

After a Fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER

PREMIERE CITY: It was too crowded to even see that there was a red carpet; I didn't realize it until I tripped on it, nearly careening headlong into the star of the evening, **Matthew McConaughey**. The cameras were everywhere and there were so many cell phones being waved in the air, it looked like we were appearing in a Verizon ad. Fans came armed with Sharpies and their favorite Matthew ephemera to get a signature – magazine covers, photos, tickets, you name it. My glamorous date **Rita Garza** and I met up with **Katy Hackerman**, **Robert Walker**, and **Blake** and **Lea Buffington** along the way. At one point as we worked through the crowd, some of us held hands like school children in a crosswalk to make sure we didn't get separated. Eventually we did get past the mauling crowd and to our seats, catching up with **Carol Adams**, **Lance Morgan**, and **Taylor Andrews** along the way. The evening was a production of the **Austin Film Society**, and AFS executive director **Rebecca Campbell** introduced UT football coach **Mack Brown**, who in turn, introduced the famous UT fan Mr. McConaughey. City Manager **Toby Futrell** made an appearance and director **Breck Eisner** was in the audience. **Sahara**, a classic escapist action/adventure formula featuring a beautiful woman in danger (**Penélope Cruz**), a handsome hero (McConaughey), and an entertaining sidekick (**Steve Zahn**), was a nonstop romp across Africa with gorgeous cinematography (and the cast is wearing sunglasses from the fab new **Ray-Ban** collection that I viewed during SXSW)... Rita again accompanied me to the premiere of **Sin City** later in the week; it was an even bigger event, with **Robert Rodriguez** in attendance, along with **Frank Miller** (who wrote the stories in *Sin City* and co-directed the movie), model/actress **James King** (credited as **Jaime King**), and **Nick Stahl**. We avoided the crush by arriving earlier. Rodriguez introduced the movie and led a post-show Q&A, and the crowd retired to **Stubb's** for a great afterparty, featuring **Patricia Vonne** and her band. The barbeque was piled high and guests like **Richard Linklater**, **Ethan Hawke**, **Robert LaRoche**, **Carol** and **Chris Adams**, **Louis Black**, **Werner Campbell** and the lovely **Julia**, **Ellen Spiro**, **Margaret Moser**, and **Earl Poole Ball** mingled and jingled.



Robert Rodriguez, aglow at Texas Film Hall of Fame, was the man of the moment at the premiere of *Sin City*.
photo by Bob Sherman

GRACE AND STYLE: So the once-golden **John DeLorean** is dead. I remember when he was a shining silver fox married to the glamorous **Christina Ferrare** and their gorgeous pusses were splattered across every magazine. DeLorean's stainless steel cars were as shiny as he was, and though his venture seemed doomed, he lit a brilliant arc across the sky by trying something so radical. His trial and subsequent acquittal on murky drug charges coincided with the collapse of his company, and he kept a fairly low but dignified profile while mired in lawsuits stemming from his company's bankruptcy. I met him a few times in the mid-Nineties in New York when I was working for a swank Manhattan antiques dealer who was an old friend of DeLorean. One day when I heard he was in the showroom, I had to go up there just to see him. He was still the stylishly dressed, distinguished figure he'd always been. My boss introduced us, telling me I'd be doing some work for Mr. DeLorean. I did a number of things for his Central Park South residence at the Essex – with only two bedrooms (one for him and one for his daughter **Kathryn** when she visited) it must have been a step down for him – but it was in no way shabby. I worked on an incredible Louis XIV bergère for him, removing the magnificent 18th-century chartreuse and burgundy silk that was on it – a sinisterly beautiful fabric figured with devils and other underworld creatures – and replaced it with a sinfully gorgeous buttery yellow silk brocade by **Schumacher** – fabric that had once been awesomely massive drapes from a 19th-century robber baron's estate. In addition, I quilted a bedspread by painstakingly stitching around the intricate design woven into the fabric, and made pillows and bolsters to match. The rest of the fabric was used as luxurious swags on the 18-foot tall remote-controlled sheer drapes. We put as much thought into his daughter's room using a French silk taffeta in pink, embroidered with sprigs of flowers. Throughout the process, I spoke with Mr. DeLorean many times, sometimes about very mundane matters, yet sometimes sharing many telling details – like how deeply he loved his children and the few regrets that he had about his life. I was in awe of his grace, composure, and style and will remember him as the gentleman that he was.

LOVE RIDE: Philanthropist, CEO, and chairman of **John Paul Mitchell Systems**, **John Paul DeJoria**, invites you to join him for the **Peace Love Happiness Ride Thursday**, April 17, with departure time at 11am at **Austin Harley Davidson/Buell**. The event, a benefit for **Austin Children's Shelter** (www.austinchildrenshelter.org) and the **100 Club of Central Texas** (www.100clubcentex.com) will be presaged by a Paul Mitchell cut-a-thon, fashion show, and a showing of **Easy Rider** on Wednesday, April 16. Riders will enjoy a guided scenic tour of Austin and enjoy lunch and concert at **Antone's**. Register with either charity at their Web sites.

After a Fashion

BY STEPHEN MACMILLAN MOSER



Rockin' at the Art Ball: John Roddick of the Andy Roddick Foundation, glamorous arts patron Sara Fox, and Garry Creath of Creath Real Estate.

photo by Stephen Arevalos

AT THE BALLET: This spring's social season seems particularly busy with one thing right after another. We went to the **Women on Their Toes** benefit at the **Hilton** for **Ballet Austin** – a classic ladies' luncheon with a **Cat Swanson** fashion show as entertainment. Austin designer Swanson's bright and soft **Quetzal** collection, recently shown in New York, is her most cohesive collection yet. **My tablemates were Lance Morgan, who knows everyone; Janice Burckhardt** (wife of artist **Marc Burckhardt**, whom we'll tell you about soon); Ballet Austin board members **Forrest Preece** and **Suzanne Lewellyn-Moore; Marcia Purvis** (she accepted the civic service award for her deceased aunt, the philanthropic powerhouse **Roberta Crenshaw**); and fave local celeb **Ron Olivier**. Dropping by the table to visit were board president **Nora Linares-Moeller, Kelly and Pam Fielding of Paper & Ink, and Dianne Nicholas.**

ART BALL: I made my pilgrimage to the **Austin Museum of Art's** annual **Art Ball** at the **Four Seasons**. Year after year, this is such a great party – a live auction of fabulous art including works from **Annie Leibovitz** and **Ed Ruscha**, wonderful, dazzling guests, excellent cause ... who could ask for more? Upon entering, I ran into **Anne Elizabeth Wynn**, who is a luminous beauty and one of the chicest public figures, then visited with my dear friend **Margaret Shaw**. My NBF (new best friend) **Sara Fox** glowed in her silver **Versace**, as did her pal **Leanne Raesener** in **Prada**. At the afterparty, where **Fastball** was playing, I went up to the force that is known as **Deborah Green** to tell her what a fabulous time I had at her pre-Texas Film Hall of Fame party ... and she made me dance. Dear god, I didn't want to dance; I gave that up many dress sizes ago – but she made me. I was trying to make the best of it, but she's a tough babe to keep up with. Everything was fine until my heel slipped off the dance floor, and I landed flat on my back. You

can imagine what a pretty sight that was. But when the gracious Deborah put out her hand to help me, I was transfixed by her **Harry Winston** diamond bracelet, which lured me up off the floor like a spirit in the night. This is a woman who knows how to enjoy her accomplishments. There were a lot of big jewels there: I examined a glittering armload of antique Art Deco diamond bracelets on **Mary Ellen Golden**, who sparkles even without diamonds, and honorable mention goes to whoever the woman was wearing the ruby and diamond breastplate – way to go, babe. We visited with artist **Brad** and **Cindi Ellis** (his art is currently on display at **D Berman Gallery** and at www.bradellisart.com); designer **Jerri Kunz** and partner **John McCullough**; **Chris Wellington** (www.wellingtondesigns.com) of **Lone Star Media** and **John Saba Jr.** of the attorney general's office (together, they are part of the country band **San Saba County**, playing this Friday, April 22 at **Trophy's**, and April 28 at **Beerland**); **Kateri Gemperle** and **Ginger Roddick** of the **Andy Roddick Foundation** (Gasp: Even I can't get invited to the foundation's swank but oh-so-private event next week at the Four Seasons starring **Sir Elton John**, with supermodel **Cindy Crawford** and **Donna Summer** in attendance, benefiting various children's charities.); **Laya** and **Glen Oswald** of the **Oswald Gallery**; artist **Bob Wade** and the effervescent **Lisa**; **Heather Brand** of the **Bob Bullock Museum**; arts patron **Johnny Neill**; and others too fabulous to mention. Even **Michael** and **Susan Dell** drifted past. I gotta say, Susan, you look beautiful and your new hairdresser is so much better than your old one.

UPCOMING: The **UT Fashion Show** is this Friday, April 22 at the Erwin Center – always surprising, always packed, and always free. Thursday, April 28, 6:30-9:30pm, the **Umlauf Sculpture Garden and Museum** (605 Robert E. Lee Rd.) hosts its annual **Garden Party**, with food and drink by many of Austin's best restaurants, silent auction, and the **Nash Hernandez Orchestra**. The highlight of the evening is the **Celebrity Seeds Auction** featuring decorative terra cotta pots donated by Austin personalities including **Dusty Mangum**, **Governor and Mrs. Rick Perry**, **Jimmie Vaughan**, and **Kathy Womack**. Go to www.umlaufulsculpture.org for complete information. Friday, May 6, 6:30pm, is the **Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's 2005 Gala and Silent Art Auction**. In such a wonderful setting, this is one of my favorite annual events. The center also announces their **Gardens on Tour** program beginning Saturday, May 7, a self-paced tour of six exceptional private gardens in Austin. Go to www.wildflower.org for further info.