

Society

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Capital night for movies and shakers

By SHELBY HODGE

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Lucky for **Becca Cason Thrash** that her "wardrobe malfunction" occurred in laid-back Austin just before the Austin Film Society's Texas Film Hall of Fame Awards dinner Friday night and not during her visit to the frightfully chic Academy Awards.

She was able to ditch the designated dress (that turned out to be totally transparent) in favor of jeans, a crisp white shirt and a boatload of emeralds. "I figured the bling would make up for a lot," she laughed. Dress for the star-studded evening at Austin Studios was "Texas cocktail." Becca fit right in with the crowd that included award recipient **Matthew McConaughey**, who dressed decidedly down in jeans, a T-shirt and leather jacket.

On the arm of husband **John Thrash**, Becca served on the committee assisting dinner chair **Carla McDonald** of Austin. Carla and **Jack McDonald** also had partied with the Thrashes in Hollywood.

Joining the Thrashes at their table in the former airline hangar were **Melissa** and **Michael Mithoff**, **Greggory** and **Patrick Burk**, **Laura** and **Greg Casey**, **Neal Hamil**, **Sarah Byrd** and **Lyle Lovett** with fiancée **April Kimble**. At another table, Houstonians **Cindy** and **Jim Thorpe** held forth.

Saturday morning, **Lance Avery Morgan**, publisher of Brilliant magazine, hosted a brunch for 30 VIPs at Austin's Capitol Brasserie.

Full plate

Frosch International Travel major domo **Richard Leibman** and wife **Henia** rolled out the red carpet last week for **Geoffrey Gelardi**, managing director of the Lanesborough Hotel in London. Tony's was the Leibmans' choice for wining and dining the esteemed hotelier who was in town to meet with **Paul Nash**, GM at the St. Regis Hotel. (The Lanesborough is part of the St. Regis family.)

The Leibmans are still beaming over the engagement of their son, Dr. **Neville Leibman**, to **Allison Miller**, daughter of **Toni** and **Gary Miller**. The wedding is set for Dec. 30.

Luncheon coup

Port Commissioner **Elyse Lanier** and **Courtney Lanier Sarofim** are cooing over their success at nabbing University of Texas quarter back **Vince Young** as guest star at the April 11 Houston Chronicle Best Dressed Luncheon and Neiman Marcus Fashion Presentation benefiting the March of Dimes.

Our football hero will be on stage at the Westin Galleria with the luncheon chairs. And if all goes well, he'll be wearing a new suit custom-made for him by Valentino. Neiman's is putting Valentino on the runway for the show and will begin carrying Valentino menswear in the fall.

Building blocks

More than 100 friends and clients turned out at the South Boulevard home of **Jennifer** and **Jeff Shankman** to help architect **Jay Baker** celebrate his firm's 15th anniversary. It was an opportunity for Baker to show off his architectural talents — he designed the Shankman house, which just received an AIA Houston 2006 Design Award.

Guests inspecting the domicile included **Susie** and **Sanford Criner**, **Stephen Fox**, **Naomi Warren**, **Susan** and **David Lummis**, **Karen** and **Mel Payne**, **Ron Gremillion** and **Kathy** and **Karl Killian**.

Eating right

Gracie Cavnar, founder of Recipe for Success, has landed a really big fish for the upcoming series of "We're Cooking Now" benefit dinners. **Lindsey Williams**, grandson of famed Harlem chef **Sylvia Woods** of Sylvia's, will wing to Houston May 18 to cook up a storm in the River Oaks kitchen of Dr. **Yvonne** and **Rufus Cormier**.

Williams has just come off a national tour promoting his book *Neo Soul: Taking Soul Food to a Whole 'Nutha Level*.

Recipe for Success, aimed at battling childhood obesity, is hosting 12 dinners in April and May with grillmaster Mayor **Bill White** and wife **Andrea** kicking off the benefit series in their home April 9. Strip House chef **John Schenk** and the mayor will go head-to-head in a friendly grill-off.

Information on the dinners is available at 713-307-7005.

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