



A SHAKESPEREAN TRIUMPH

Ballet Austin's *Fête* And *fête*ish* Create Storybook Social Season Launch

By Rob Giardinelli | Photography by Merrick Ales and Brian Fitzsimmons

THE SCENE:

The city's new JW Marriott Hotel was the setting for an evening that went to Shakespearian proportions as the Ballet Austin *Fête* and *fête*ish* events kicked off the fall social scene in classic storybook fashion. From escalating the stairs, greeted by a server dressed in Elizabethan-era costume of champagne flutes attached to her dress, to the red Ferrari parked adjacent to the ballroom, guests knew they were in for a special evening.

During the program, guests dined on a delicious four-course meal that had special gothic, Shakespearian touches, while the program and live auction featured speakers as Mayor Steve Adler and Police Chief Art Acevedo. After the conclusion of the live auction where a Mother Ginger appearance was an item, the fun continued well into the evening at the *fête*ish* after party where its *To Be Seen or Not Be Seen* theme perfectly captured the evening's spirit.



Cookie Ruiz



Alejandro and Ana Ruelas



Sarah and John Krause





Michael and Maria Bommarito-Crouch



Jessie Katz & Cassandra and Manuel Polidori



Kate and Hector Perez & Jane and Robert Murray



Chief of Police Art and Tanya Acevedo



Candice Corby, Heather Ladage and Fadya Al- Bakry



Mark Harmon, Chris Hosen, Teddy Carter, Greg Macksood and Caleb Troxclair



THE VIBE:

The “artistic” black-tie crowd allowed for high fashion to be presented in an innovative way, many featuring the best-known Shakespeare colors of red, white and black, perfectly mirrored the many facets and depths of the playwrights work. This could be seen in the many accessories worn by the fashionable crowd ranging from skull and cross bone scarves and cufflinks to elaborate jewels and necklaces, highlighting the energy guests give their attire for the event.



Abby Hendel

Jennene Mashburn and Kathy Taylor



Caleb Campaigne, Jean Prentice Manning and Laura Villagran Johnson



Adam Kirby, Bryan Azar, Roger Gordon and Kevin Smothers



David and Paula Preston



Jeremy Rathke, Orlando Canvova, Megan Shaw and Kate Matthews

THE CAUSE:

The majestic-al evening of Ballet Austin *Fête* chaired by Ana and Alejandro Ruelas and *fête*ish* chaired by Austin Social Planner and *The Society Dairies* contributors Laura Villagran Johnson and Kevin Smothers, raised over \$400,000 for Ballet Austin Programs, providing exceptional artistic programming, arts education and access to the Central Texas community.



Austin Shakespeare fencers



Champagne Server



Forrest Preece and Linda Ball



Nicole Beckley and Gloria Tsai