TEYE MINERALS™

From Air Wick to wingtips

Rita Zekas
Store Gazing

They are striking the celebrity petting zoo.

The Toronto International Film Festival is a wrap and Store Gazing dipped our toes (but not our full torso) into the madness.

Herewith are some random acts of shopping, swagging (the act of accepting freebie merch because you are important or managed to persuade someone you are) and drive-by schmoozing.

The dress code at The One X One charity gala at the Carlu on Sunday night was elegant jeans, a no-brainer since jeans can now cost $300.

One X One is a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting, preserving and improving the lives of children. Newly brunette **Belinda Stronach** introduced keynote speaker **Dr. Jeffrey Sachs**, while flipping her forelock coquettishly. Gentleman may prefer blondes, but she must be betting that voters like brunettes.

Matt Damon, the auction host, and **Brad Pitt**, celeb guest, were the big draws, as advertised in last week's column. Stronach had lunch with Pitt and Damon at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel on Sunday after Pitt's presser for his film *Babel*. Conveniently, it was the same hotel where her good buddy/bubba **Bill Clinton** had his 60th birthday party the night before.

Damon, in a rather nondescript suit, pimped both himself and Pitt in the cause of African relief. A red carpet walk-up with the two actors and *Ocean's Thir-*

have *really* thought she was getting to sleep with Pitt.

Sorry, honey. **Angelina Jolie** already won that brass ring.

We were seated in Siberia, right back at the exit sign. Siberia, hell, we weren't even in the gulag. If we were back any farther, we'd be in the lobby nibbling sandwiches with the 40 guests who didn't have tables.

Ooops. Somebody overbooked.

People with headsets and clipboards kept coming over and clucking over us but they couldn't evict us because we were with reps from the charities like War Child and Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada and they had made us their mascots.

Pitt, **Penelope Cruz** and Damon posed for photos with the hoi polloi. Purely in the interest of journalism, I set out to Table 30 to see exactly how tall Pitt is. I made my way to the fridge-sized security guard, whom I happened to know from festivals past.

Chit chat chit chat chit chat.

"Okay, so where is Brad Pitt?" I finally asked.

"Right in front of you. Your nose is at the back of his jacket."

Oh. He's a nose taller than me.

"He's got a really bad haircut," I opined.

"It's not for me to say," Security Guy said.

Pitt turned around, said hello and sat down to nosh.

He was wearing a black suit, but not as cool as the ones they wore in *Ocean's Twelve*.

Swag Gazing

Hello! eTalk Club House at Roots on Bloor went head to head with the ET Canada StudioLounge on top of Harry Rosen and directly across the street. eTalk appeared to be winning. The hot dog vendors were wearing their tees.

Ashton Kutcher, Kevin Costner, Danny Glover, Tim Robbins, Paul Haggis, Dan Aykroyd and **Donna Dixon,**

LEFT PHOTO: ALINE SANDER; RIGHT PHOTO: LDF IMAGES

Natalie Kovacs, left, in vintage Andy Warhol does Edie Sedgwick printed skirt and mom Betty's shoes; Emma Thompson, above, browses through the racks at TNT.

ABOVE PHOTO: ALINE SANDLER; DRESS PHOTO: TOM SANDLER

Ron Telpner's cool skull boots, left, from Liberty Boot Company, but not as cool as his specially made pink and brown Blahnik wingtips. Man from plaid Christopher Estridge, in a creation from his Ghetto Panda line. Annie Thompson's knock-out Bombay bondage dress, above, right, a standout in the Tastemakers swag lounge.

At eTalk Tastemakers lounge, **Christine Costner** picked up a Nautica watch for hubby Kevin,

from Cupid and Psyche at Tastemaker's was a big hit with **Parker Posey** but **Joan Collins** pre-

Diamond necklace No. 1

➤ **Zekas** from L3

turquoise flowers and brown glass.

Vince Vaughn got a goody bag from the Runway Lounge at Kultura, which included an Autumn Cashmere sweater from Mendocino for putative fiancée **Jennifer Aniston** and some woof woof au foie gras dog biscuits from Bistro & Bakery Thuet to snack on.

Best item: No. 1 with a bullet was the diamond bullet necklace from The Right Hand Gal at the International Trends Lounge, whose mantra is "keep your bullets to yourself, stop hating, stop fighting, stop killing, stop judging, stop prejudice, stop poverty, stop AIDS."

The bullet was snapped up by hottie **John Abraham**, **Sook-Yin Lee** and **Chantal Kreviazuk**. Joan Collins flipped out over the silk makeup brushes from TEYE at the IT, which they ordered for her in bulk. **Catherine O'Hara** is another TEYE convert, ditto **Julie Christie**, who couldn't get enough Fiji water.

Worst swag bag: the goody bag from the *Hello!* party, which included plug-in Air Wick (who knew it still existed?). Zero sweater wash and non frizzies hair stuff. What? No mosquito coils?

"It's like random shoplifting," observed one wag. "A smash and grab at Shoppers."

And the bag cuts into your fingers.

Star wores

Spotted Penelope Cruz on the elevator at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chanel suit and matching slingbacks high enough so she didn't look like a munchkin. Now that she's not dating **Tom Cruise**, she, too, can wear heels. Between her and **Nicole Kidman**, that's a boost in stiletto sales worldwide.

Cruz got a package of clothing from the new Mendocino location at 131 Bloor St. W., which included Earnest Sewn cigarette jeans and Hyde belt.

Emma Thompson shopped TNT Blu and Woman on Friday and carted away everything from a Nigel Preston leather jacket to Rock & Republic jeans. **Lance Bass** and his beau **Reichen Lehmkuhl** shopped Club Monaco.

Show stoppers

Among the standouts at the opening cocktailer at the Rosewater Supper Club was videographer **Natalie Kovacs** in a vintage skirt with a graphic of Edie Sedgwick as interpreted by **Andy Warhol**.

"My neighbour gave me the skirt," Kovacs said. "She was a fashionista and put on weight."

The shoes were vintage **Betty Kovacs**, Natalie's mom.

Artist **Christopher Estridge** was wearing plaid, not an homage to **Alexander McQueen**, but something from his own line, Ghetto Panda.

At the opening night party at Liberty Grand, director **Jerry Ciccoritti** was dapper in a pin-striped suit from Zara and vintage shoes from **John Fluevog**.

The hottest chick at the Citytv Schmooze was Fashion Crimes and Misdemeanours diva, **Pam Chorley**, in a leopard skin sheath of her own design. Her bud **Helen Lovekin** was draped in a black escargot rayon (we don't make this stuff up) slip dress from Fashion Crimes.

At the bar upstairs in **Mary Powers'** martini lounge, we admired the back of a T-shirt worn by actor/director **Shawn Thompson**. Couldn't read the label but it had a skull on it and he bought the tee in New York.

Best accessory of the fest was a *piece de résistance* for the horsey set.

Andrew Bottecchia, production designer for *The Designer Guys*, scored high-cut leather spats at Zara for $59. Put them over your ordinary footwear and Presto! Changeo! and a hi ho Silver and you have riding boots.

Best rumour: that **J. Lo** cancelled her private cocktailer for her film *El Cantante* because they didn't want her "bump" to show.

The one in the front, kiddies, not the back.

Foot notes

Ron Telpner, chairman and chief Idea Officer for the Brain Storm Group, had the best boots in the house, as in Hart House, at the *Hello!* mag party. They featured skulls on the toe and heel and were from Liberty Boot Company.

Telpner is a serious shoe-aholic. "I have the only pair of Blahniks made for a man," he said proudly. "They are pink and brown wingtips."

They were a gift for his 50th birthday. His partners and wife approached Maestro Manolo himself. We grovel at Telpner's feet. **Ron White** has been selling shoes to **John Travolta** and **Michelle Pfeiffer**, here shooting *Hairspray*.

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