



*Clockwise from top left: Isabella Egan and Nick Waissbluth at her gallery opening; publicist Shannon Heth with artists Karen Bubas and George Vergette; Stephen Bailey and John Fluevog at the FLuevog Gastown opening; Bruce Langereis, Sai Leung, David Hawksworth and Alessandro Munge at the Hotel Georgia preview; Vikram Vij and Daniel Boulud at Lumière.*

# Artful openings and a hot new bistro

STORY & PHOTOS BY RAJ TANEJA

## JOHN FLUEVOG WALKS ON WATER

John Fluevog, Vancouver's best-known shoemaker, opened the new flagship store and world headquarters for his operation at 65 Water Street on March 17. Catered by OPUS Catering and with drinks provided by Johnnie Walker, the evening marked the first time in almost 30 years that Fluevog, who mingled with VIPs and local celebrities between 6 and 8 p.m. and the general public from 8 p.m. onwards, walked on Water — or at least had a store open on Water Street. The 5,000-square-foot space, which occupies the former Richard Kidd, will serve as a retail store and studio/workspace for the company's design team.

## A TASTE OF 2009 WITH CHEF DAVID HAWKSWORTH

On March 19, celebrated chef David Hawksworth (formerly of West), along with developer Bruce Langereis and designers from the firm Munge/Leung, hosted members of the media for a preview of the upcoming Hotel Georgia and Private Residences on Georgia, which will house the chef's 90-seat restaurant and lounge, all opening in 2009. The original Hotel Georgia — a veritable celebrity magnet back in the day, having hosted an extensive guest list including Elvis Presley, Bob Hope, Nat 'King' Cole and Louis Armstrong — recently received a number of inquiries from mega-celebrities about luxury accommodations during the Olympics.

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## RUN FOR ONE PLANET AT THE SCOTTISH CULTURAL CENTRE

On March 15, actor Matt Hill and personal success coach **Stephanie Tait** united with friends, family and celebrities, including Nicolas Lea, Suleka Mathew, Gabriele Miller, Sarah Strange, Peter Kelamis, Bill Henderson and Dr. Strangelove, to announce the start of the pair's 17,700-km run across North America (and back). The trip, known as 'Run For One Planet,' has the grand goal of inspiring one million North Americans to commit to one new environmentally friendly habit, to raise \$1 million in the fight against global warming and to bring about one million new actions for the Earth each step of the way. The pair will run across Canada and then around the perimeter of the U.S. for the next year.

## ISABELLA EGAN GALLERY OFFICIAL OPENING AND GROUP EXHIBITION

Isabella Egan, the former curatorial assistant at the Monte Clarke Gallery, kicked open the doors to her own gallery in Gastown on March 14. Situated on Abbott Street next to the Lamplighter, the event was catered by Jules French Bistro and had over 200 attendees line up and pass through the doors to view the work of the nine talented artists from Vancouver and New York who contributed to the opening exhibition titled 'For Instance.' A gallery that definitely exemplifies cutting edge, two per cent of gallery profits are earmarked for the Make Poverty History Campaign. On opening night, Egan raised \$700 for the cause.

## PHOTO DOCUMENTS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AT TRUNK GALLERY

TRUNK Gallery has expanded to include the walls in the new showroom of Affinity Auto, which is connected to auto/ONE. On March 13, TRUNK opened their doors for an evening of provocative artwork, sustainable design and socially conscious investment. While drinks flowed, canapés from Quince were demolished, and guests enjoyed the art throughout the auto/ONE, Clutch and Affinity Auto spaces. Sponsors included Drive Neutral, a company that helps vehicle purchasers offset their vehicles' carbon output with hard cash; and the Evolution Fund, Canada's newest

green real estate development mutual fund. In attendance were artists Stirling Ward, Trevor Brady, Jennifer Goodwin and Christopher Grunert, as well as concert tour manager Roy Yen and none other than Hilary Swank.

## LUMIÈRE ANNOUNCES NEW CHEF

On March 13, many a Mercedes, Maserati and Maybach lined the streets outside Lumière Restaurant to mark one of the most monumental food events in Vancouver's history. The 80 A-list guests who attended were greeted with the most impeccable of canapés — tarte flambée Alsacienne and boeuf en gelée au foie gras, to name two — and heard the announcement that the next-door Feenie's will be transformed into a DB Bistro Moderne for the summer of 2008. Chef Daniel Boulud and partners Manjy and David Sidoo basked in accolades from attendees for bringing to the city what has been named "New York's Best French Bistro" and "One of New York's Top 50 Restaurants" by the Zagat Survey. In May, Lumière will close for renovations. In the summer of 2008, both the remodelled Lumière and Vancouver's DB Bistro Moderne will bring nothing but the finest to Vancouver.