

SCV Celebrates 'Under The Big Top'

More than 800 gathered at Universal City to raise funds for Henry Mayo hospital.

By Annemarie Donkin
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Fourteen beautiful Silver Rose Debutantes, dressed in the latest holiday fashions by Margo, smiled, turned and twirled on the catwalk while accompanied by their handsome "chevaliers."

Not to be outdone, some very sexy male models dressed to the nines by J. David's Custom Clothier also strutted their stuff and even came back for an encore. Then, to really make it a show, about 10 stunning models strutted the catwalk in spiky 6-inch heels to show off the hottest 2008 looks and holiday gowns, also by Margo. Some even carried adorable dogs. Mr. Blackwell sat at a table near the stage and gave all of the models the "best dressed" nod of approval.

Between the fashion shows, members of Cirque Berserk performed outrageous feats of athleticism. Rob Cirtes, a 10-foot tall stiltwalker, did backflips after turning his partner, ballerina/puppet Jenn Berry, upside down — over his head. Later, while the models strutted, Berry performed flips and rolls while suspended from the ceiling from nothing more than two red ribbons.

Then, a "Chinese" lion danced and pranced on the catwalk under the direction of his sexy lion tamer, dressed in top hat and very short tails.

Resplendent in a totally gaudy green sequined coat, Ringmaster Ed Masterson cheerfully moderated events, adding (bad) jokes and kissing Moe Hafizi smack on the lips after introducing him as one of the Chevaliers.

Enjoying the spectacle were more than 800 of the top-notch Santa Clarita Valley VIPs, heavy hitters and foundation supporters who gathered on a cool and drizzly Sunday morning at the Sheraton Universal Hotel for the 23rd annual Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital Guild Fashion Show, Luncheon and Boutique with a goal of raising \$75,000 to benefit the hospital's laboratory services.

Opening Ceremonies

Celebrity mistress of ceremonies Lora McLaughlin, a correspondent for CBS Newspath, presided over the festivities. Later, "Cheetah Girl" Sabrina Bryan and Marco Ballas from "Dancing with the Stars" made a special guest appearance onstage.

"The circus is just such a fun theme for a great afternoon of fashion, food, and charity," said Guild fashion event co-chairperson Shelley Hann (Tamara Levine was the other co-chair). Dressed in a stunning gold "gypsy" costume that showed more flesh than costume, Hann got the festivities under way with the welcome. Virginia Hart introduced everyone and Foundation President Diana Vose also addressed the audience.

This was the second year Hann had chaired the Henry Mayo event. A professional non-profit event organizer for the past 18 years, she did what could only be described as an outstanding job with a truly spectacular event.

"I always wanted to do a circus-themed event," she said. "I found Cirque Berserk at the Loose Goose Black Tie Gala and knew they would be perfect for this event."

But Hann gave the real credit to Margo Miller of Margo's and event producer Carin Holmenas.

"The three of us work so well together, we have the same taste," she said. "When we get together, great things happen."

As one of the male models, sporting his signature cigar, Bob Hudson, CEO of Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital, modeled a snappy dark jacket. Other models strutting and prancing were Greg Amsler, owner of Salt Creek Grille; Kyle Crawford, of Santa Clarita Concrete and husband of Jeanna Crawford (a full-time job, according to Masterson); Dr. Marc Lussier, plastic surgeon to the stars; and Stephen Tako, trainer extraordinaire at Fitness Edge Boot Camp.

Accompanied by Ballas, three-year breast cancer survivor Terry Minassian also took a turn in a gorgeous gown by Margo. She looked radiant and was living proof of the value of the state-of-the-art diagnostic tools at the Sheila R. Veloz Breast Imaging Center, where doctors there found her tumor in time to treat her. She is now in remission.

Beauties and the Beasts

The Guild's 2007 Silver Rose Debutantes made quite an appearance, escorted down the runway by their fathers or community leaders serving as chevaliers.

The 2007 Silver Rose Debutante models were Chantalle Barritt, Charlotte Boon, Desiree Gravel, Ashley King, Dominique Picker-Lombardo, Nicole Ryan, Shawnie Wise-Hawkins, Nicole Bergantino, Rachel Cox, Kimberly Hedman, Kiara Price, Stephanie Stein, Jillian Tusso.

Accompanying the lovely debutantes were the equally dashing chevaliers, many of whom were the debutantes' dads.

Dressed in the latest J.David's Custom Clothiers styles were escorts Alan Barbakow, DDS, Jon Berman, Steve Chegwin, Joel Cox, Dell Goodrick, DDS, Moe Hafizi, Jim Hart, Tripp "Robert" Jones, Jeff Levine, Robert McBride, Andrew Papazian, Klaus Price, Jack Shine, Jeff Stein, DDS, William Barritt, Don Boon, David Cox, Scott Cox, Alex Hafizi, Gary Hann, Calvin Hedman, Jay King, Josh Levine, Mr. Roland Pacheco, Howard Pointer, Doug Sedam, Richard Soto and Alan Weyand.