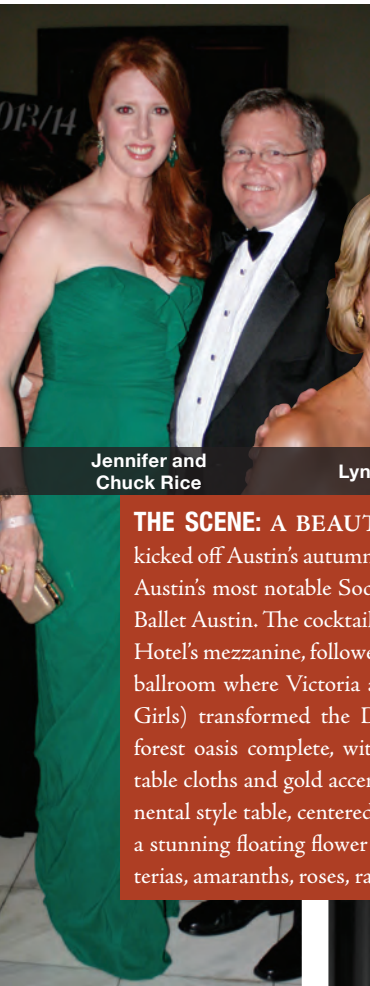


A Magical Dream

Ballet Fête and Fête*ish Kick Off Austin's Fall Social Season In Style With *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* Theme

By Rob Giardinelli Photography By Jen Perez and Tony Spielberg



Jennifer and Chuck Rice

Lynn and Tom Meredith

THE SCENE: A BEAUTIFUL "SUMMER" EVENING kicked off Austin's autumn social season recently as over 200 of Austin's most notable Sociable's mixed it up for a lively cause, Ballet Austin. The cocktail hour began the night in the Driskill Hotel's mezzanine, followed by a magical dinner in the Driskill ballroom where Victoria and Sofia Avila (aka The Mandarin Girls) transformed the Driskill ballroom into an uber-chic forest oasis complete, with acrylic Starck chairs, crisp white table cloths and gold accenting linens, with a 50-person continental style table, centered in the middle of the room, beneath a stunning floating flower canopy of hydrangeas, orchids, wisterias, amaranths, roses, ranunculus and peonies.



Michael and Judy Matula



Sarah and Dr. Ernest Butler



Marla Bommarito-Crouch, Heather and Alex Ladage



Luci Baines-Johnson and Ian Turpin



Victoria and Sofia Avila



Will and Arin Gray, Marion Gillchrist, Danny Hamilton and Paul Hilliard



Nina Seely and Stephen Mills



Otto and Suzy Wheeler



Ray and Jeanne Mashburn



Rob Giardinelli, Carrie and Lee Walker & Lance Avery Morgan



Larry Connelly and James Armstrong



Joel and Teresa Smetzer



THE VIBE: THE BLACK-TIE AFFAIR brought out Austin's culture-loving aficionados, featuring dazzling women in Shakespearean forest-themed ball gowns, with feathers and ruffles galore, and their dashing, tuxedoed escorts channeling their inner James Bond. Dinner guests feasted on a delicious three course meal and commenced with a lively silent auction that featured items ranging including a week's house rental in Provincetown, a Formula One track and party package by My Yacht Club, and "Five Minutes of (Ballet Austin) Fame" as a Mother Ginger during one of the performances for this year's *Nutcracker*. Guests then poured back into the mezzanine for the after party, where they were joined by 150 additional Austin sociable's to dance the night away at Ballet Fete-ish.



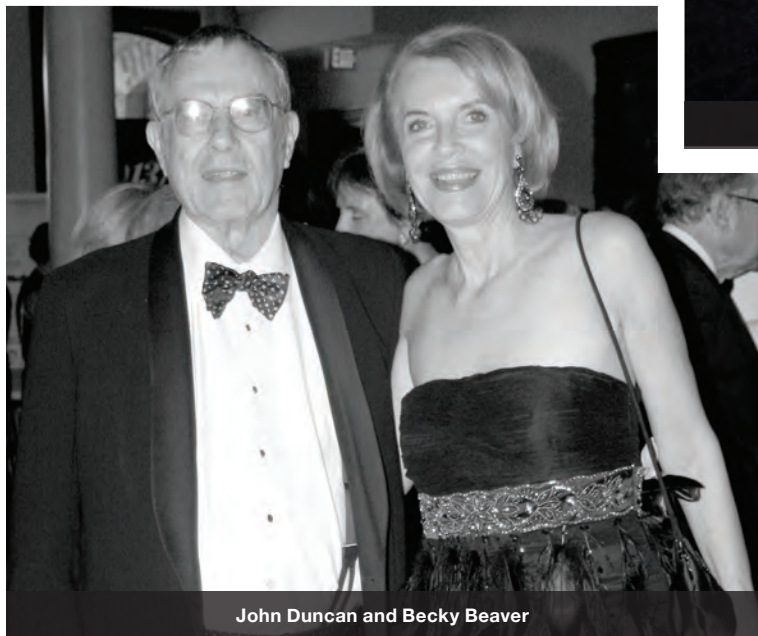
Linda Ball and Forrest Preece



Brian and Christina Toronyi & Renee and Mehrdad Namvar



Christi Cuellar Lotz, Lynn Meredith and Cookie Ruiz



John Duncan and Becky Beaver

