real, no matter how obscure it appears. It's the writers' job to make it believable.

In person, Foster is nothing like the eponymous Dr. House he finds cases for. Foster is warm and gregarious where House is cool and diffident. Foster laughs easily. His mind is quick, but not cutting.

He's tough-minded, though, and – like Dr. House – deadly serious about what he does for a living.

Foster's office has the words "David Foster M.D." engraved on the glass door, and is just a heartbeat away from the hospital set's glass-walled atrium. Foster's office fills in on occasion for actual offices in House's idealized set for Princeton-Plainsboro Teaching Hospital – Lisa Edelstein's Dr. Cuddy has had some of her finest moments in there – but Dr. Foster himself is per-

fectly happy to remain part of House's background scenery.

On the one hand, Foster praises Shore and Shore's producing partner Katie Jacobs for having quick, inquisitive minds. On the other, he says some of House's strongest episodes come from verbal sparring contests and vocal debates in the writers' room, where the writers and producers are encouraged to ask pointed questions of each other about what's real and what may seem unbelievable to an audience.

"Fortunately, there's an endless number of ways the human body can break down," Foster says. "It's great for us; it's not so great for humanity."

Everyday viewers are in-

clined to give their informed consent to being taken for a TV medical ride, but Foster's doctor colleagues can be a tougher audience.

Since House's debut in 2004, Foster has fielded his share of raised eyebrows from friends and medical colleagues. A recurring theme is: "That could never happen."

"There's always somebody who's going to say 'That would never happen,'" Foster says. "But what they really mean to say is, 'I've never seen that,' or, 'This never happened to me' – which may well be true – or, 'This is not what happens on average,' which is almost certainly true."

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# SOCIAL NOTES

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More disco touches included a dramatically different Daff-take on Studio 54's legendary moon and spoon suspended above the staircase (über avocats like **Les Viner** and **Norman Steinberg** and wife **Renee** were suitably impressed); and the flyest centerpieces boasting an explosion of disco balls, globes, daffs (bien sûr) and chandeliers made of oh-so-theme-y silvered disks.

**Food with 'tude:** Though admittedly consumed at the speed of light, your social gourmande (a.k.a. moi) was there for you foodies and did manage to stay put in her plexi Philippe Starck Ghost dining chair just long enuf to sample every masterfully prepared morsel of Fairmont Queen Elizabeth chef Alain Pignard's Could It Be Magic (it could) feast. Of particular note (connoisseurs Chanel's **Virginie Vincens** and **Laurent Soustiel** concurred): the trio of duck appetizers; main of delectable Asian fusion grouper; and to swoon for moon and spoon chocoholic fantasy for dessert.

**Gotta be real:** And it was. Every last bit of swag for disco kings and queens like Sanofi-Aventis president/CEO **Jérôme Silvestre** and wife **Dominique** was as real as it gets. Chanel sponsored sunglasses and maquillage pour elle and Birks cufflinks pour lui. Also real with a capital R: the raffle prizes, topped by an ultraluxe Parisian adventure for four sponsored by Swiss airline & Hotel Le Bristol.

**Mirrored mirrored disco ball, who's the fairest of them all?** As always, Daffodil fashion ruled. Even in leaner times, many guests appeared to make up in colour; fun, funk and 'tude what they might have saved on new threads. (Though rest assured, designer was a-jive and new, nearly new, vintage, designer or not – the following Daffodilistas would have made Steve Rubell's cut for sure: **Claudia Cytrynbaum** in a lime silk Kaufman Franco numero that had cougars, pumas and every other female lime with envy; yummiest mummy **Pota Nanji**, who worked a frou frou blue hued Badgley Mischka dazzler to perfection; belle of the disco ball **Belle Grivakis** (with her **Ernie**) resplendent in navy raw silk Gail Garrison; photographic phenom **Heidi Hollinger** (with hunky love Marc-André Lavoie) in a lil' sumpin stylish and **Karine Vanasse** (with gene-perfect **Maxime Rémillard**), whose grand entrance in Max Azria couture rivalled Bianca Jagger's legendary Studio 54 entrance atop a stallion (of the equine variety; naughty notices!)

**Everybody danced:** Thanks to entertainment producer extraordinaire Paul Chacra and the flashest performances by: DJ **Robert Ouimet**, Montreal's "Godfather of Disco," Artmistice and The Daffodil Disco Dancers and '70s icons **Martin Stevens**, **Nancy Martinez** and **Freddie James**, who drove the crowd wild with renditions of their respective hits. Closet Travoltas (like Mouvement Desjardins president/CEO **Monique F. Léroux** and hub **Marc**) and Better than Travoltas (like So You Think You Can Dance Canada champ **Nico Archambault** and **Wynn Holmes**) were dancing machines. Nary a guest had to brave an off-key "You Should Be Dancing" to cajole a party-mate onto the dance floor. Even **Gordon Echenberg** was overheard pronouncing to his wife, Penny: "I'm Your Boogie Man." To which, she angelically replied: "And lucky boy, I am so much More Than A Woman!" (Clearly, everyone got down that night)

**You dropped the bomb on me:** Here are the best lines of the ball. Emcee **Sophie Durocher** (in her opening address): "A topless man and a Cosmo, that's all I need to start my evening!" **Andrew Grove** (upon his first viewing of the bare-chested bartenders): "Looks like my house on a Saturday night – not!" **Jeffrey Feldman** (CTV producer and my tablemate): "Can you help me sneak these chairs out the back door?!" **Jennifer Roman Brière** (while dangling an open-toe sandal at midnight): "Not a good shoe to drink champagne out of!" Classiest dude **Chiko Nanji**: "Of course we'll give you a ride home, the limo's downstairs."

**Fabulous because they rock the boat:** Every memorable do (especially of the disco variety) needs its fundraising funksters. The Daff is no exception. That's why we extra love chairmen's council members and daddies cool **Chris Clark**, PricewaterhouseCoopers senior partner/CEO (attending with wife **Pam**); Medisys president/CEO **Sheldon Elman** (with **Meryl**); and CAE president/CEO **Robert Brown** (with **Sherrill**), who didn't let tuff times stand in their way of raising a cool million plus for the benefit of the Canadian Cancer Society. Indeed, society officials **Louise Labrie** and **Suzanne Dubois** were more than pleased that the boys and countless others didn't stop until they got enough.

**Never can say goodbye:** Despite the obvious good camaraderie, good disco, and, most importantly, good revenue toward a cure (cancer survivor **Chris Clark** passionately underscored the heightened significance of research), the boogied band of Daffodilites did have to groove home eventually (it was a school night). But not before wolfing down a Snowdon Deli smoked meat sandwich (or two) on the way out. Whaddya want from this social scribe turned Disco Diva?! That's the way They Like It, uhuh, uhuh.

**PS:** Prove your disco savvy and take the *Social Notes Cliché Disco Daffodil Challenge*: Be the first to email the correct number/names of disco titles incorporated above to my address, and you'll accompany yours truly to the May event of your choice.

mtlsocialgal@yahoo.com

It will survive: Eva Friede looks at disco fashion then and now in Style on Tuesday.



**BORN TO BE ALIVE** Michel Vennat tears up the dance floor.

## BAND OF DAFFODILISTAS



**IT'S RAINING MEN** What can I say, female readership just went up!



**CELEBRATION** Lady of the hour Alison Silcoff is flanked by key fundraisers, CAE president/CEO Robert Brown (left), Medisys president/CEO Sheldon Elman and PricewaterhouseCoopers senior partner/CEO Chris Clark.



**REUNITED** Rizia Moreira (vroomy in Valentino) plants one on steel magnate Herbert Black.



**LADIES' NIGHT** actress comedienne Karine Vanasse enjoys quality girl bonding with emcee Sophie Durocher (in Chanel).



**IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU ...** Penny Echenberg (in pale Ferré) with hub Gordon.



**I LOVE THE NIGHTLIFE** So You Think You Can Dance Canada winner Nico Archambault and Wynn Holmes work the floor.



**I FEEL GOOD** Gala sponsors who jetted in from Geneva for the night: Marcy McCall MacBain (in turquoise Lanvin) and hub John.



**SKY HIGH ENERGY** Newly appointed president/CEO Air Canada Calin Rovinescu and wife Elaine take to the dance floor.



**AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW** Entertaining power couple Charles Lafortune (in Boss) and wife Sophie Prévost (in San Remo).



**COME TO ME** Claudia Cytrynbaum moves hub Brian's Earth Wind and Fire.



**I'M SO EXCITED** Garage/Dynamite CEO Andrew Lutfy flanked by Specs models Catherine Albertson and Fanny Richards.

PHOTOS: TYREL FEATHERSTONE THE GAZETTE