



Clockwise from top left: Claire Gaigal, Reid Ogden, Andy Agnesini and Dawn Barrett at the Lamplighter grand reopening; the Burlesque Beauties at Lamplighter; Brad Stanton at OPUS; Ana Viseroiu, Regina Biar and Vicky Mackie at the VFW launch; Dylan Armour and Tanya Slingsby at her opening; and Mark Thompson, Jayson Elliott and Ian Leila at Lamplighter.

# Lamplighter reopens, Blue Water Café celebrates

STORY & PHOTOS BY RAJ TANEJA

## NEW COCKTAIL LIST AT OPUS

The first bartenders were pharmacists who dispensed proprietary mixtures of liquor, bitters and unlikely ingredients to cure the ails of their clients. OPUS Bar, in similar form, provisioning various hand-crafted works of excellence with mystic healing powers, launched their spring/summer cocktail list on the 29th of February. The event included Vancouver food writers Jane Mundy, Kate Zimmerman, Joanne Blain and Sarah Bancroft, a little flavour from barbecue king Rockin' Ronnie Shewchuk, and Brad Stanton, head barman, on the controls. The all-media guests enjoyed everything from OPUS Catering's pecorino cheese and fig-paste lollipops (delectable) to Stanton's newest creation, the Minto Matcha, which was inspired by a lone green ottoman that graces the bar with its presence from time to time.

## VANCOUVER FASHION WEEK GALA AT OPUS BAR

Vancouver Fashion Week launched on Wednesday, April 16, at OPUS Bar with an industry gala that invited designers, models, hair and makeup artists and the media to an exclusive schmooze. Citytv's *Breakfast Television* personality Dawn Chubai played the role of MC while designers, accompanied by a model, gave the crowd a sneak preview of their collections and what was to come in the upcoming week.

## TANYA SLINGSBY'S ATELIER OPENING

Local artist Tanya Slingsby opened her Atelier on East 2nd, just west of Main, for the first time on April 17, with an exhibition titled 'A Statement of Place.' The body of work, referred to as 'Haute Peinture' – commissioned contemporary paintings for exclusive clientele – offered a new take on Slingsby's success to an awestruck audience. Throughout the packed, invite-only event, the artist met and was cajoled by friends, family and artists alike. Slingsby takes her work on the road to Art-Forte Gallery in Seattle from May 4 to 31.

## LAMPLIGHTER GRAND OPENING

Gastown's historic Lamplighter Pub recently received a makeover and remodel by Donnelly Hospitality Management Group (DHM). On April 17, the group relaunched the turn-of-the-century pub with staff dressed in attire from simpler times. The Burlesque Beauties, saxophonist Cat G Catfish and hostess Madame Manhattan provided onstage entertainment for the evening while members of DHM's executive and management, including Lamplighter operating partner Steve Jennings, greeted VIPs and the media. The new Lamplighter Public House, modelled in an up-with-the-times esthetic with clean lines and an even cleaner room, follows suit with other Donnelly pubs Library Square Public House, The Bimini in Kitsilano and The Calling (earlier Denman Street Free House), in the West End, and is a welcome addition to Gastown.

## JC Studio was set up like a gentlemen's club: scotch, cigars, hors d'oeuvres, plus other professionals and models to chat with.

### 'THE LIST' VIP EVENT AT OPUS BAR FEATURING JASON BYE

The green ottoman that sometimes sits at the centre of OPUS Bar has been known to be both a distraction and inspiration for many things OPUS. On April 17, the lovely Lauren Jones and Agnes Anczykowsky, seated perfectly on the edge of the ottoman, could have served as sufficient distraction to anyone entering the room. One could almost miss that OPUS had been transformed into a tropical paradise with an elaborate DJ booth setup – trees, leaves and two massive video monitors. On the decks, English DJ Jason Bye – one of the 'Ibiza residents' – played his signature main room electro-style house while the invite-only crowd (referred to as being on 'the List') looked on in awe. From time to time, the multi-talented Bye sheds the headphones, picks up a guitar and lays down some serious hard-rock vocals as part of his band, DogRok.

## BLUE WATER CAFÉ CELEBRATES

Top Table Restaurant Group hosted two after-service parties on Friday, April 18, at West, and Saturday, April 19, at Blue Water Café, to celebrate winning titles in *Vancouver Magazine's* Restaurant Awards, West's fourth consecutive win as Restaurant of the Year and Blue Water Café's inaugural gold for Best Seafood, as well as Frank Pabst's Chef of the Year title from *Georgia Straight's* Golden Plate Awards. INFAMOUS checked out the action on Saturday night in the new wine room of Blue Water Café, with chef Pabst present to receive accolades, while those lucky enough to be invited sampled choice selections of Pabst's cooking, sushi chef Yoshi Tabo's delectable pieces and heavenly tastings from the largest champagne list in Canada.

## JC STUDIO VIP MEN'S EVENT

On April 23, JC Studio, home of the Jacqueline Conoir fashion collection for women, hosted an invite-only, VIP networking and fashion show event for men, featuring the spring 2008 collection, at their headquarters on West 6th. The event – aimed at giving men more than an eyeful and some thoughtful gift ideas for that special lady in their lives – had the studio set up as a gentlemen's club: scotch, cigars, hors d'oeuvres, plus other professionals and models to chat with. JC Studio also hosts fashionista brunches for ladies once a month, the next of which occurs on May 17.