



Clockwise from left: Leo award winner Amanda Crew at the awards gala, (212) co-owners Scott Walhovd and Anthony Castro with hostess Claudia Daponte at the store's opening, Tigerstone promoter Carlo Giusto with Lady Sovereign at her afterparty at Shine, Josh Bender and Talia Mann on the False Creek Martini Tour, Canvas Lounge owner David Strebinger at their Grand Opening, designer Jason Matlo and friend at the Leo Awards. Photos by Raj Taneja

BY RAJ TANEJA

06.01.07 LEO AWARDS

The ninth annual Leo Awards took place at the Westin Bayshore on June 1st and 2nd. The event, which included a Friday night celebration awards ceremony, Saturday afternoon "Chill at the Leos" fashion and music showcase and evening gala awards ceremony, honoured B.C.'s best film and television talent. Actor and comedian **Ellie Harvie**, dressed in finery from **Jolie Couture**, hosted Friday's awards ceremony, while the gala was hosted by Leo Awards president and founder **Walter Daroshin**, and producer **Sonny Wong**. The red carpet saw many familiar faces including **Amanda Crew**, **Mackenzie Gray**, **Byron Mann** and **Terry David Mulligan**. The weekend's highlight was the Saturday afternoon fashion show, produced by **Michelle Thistle** of LaunchRX. Local designers such as **Jason Matlo**, **Tyler Summers** (Artikol Clothing) and **Shelley Klassen** (Blushing Designs) showed alongside Dolce & Gabbana, Janise OLeandros, and the recently launched Conino Lamborghini.

06.05.07 PERFECT WITH SUSHI AAA TASTING

On Tuesday, June 5th, while some were out celebrating Vancouver hospitality impresario **Vance Campbell's** 60th birthday in the Davie Village, others were indulging at **Marquis Wine Cellars** for the "Perfect with Sushi" tasting. With the food provided by **Tojo's**, attendees were treated to exquisite pairings of sushi with crisp Rieslings from Australia's Clare and Eden Valleys, the classic, rich wines of Alsace, and the fine and increasingly fashionable Grüner Veltliner and Rieslings of Austria. The Australian Wine Bureau's CEO, **Hazel Murphy** (the person solely responsible for increasing the sales of Australian wine to the U.K. from 84,000 cases to over 2 million cases per annum) was in attendance enjoying what has been described as some of the world's finest sushi from Vancouver's grand sushi master himself, **Tojo**.

06.07.07 FRASER AT THE OPUS

The third and final instalment of the Fraser Institute's Spring 2007 Behind the Spin series took place the evening of June 7th at OPUS Hotel. Speaker and leader of the B.C. Marijuana Party **Marc Emery** attracted an eclectic crowd comprising such notables as **Victor Chan**, founding director and trustee of the Dalai Lama Centre for Peace and Education; Salman Partners' **Perry Braun** and wife **Deborah**; **Johann Gevers** from the Institute for Freedom; **Dr. Will Johnston**, president of the Canadian Physicians for Life; and even Judge **Tom Gove**, Commissioner for the Inquiry into Child Protection in British Columbia. Well-known in cannabis culture, Emery spoke about his impending extradition hearings and the prospect of spending the rest of his life in prison for selling seeds over the border. Questions posed by the audience ranged from the implications that decriminalized marijuana has on our children to the medicinal value of THC to the possibility that smoking weed may impede one's path to enlightenment. Throughout the Q&A period, Emery remained an advocate of moderate drug use.

'AN ARMY OF JOSH BENDERS' WELL-DRESSED MARTINI DRINKERS DESCENDED ON FALSE CREEK'

06.07.07 CANVAS LOUNGE GRAND OPENING

Six months after its doors actually opened, Canvas Lounge, the Gastown space formerly known as sugarandsugar, held a VIP grand opening party June 7th. Part of the attraction of the event (other than the sugarandsugar reunion) was the adjacent space in the former Babalong Studio being transformed into Canvas's art gallery, featuring works of emerging Vancouver artists **Warren Stagg**, **Christopher Leicht** and **Christopher Donnelly**. The event included a free flow of drinks, death-defying acrobatics by members of Vancouver's Circus School and the vocal stylings of **Amalia Townsend** in performance with award-winning Vancouver band **Sekoya**. Throughout the

evening, owner **David Strebinger** shared in the celebrations and greeted guests including Oasis restaurant GM **Selma Mostefai**, OPUS Hotel GM **Daniel Craig**, industrial designer **Jill Sinclair**, real estate agent **Marife Sison**, the always-fashionable **Andy Chu**, and Ask A Woman Enterprises' **Sharon Chan** and **Tammy Preast**.

06.08.07 OH MY GODARD ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, June 8th and Saturday, June 9th, self-proclaimed rockstar of the art world **Michael Godard** stopped in on the first anniversary of the Oh My Godard gallery on Granville Street. During his stay he created 15 custom limited edition canvases for clients, and auctioned off the artist proof of his piece titled 'On The Throne,' as well as a custom-painted toilet which he completed throughout the weekend. Proceeds went to the BC Children's Hospital.

06.09.07 FALSE CREEK MARTINI TOUR

An army of **Josh Benders'** well-dressed martini drinkers descended on False Creek June 9th for some heavy martini touring. Cocktails including the Son of a Beach were on the menu at the first stop, Fiddlehead Joes, and the aptly named Speedy Gonzalez was sampled by many at Nu. The final stop, Ginger 62, saw a somewhat depleted crowd as only a handful of sane and somewhat sober survivors made it to Granville. For those who actually remember the night, Mr. Bender hosts his next tour on the 21st of July.

06.13.07 BAR NONE 15TH ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday the 13th of June, Bar None celebrated 15 years with a two-tier celebration featuring a champagne-flowing VIP event early in the night and the later evening open to the public with DJs **Just Paul**, **Profound** and **107**, **Zak Santiago**, **Flipout** and **Marlon J English**. The event featured tasting stations from various liquor companies familiar to Jay Jones cocktails, catering by the kitchen at sister bar, Republic, and a stylish Yaletown crowd.

BY RAJ TANEJA

06.14.07 GILLETE ULTIMATE MANS NIGHT OUT

The Gillette Ultimate Man's Night Out tour stopped in Vancouver on June 14th at Caprice Nightclub. The venue was transformed into a full-service restaurant and featured Gillette's beautiful hostesses, showcases with cigars, cars and motorcycles, a premium beer tasting, a steak dinner prepared by Caprice's kitchen, a men's fashion update, scotch tasting and even live burlesque entertainment. The scotch tasting was a definite highlight of the evening, featuring an education and sampling of Johnnie Walker, from Green Label to Gold Label to the phantom distilleries that make the components of the Blue Label. In parting, all attendees received gift bags... only one received a thank-you hug and kiss from the hostesses.

06.14.07 (212) STORE OPENING

(212), the new Gastown women's fashion store, opened their doors the night of June 14th. The shop features exclusive lines sourced from New York as well as a small 13 piece collection designed by owners **Scott Wahlovd** and **Anthony Castro**. Located at 454 West Cordova, across the street from 'ALife' and 'one of a few,' the store is well situated for the increasingly fashion-boutique oriented Gastown district. The opening event saw support from local designer **Jason Matlo** and company, Razer 969 and Ethnosonic host **Lauren Toyota**, as well as an after-party on Republic's patio put on by club promoter **Jon Campbell**.

06.15.07 RBC OLYMPIANS EXPERIENCE RECEPTION

The Vancouver Art Gallery hosted the RBC Olympians Experience VIP reception on the evening of the 15th, providing a great opportunity to meet Canadian Olympians such as **Crispin Lipscomb**, **Alexa Loo**, **Anne-Marie LaFrançois** and **Dominique Vallée** and **Andrea Holmes**. The main attraction of the weekend was the RBC Aerial Trampoline Show, which garnered

the attention of almost every passerby close enough to see the airborne athletes. Charming RBC event planners **Carmen Stossel** and **Christine Moore** set the event's mood with a snow machine, and guests were invited to tour the current Monet to Dali exhibition, which includes the famous Rodin sculpture 'The Thinker.'

06.15.07 BOOBILICIOUS

The Black Wool Cooperative, Vancouver's own promotional, marketing and event marketing geniuses, held Boobilicious, a fundraiser for breast cancer at the beautiful Dr. Sun Yat-Sen gardens in Chinatown. The décor, including pink rose petals scattered throughout the walkways of the venue, and a DJ high up in the pagoda put everyone into a state of enlightened Boobilicious bliss. Event organizers **Chris Lee** and **Louie Manzo**, both of Black Wool, were overheard saying "Ah, that's the stuff" while pink-clad party-goers including *Dragon Boys* actor **Byron Mann** and promoter **Devon Ash** enjoyed the evening's festivities.

'THE DECOR AND A DJ UP IN A PAGODA PUT EVERYONE INTO A STATE OF BOOBILICIOUS BLISS'**06.15.07 LADY SOVEREIGN AFTERPARTY**

Lady Sovereign, in town on tour with **AKON** and **Gwen Stefani**, stopped by Shine on the 15th of June for her official afterparty. The crowd fully enjoyed the four-song set, almost getting out of hand as *Sov* brought the heat.

06.19.07 TORATASU OPENING

Chef **Kodai Uno**, best known for his Shiru Bay Chopstick Café

in Yaletown, opened up a new venture in the space of the former Clove Restaurant at 735 Denman St. The Japanese Izakaya held an opening party on Tuesday, June 19th hosted by Tiffany Soper PR. The newly remodelled restaurant, which has only been open a couple weeks, has already received rave reviews for serving inventive tapas-style menu items.

06.20.07 THE GRAND COLLABORATION

The evening of June 20th the Pacific Palisades hosted The Grand Collaboration luxury item showcase, which included four custom-designed Steinway pianos, a Lotus parked in the venue's Art+Soul gallery, jet services from Marquis Jet and high-end real estate advisory services by Karim Variani. Experienced pianist and Tom Lee Music staffer **Ron Koyanagi** entertained the crowd by playing the four pianos in succession — the 150th Anniversary Limited Edition Lagerfeld designed by Karl Lagerfeld, the Roger Williams Gold Piano designed by Joseph Sidorowicz, Symphonic Symmetry designed by **John Eric Byers** and Reflections designed by **Thomas Schrunck** — while Ultimate Shoot Out event director **Jon Curleigh** learned more about ultra-high-end private residences in Calgary.

06.22.07 CANADA CUP OF BEER MEDIA NIGHT

Colin Jack and partner **Tyler Tokai**, producers of the Canada Cup of Beer, hosted a media night at the John Molson Academy, located behind gated doors at the Molson Brewery on Burrard Street. The media night previewed the July 7th Cup of Beer event, which features 35 vendors and over 150 beers at UBC's Thunderbird Stadium. The hosts pointed out that 1.3 per cent of the Canadian gross national product is derived from the consumption of beer. Sadly, the sales of beer in the country are currently on the decline, but the evening's bartender, **Jessica King**, Miss Hawaiian Tropic Manitoba 2007, helped by ensuring mugs were full, and that there was no shortage of consumption of beer for the night. Partial proceeds from the July 7th event will go to Vancouver TheatreSports League.



Clockwise from top left: Tiffany Soper and Lindsay Ford from Tiffany Soper PR at the Toratatsu opening, Katie Rivero and Bacardi's Mike Trimble at Boobilicious, Amalia Eustergerling and Bar None operating partner Mike Shea at the Bar None 15th anniversary, Heineken's Aussie Jiwani and Bar None's Jen Shen at Bar None 15 year, Sharon Chan and Tammy Preast of Ask A Women Enterprises at Canvas Lounge Grand Opening, Sarah Openshaw and Devon Ash at Boobilicious, artist Michael Godard and Paige Tesluck at the Oh My Godard Gallery Anniversary. Photos by Raj Taneja