Thursday, February 9, 2017

Healthy actions

Kamie Lightburn, Alison Strong, Alatia Bradley Bach, Mary Van Pelt, Jessica Cho, Mr. Green Bean, and Meg Chamberlin
The Horticultural Society of New York hosted its 5th Annual Green Bean Bash on Saturday, February 4th at 583 Park Avenue. The benefit for the society’s new education center and greenhouse connected families and young guests to plant-based activities including composting, pickling, bean sprouts, insects, healthy goodies and curiosities that the small revelers took home. DJ Natalie led a themed dance party with Mr. Green Bean himself taking turns on the dance floor.

Alejandra Ting, Kamila Islam, Juliet Arrieta, Giovanna Dukcevich, and Alison Strong
Kamila Islam, Juliet Arrieta, Giovanna Dukcevich, and Alejandra Ting
DJ Natalie and Kids

Little Explorers at Green Bean Bash
The Budapest Festival Orchestra as directed and conducted by legendary Maestro Iván Fischer played at Lincoln Center’s David Geffen Hall on Sunday February 5th. This was followed by a Gala dinner Chaired by Sylvia Hemingway and Honorary Chair Ira Soros, along with the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Budapest Festival Orchestra including: Susan Bender, Aaron Feinstein, Kathryn Livingston Forgan, Emese Tardy-Green, Andrew and Heidi Lee Komaromi, Kati Marton, Aniko Ga Stephanie Stokes and David Tobey.

Board Chairman Stephen E. Benko welcomed guests including Consul General Dr. Ferenc Kumin, Ambassador Colleen B: Ambassador Donald Blinken and Vera Blinken, Cece Goldwater, Stanley H. Rumbough, and Gianluigi and Adrienne Vi hear a performance by the orchestra David Allen of The New York Times wrote might be “the best in the world.”

Famous for his unconventional interpretations that play with everything from staging to tempos, conductor Iván Fischer approaches Beethoven like no one else. Fischer and his “consistently glorious” Budapest Festival Orchestra (New York Times) presented Beethoven’s Symphony No.1, Piano Concerto No. 4 and Symphony No. 5. To conclude, Maestro invited 40 students from the Julliard School College, who joined the orchestra while they completed the symphony to add jubilation to the grand finale.
Following the performance, guests including Shea Arender, Michele Busiri-Vici, Stefan Englert, Richard Goode, R. Couri Maryanne Horwath, Cheri Kaufman, Noel V. Lateef, Terez Rowley, Nicholas & Kristina Ratut, Christine Schott & Geo Laine Siklos, Cristina Verger, and Si Zentner, headed to the grand promenade for a cocktail hour and gala dinner.

The Budapest Festival Orchestra is one of the international music scene’s major success stories, being rated among the top ten orchestras in the world. Its key figure and founder is the legendary Music Director/Conductor Iván Fischer.
The inaugural Blue Jacket Fashion Show and Dinner was held Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at Pier 59 Studios during New York Men’s Fashion Week. In partnership with Johnson & Johnson, the Blue Jacket Fashion Show benefited the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF), founded by philanthropist and financier Michael Milken. Money raised will go towards funding cutting-edge research to save, extend and improve the lives of not only prostate cancer patients but other cancer patients as well.

The Blue Jacket Fashion Show brought together the fashion, entertainment, sports, healthcare, and media worlds around a national platform to openly discuss men’s cancer issues, with an emphasis on prostate cancer. Coinciding with February’s Cancer Prevention Month and New York Men’s Fashion Week, the Blue Jacket Fashion Show included designers such as John Varvatos, Nick G Joseph Abboud, Nicole Miller, Rag and Bone, Proper Cloth, Stephen F, Maggie Norris, Gustavo Moscoso, Thom Browne and Haspel who used their creative talents to “reinvent” the traditional blue blazer.
CC Sabathia
Those walking the runway wearing one-of-a-kind blue jackets included models, actors, athletes, members of the media, and business titans. Among those walking were actor **Mario Cantone**, musician and model **Ian Mellencamp**. New York Giants Wide Receiver **Victor Cruz**, TV personality **Carson Kressley**, science educator and host of the forthcoming Netflix series **Bill Nye Saves the World** **Bill Nye**, New York Yankees Pitcher **CC Sabathia**, New York Post’s **Richard Johnson**, model **Alex Lundqvist**, and CNN Anchor **Don Lemon**.

Several of the specially designed jackets modeled during the show will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.
The fashion show was followed by a cocktail reception and a 3-course dinner, featuring seasonal ingredients and Mediterranean dishes, designed by Executive Chef Simone Cucchiara. While guests were enjoying dinner, President and CEO of the Prostate Cancer Foundation, Dr. Jonathan Simons, addressed the attendees and thanked them for making it a memorable first Blue Jacket event. The President and CEO expressed support of prostate cancer research and hoping to see everyone next year, making the Blue Jacket Fashion Show and Dinner an annual event. A silent auction was also held, featuring sought-after sports memorabilia and original artworks, all proceeds benefiting the Prostate Cancer Foundation.
Alessandro Mele and Bonnie Pfeifer Evans
Larry Leeds

Maggie Norris and Nicole Miller
Mario Cantone and Jack Griffo
New York City Ballet's principal dancer Daniel Ulbricht performed a rousing new work set to Benny Goodman's *Sing, Sing, Sing* for Youth America Grand Prix's (YAGP) First Position Club backstage at New York City Center. Ulbricht, a Balanchine dancer who choreographs for Broadway, demonstrated how his artistic vision becomes reality, with his homage to Gene Kelly, alongside Broadway dancer Danielle Diniz.
The standing room only audience included Yanna Avis, Evelyn Lorentzen Bell, Sharon Bush, Susan Cheever, CeeCee Cort, Marjorie Reed Gordon, Kim Granger, Lane Harwell, Judith M. Hoffman, Michele Gerber Klein, Latifa Kosta, Abdul I. Jared Longhitano, Aimee Maroney, Susan Pappajohn, Faith Petrides, Emily Reifel, Irene Shen, and YAGP BoardChair L Morse.
Ulbricht's work was commissioned for YAGP's Tampa Bay Gala and was an New York premiere. YAGP's annual New York Gala, *Stars of Today Meet the Starts of Tomorrow*, will return to Lincoln Center on April 13, 2017.
Daniel Ulbricht and Danielle Diniz
YAGP currently has over 250 alumni dancing in 50 companies around the world including American Theatre Ballet, New York Ballet, Mariinsky, and Stuttgart Ballet. YAGP's mission is to support and develop world-class dancers (ages 9 - 19) of all ethnic backgrounds by providing scholarships, auditions, education, performance opportunities, and by serving as the global network connecting students, teachers, schools, dancers, dance companies and audiences.

Cece Cord and Sharon Bush

Christopher Mason, Natasha Zupan, and Mark Meyer
Emily Reifel and Jared Longhitano

Joel Kaye and Todd Brandt
Evelyn Lorentzen Bell, Emmie Maroney, Mark Fichandler, and Lizanne Merrill
Yana Davis, Jonathan Marder, and Latifa Kosta

Photographs by Patrick McMullan (Blue Jacket & YAGP); Annie Watt (Budapest)