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KEY FEATURE

Tempus Fugit - Time Flies



Dario & Gina at Gran Cena de Gala Benéfica (Finca la Concepción). Photo by: Jonny Gates

By Dario Pofi

Summer's the time when Mother Nature displays her bountiful splendour in all her glory, and so too does the season of charitable galas begin to publicize their individual profiles and raise important funds for worthwhile causes, whilst celebrating their hard work during the year.

Recently at the Puente Romano, I attended "The Butterfly Ball" supporting the Rhys Daniels Trust, a glamorous Charitable Gala, whose Vice Patron is publicist Max Clifford. It seemed as if time had stood still, as it was only a year ago, since I saw Scottish singer Samantha Mairs, perform the English version of "Marbella Marbella" to a delighted audience of British media stars at the Club La Costa supporting the same charity.

I gazed at the many celebrities from the world of TV, entertainment and sports pass before my eyes. Boxer Chris Eubank and Andy Gray of Sky Sports just to mention a couple, as well as a stream of beautiful, elegantly dressed guests, who gave the evening an atmosphere akin to an Oscar ceremony, that was highlighted by the terrific voice of opera singer Steve Lloyd Morgan as his repertoire of romantic Italian songs permeated the warm gentle evening breeze. Throughout the evening there was fun and humorous entertainment, as well as good food and wine. However its purpose was a serious one and the raising of money for the charity played a crucial role. The German lady sitting beside me said that she had never seen such generosity as the mainly British guests vied with one another to bid for the numerous special prizes for charity. Barry Daniels, the father of Rhys Daniels, during his dignified but emotive speech to a silent, respectful audience really affected me.

I wondered how many people it took to organise such a professional and slick event. It must have been about twenty?

Patti Senker, the modest but dedicated organiser told me, that it was only herself and two other helpers, Julie and Nicky in the office plus, of course, Barry Daniels. I was gob-smacked. Patti deserves an honour for herself. Thank you Patti, it was a beautiful evening.

My second Gala event was the animal charity "Triple A" held at Cool Beach which, as a dog lover, I was interested in supporting. On arrival, Senegalese musicians and dancers entertained us as we drank the champagne, but the best was the cabaret presented by three English opera singers Tres Divos who really did us proud with a sparkling performance of musical renditions in Italian, English and Spanish from opera, musicals and the world of popular music. We enjoyed the evening, knowing that the charity raised funds for the animals whose needs have become greater due to the financial crisis.

On the 18th July, the Rotary Club of Marbella held their Gran Cena De Gala Benefica 2009 at the beautiful setting of Finca de la Concepción. It was a truly elegant evening organised by their newly elected President, the popular Kristina Szekeley, attended by a glittering array of about 400 guests and Rotary members. There was a proud moment for me, when the dynamic Yanela Brooks sang our song "Marbella Marbella" in Spanish and I was invited on stage to take a bow to tumultuous applause, as the people of Marbella seem to have taken this song to their hearts.

Last, but not least, I am looking forward to attending the Concordia Gala and meeting Princess Marie Louise of Prussia, the President and great campaigner of the Aids Charity. I am honoured to have a painting I created on the subject of Aids included in this year's annual Concordia magazine.