



Clockwise from top left: Burlesque Beauties (also clockwise from left) Miss Roxy, Miss Chi Chi, Miss Victoria, Miss Mia, Miss Kitty Kat and Miss Baby Doll with Madame Manhattan (Olivia Cheng), circus act Milana and Mr. Cat G. Catfish at the Caprice; PK Holmes, Andy Chu and Lisa Ciniglio at Sanafir; Erick Dickstein and Brandon Svarc at dutil. denim; monika deol at Art + Soul Gallery; Savio and Shane Kehoe at Opus.

LINGERIE, LOVE BITES AND ART UP HIGH

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RAJ TANEJA

FRASER@OPUS – THE U.S. AFTER BUSH

Canadian-born **David Frum** — George W. Bush's former speechwriter and foreign affairs advisor to Rudy Giuliani during his short-lived presidential campaign — made an appearance at the OPUS Bar on Tuesday, Jan. 29, to launch his new book, *Comeback: Conservatism That Can Win Again*. The event, part of the Behind the Spin series hosted by the Fraser Institute, attracted more than 120 of Canada's business leaders including senior VPs from Canaccord, ICBC, Ipsos Reid to name a few, and was by far one of the most successful of the events. Frum provided meaningful dialogue and predictions about the possibilities in the upcoming U.S. presidential race, the "axis of evil," as he famously coined it during **George W. Bush's** first term in office, and insight on the religious right's affiliation with the Republican Party.

TUSH LINGERIE FUNDRAISER AT SANAFIR

On Thursday, Feb. 7, **PK Holmes** and his crack team set the stage at Sanafir Restaurant to host a sexy charity fashion show. The \$100-a-head, 130-seat exclusive event — a fundraiser benefitting the **Aboriginal Mother Centre Society** — featured **Tush** undergarments and swimwear by **Roberta Lee Designs** and designer **Roberta Cheema** on 16 models, all strutting their stuff atop the restaurant's bar. With the event sold out and Sanafir bursting at the seams with beautiful people, the mood was heightened by Glowbal Group's gift of canapés and signature cocktails; emcee, musician and funnyman **Rick Baker's** musings; sensuous music; and projected video cast upon the walls of the Granville Street restaurant.

THE LIST AT OPUS BAR FEATURING SHANE KEHOE

On Thursday, Feb. 14, **Shane Kehoe**, Ministry of Sound resident and frontman for the Housexy project, played the OPUS Bar as part of the big-DJ, intimate and invite-only VIP series known as 'the list.' Co-pro-

duced by **Savio** and **Monica Daudet's** Luxe VIP Concierge Service, the event featured cutting house beats throughout the evening starting with Vancouver's own DJ **Rhiannon**. A specially Housexy Valentine's-style room spiced things up for partygoers, some of whom likely ended up enjoying a \$400 room of their own as part of OPUS's Valentine's special — edible chocolate body paint included.

LOVE BITES AT NU

The evening after Valentine's, False Creek restaurant NU tagged and bagged Cupid and reportedly tossed the poor soul off the deck as part of the opening ritual for their Anti-Valentine's singles' party. Sponsored by Grand Marnier and SKYY, chief mixologist **Chad Gaskell** treated attendees to an opening icebreaker in the form of a Black Heart Martini. Following up in unforgettable style, executive chef **Robert Clark** provided tasty love bites (in the form of hors d'oeuvres), while DJ **Myles Bigelow** brought hot house and lounge music suitable to the irreverent atmosphere of the event. As for lovey-dovey couples who tried to enter? With an invite as compelling as "Roses are red, violets are blue, if you think 'love bites,' then this is the party for you," they definitely kept their distance for fear of being pelted with Love Heart candies.

ART UP HIGH AT THE VANCOUVER LOOKOUT

The Armstrong Gallery and Exhibition Centre at the Vancouver Lookout, which gets its name from the distinguished astronaut who inaugurated the Vancouver Lookout at Harbour Centre in 1977, hosted the art opening "Art Up High" on Feb. 15. **Andrew Bainbridge**, aka Red Fox Child, the presenting artist, was in attendance for the event, which featured works by the Ojibway artist and inspirational 360-degree views of the downtown core, North Shore Mountains and the Burrard Inlet. With art at the gallery featuring new works on a monthly basis, Bainbridge's show runs through March 14.

DURING THE 'LOVE BITES' ANTI-VALENTINE'S EVENT AT NU, LOVEY-DOVEY COUPLES KEPT THEIR DISTANCE FOR FEAR OF BEING PELTED WITH LOVE HEART CANDIES.

HOT 'N' SPICY LADIES, CITY OF BHANGRA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RAJ TANEJA

NAKED & FAMOUS PARTY AT DUTIL.

On Friday, Feb. 22, dutil., Vancouver's only denim gallery, located on Cordova near Cambie, held the launch event for Naked & Famous, a jeans line backed by local designer **Brandon Svarc**. The line originates from a prestigious mill in Japan committed to producing only the best (and most expensive) denim in the world. The event, hosted by **Eric Dickstein** and dutil. staff, included plenty of drinks, a little to nibble on, Vancouver's finest denimheads and hipsters and plenty from the Naked & Famous collection to look at. Sadly, no celebrities were undressed in the making of the event.

HOT 'N' SPICY LADIES' NIGHT AT VIBES LOUNGE

Virsar Media, the company known for hosting regular Indo-oriented parties at Azure in the Plaza of Nations, recently relocated to the off-Granville Mynt Lounge on Davie Street. On Saturday, Feb. 23, they hosted Hot 'n' Spicy Ladies' night with two rooms, two rhythms and two vibes, and the hottest U.K. bhangra fusion and Bollywood beats. Punjabi Takeover's **Nick Chowlia**, **DJ Reminisce**, **DJ Lajit** and **DJ Salim** spun their vibes all night as attendees enjoyed a couple of festive beverages and appies thoughtfully provided by the Mynt gang.

GARDEN FRESH COLLECTION AT YOU AND WHOSE ARMY?

A clothing store that sometimes doubles as an art gallery and nightclub, You and Whose Army? recently relocated to the ultra-trendy hub of Gastown on the corner of Richards, Water and Cordova. They blew open their doors Saturday, Feb. 23, to host an art opening and reception featuring the works of **Jeff Denomme**, **Karine Guyom**, **Lauren Javor** and **Peter Ricq**. With DJ and drinks, and lots of art to set eyes upon, the event entertained partygoers, guests and shoppers late into the night.

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL BHANGRA CELEBRATION VIP RECEPTION AT ART+SOUL GALLERY

The City of Bhangra festival kicked off Wednesday, Feb. 27, with an invitation-only opening gala and art exhibition at the Art & Soul Gallery on Robson, featuring South Asian and bhangra-inspired works by six talented artists, keynote speeches and even a bhangra performance. Local bhangra has been getting a boost and has been having its boundaries pushed with the help of the Vancouver International Bhangra Celebration Society, which puts on the City of Bhangra festival and the NEXT Bhangra Competition every year. For the kickoff event, attendees and dignitaries — including MLA **Dave Hayer**, the parliamentary secretary for multiculturalism and immigration — rubbed elbows, enjoyed the exhibit curated by Emily Carr graduate **Ravi Gill**, tasted appies provided by Zin Restaurant, listened to live music performed by Punjabi bhangra singer **Malkit Singh**, and excitedly discussed the festival's upcoming events.

BURLESQUE BEAUTIES: CHIC-A-BOOM ROOM AT CAPRICE

On Thursday, Feb. 28, the six-member **Burlesque Beauties** troupe — recently expanded to include acrobat **Milana**, saxophonist **Mr. Cat G. Catfish** and host Madame Manhattan (played by local actor **Olivia Cheng**) — filled the room with many a lad looking to feast their eyes upon members of the fairer sex. The event, "Chick-A-Boom Room... where anything can happen!" was certainly more than just old-fashioned sex appeal, humour, fun and excitement. The show proved to be the troupe's best production to date, and the spectators were happy to show their praise. Ending on a good note, musical hosts and DJs **Jesse James** and **Tyson V** kept the crowd going well into the late hours.

THE BURLESQUE BEAUTIES FILLED THE ROOM WITH MANY A LAD LOOKING TO FEAST THEIR EYES ... AND IT WAS ALSO THE TROUPE'S BEST PRODUCTION TO DATE.



Clockwise from top left: Todd Evanger and Julia Stahl at dutil.; Daniel Hudon and Amy Nicole Sky; Amalia German and Naz Allahyari at Opus; Malaika Millions and Denis Conroy at Nu; Carlie K and Alex Pina at Opus.