



Clockwise from top left: Ian Leila and Nate Sabine at the Republic 1 Year Anniversary; Mika Grante and Jessica Buxbaum at the Modern opening; Noot Seear and Gil CoGill at Be Bare; Shannon Wilson, Chip Wilson, Hal Gunn, and Richard Jaffray at the Lululemon Flip Flop Soiree; Karolina Turek and Steve Harding at the Republic 1 Year; Tony Heaney at the Modern opening.

OPUS HOTEL HITS THE STREET, THE MODERN OPENS, PENTHOUSE POOL PARTY

BY RAJ TANEJA

07.24.07 SPLISH SPLASH POOL PARTY

On July 24, Citytv's **Dawn Chubai**, power realtor **Grace Kwok** and senior HSBC banker **Ernest Yee** joined friends and colleagues at the city's tallest rooftop pool and sky garden for champagne and canapés. The Amacon Realty-developed property comes attached to a 5800 sq.ft family home and with a price tag just over \$10 million, makes it some of Vancouver's most expensive real estate. Also on site enjoying the food, view, and entertainment, were Amacon's **Rodney Rao**, **Lilliana L.** and **Marcello S. De Cotiis**, **Indira Niberg** and **Tara Davis**, as well as models **Melissa Stefanopoulos** and **David Brooke**.

07.26.07 URBAN MIXER GALLERY SHOWCASE

July 26, Buschlen Mowatt Gallery hosted members of the Urban Mixer for their Gallery Series I and Showcase event, with local groups including **School of Mix**, **Crossfit**, **Chaz Royal's Burlesque**, **Arts Club Theatre** and **Academie Duello** all showing their wares. Caterers extraordinaire **DIVA at the Met** provided an endless supply of delectable canapés, while **Bacardi Flavoured Rums** poured out their signature cocktails. The impressive evening featured swashbuckling from the above-named Duello as well as gift bags worthy of a red carpeted black-tie event. Proceeds from the event were donated to UNICEF's Unite for Children Unite Against AIDS campaign, and in the spirit of notable conduct, two of the attendees, representing **SuperMaid** residential maid services, stayed behind to help clean up.

07.27.07 CAPE TO CAIRO OPUS STREET PARTY

OPUS Hotel hosted their fifth annual VIP Street Party on July 27, highlighting the tastes and sounds of Africa with Juno Award-winning **Alpha Yaya Diallo** and band as well as African drumming and dancing. This year also presented the opportunity for OPUS's **John Evans** to sign and deliver a \$50,000

"INFAMOUS GOT THE TOUR AND AN EXCLUSIVE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE OPUS HOTEL ROOFTOP PATIO, WHICH OPENS IN SUMMER 2008."

cheque to UNICEF's **Alison Lawton** and **Nigel Fisher** in their support of the Unite for Children Unite Against AIDS Campaign. That afternoon, INFAMOUS also got the tour and an exclusive inside scoop on the OPUS Hotel rooftop patio, which opens in the summer of 2008. Revellers at the street party included Global's **Chris Gailus**, **Paul** and **Devina Zalesky**, OPUS Montreal's **Katrina Carroll-Foster**, **Rob Mangat** and TEAM 1040's **David Pratt**. Those who stayed late were lucky enough to catch DJ **Kenneth Thomas**, one of the Detroit area's top DJs, who played OPUS Bar that night.

07.27.07 THE MODERN OPENING WEEKEND

The Modern, which opened its doors the weekend of July 27, was designed with a cutting-edge aesthetic, driven by cutting-edge music, and offers the best cocktails and champagne money can buy. The VIP-only opening event invited scenesters, loyalists, the music-hungry and even Academy Award winners like **Marlee Matlin** to enjoy. Having been under construction since February, the multi-storey masterpiece features one of the crispest sound systems in the city and bottle service featuring ultra-premium brands like **U'Luvka Vodka**. This venue, the seventh in the **Donnelly Hospitality** portfolio, is geared toward exploring the high life with the latest and greatest the West Coast has to offer.

08.09.07 EARLS HOT AUGUST NIGHTS

For Earls at Fir & Broadway, Hot August Nights has been a perennial favourite since 1996. The customer appreciation party, held this year on Aug. 9 in the newly renovated restaurant, had the wait staff dressed in their best whites and serving up Dream Martinis comprising of Van Gogh espresso vodka, Smirnoff vodka, crème de cacao and three espresso beans. Chef **Josh Linde**'s kitchen conjured up delectable mini lamb burgers for the occasion, and organizers (and Earls team members) **Justin Heynick** and **Andy Au** perfected a tropical jungle theme.

REPUBLIC CELEBRATES ONE YEAR IN STYLE, LULULEMON ROCKS THE FLIP FLOP

08.10.07 LULULEMON FLIP FLOP SOIREE

Lululemon, the yoga-inspired athletic apparel company, held their sixth annual Flip Flop Soiree fundraiser in a Shaughnessy backyard on Aug. 10. This year more than 450 people attended and helped raise \$70,000 for InspireHealth, Canada's only government-funded integrated cancer care centre. \$10,000 alone came from **Richard Jaffray** of annual food and drink sponsor Cactus Club, which this year served up plenty of bellinis, pomegranate martinis and canapés to the masked, sequined, and flip-flop-adorned crowd.

08.13.07 REPUBLIC ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY PARTY

On Aug. 13, Republic opened its doors to a surprised VIP contingent, revealing that the downstairs lounge area had been moved upstairs and the DJ booth and dancefloor was now downstairs. The change, which was greeted with free-flowing liquor and a smoldering-hot crowd, marked Republic's one-year anniversary and was widely acknowledged as the coolest thing to have happened in the city that week. To celebrate, liquor sponsors showed with their best — Bacardi and Coke samples featuring the old-school glass Coke bottles, Absolut Pear being poured by the then-contender and front-runner to the Canada's Hottest Girls 2007 contest, **Vicky Mackie**, and a six-foot-tall U'Luvka Vodka ice sculpture acting as a beacon to

the finest samples in the house. On-site, owner **Jeff Donnelly** and partners from other Donnelly Hospitality (DHM) venues, including Bar None's **Mike Shea** and The Modern's **Tony Heaney**, greeted guests and ensured all was going well.

“THE CHANGES TO REPUBLIC WERE GREETED BY A SMOLDERING-HOT CROWD AT A PARTY WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED AS THE HOTTEST THING IN THE CITY THAT WEEK.”

08.15.07 DEUCE RESTAURANT OPENING

Rob Gietl, the proprietor of Capones in Yaletown, opened his second restaurant in the bustling Upper Lonsdale area of North Vancouver on Aug. 15, featuring a delectable menu of treats prepared from chef **Courtney Burnham**'s kitchen. Attendees including Holt Renfrew concierge **Curtis Wong** and Fun Researcher **Ted Schredd** checked out the décor, a sharp contrast to Yaletown's only jazz club, featuring light colours

and a contemporary feel. Restaurateur Gietl is also reported to be shopping for warehouse space where he can again expand the Element Hospitality Group and start up a catering business.

08.16.07 BE BARE

Supermodel **Noot Seear**, the poster girl for Rose Charities, hosted Be Bare: Vancouver's Naughtiest Fashion Auction on Aug. 16 at the Commodore. The evening included musical entertainment and acrobatics, and concluded in a fashion show and live auction. During the auction clothing was literally removed from the model on the catwalk at time of sale. Backstage during event preparations, reporter **Hugo Mousavi** asked Seear at what cost she would remove her top and reveal herself to the crowd. After a moment of shyness, Seear answered \$1 million. Scanning the room, a number of male attendees checked their wallets but came up short. The event, which raised more than \$25,000 from over 750 attendees, benefits Rose Charities, a volunteer-run organization that is working toward relieving poverty and improving health in some of the world's poorest communities.



Clockwise from top left: David Brooke, Melissa Stefanopoulos, Indira Niberg and Tara Davis at the Spish Splash Sky Pool Party; Erica Gibbons, Katy Konyk, Julianne Busby, Melissa Yeaman, Alana Busby and Katy Schroder at Earl's on Broadway/Fir; Jen Mah and Amy Reid at the Opus street party; Angie Parkinson, Rob Gietl, Ted Schredd and Amanda Godin at the Deuce restaurant opening; Chella Levesque and Jay Jones at the Republic 1 Year.