

HEARD & SCENE

Celebrating Showmen of Several Stripes at City Galas



FROM LEFT: CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN; DONNA WIND/KITTY IMAGES



Anthony Anderson does a split on stage during the Alvin Ailey gala, left. Actress Cicely Tyson and designer B Michael, above.



DAVE ALLOCCA/STARTRK

Dick Cavett, Barry Avrich and Harvey Weinstein, above, at a launch party for 'Moguls, Monsters and Madmen,' Mr. Avrich's new book. Sharon Jones and Peter Shapiro, below, at BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival opening night gala.



DAVID ANDRAGO

The trick to a great party often just comes down to having a great showman at its center.

Cicely Tyson, Phylicia Rashad, Lion Babe, Jessica Williams and Bob Kraft were



MARSHALL HEYMAN

some of the guests who attended the Alvin Ailey Spirit Gala, which kicked off the company's spring season. But it was Anthony Anderson, the star of "Black-ish," who really took the bull by the horns.

Wearing a black suit and red bedazzled sneakers, after the program's intermission,

he performed splits that rivaled Jane Krakowski's in the current Broadway production of "She Loves Me."

The Canadian documentary filmmaker Barry Avrich knows his showmen, too. He's made a ton of documentaries about them, including one on the disgraced theater producer Garth Drabinsky; the Hollywood agent and exec Lew Wasserman; and "Unauthorized: The Harvey Weinstein Project." He is currently working on a film about the art world and another about the Bronfman family.

"I'm prolific," Mr. Avrich said. "I sleep four hours a night, from two to six."

Though Messrs. Avrich

and Weinstein didn't necessarily see eye to eye, it was Mr. Weinstein who threw Mr. Avrich a party at the Rose Bar at the Gramercy Park Hotel for "Moguls, Monsters and Madmen," a new book that chronicles his experiences making the aforementioned showbiz movies and more. He wrote it over two years, on various airplane rides, on his BlackBerry.

Mr. Avrich described a "monster" as someone who will kill to get what he wants "and will stab you in the back." A mogul, on the other hand, "will stab you in the front."

"I don't think you can succeed in show business without a percentage of mon-

ster," Mr. Avrich explained.

So what part monster is he? "That's the best question ever asked. If you're looking for a percentage, I'd say 25%. But I'm a monster with a conscious."

As the founder of the Brooklyn Bowl, Peter Shapiro is a kind of mogul himself, even if he doesn't consider himself one.

"I wouldn't use that word," he said. "I try not to think too much about what I'm doing. I just try to focus on doing it."

This week, he was recognized for his contributions to the Brooklyn music scene at the BRIC Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival opening night gala, which featured a free perfor-

mance by Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings. Among those paying their respects were longtime music promoter Ron Delsener, who will be receiving the Manhattan version of this honor later this month at the City Parks Foundation gala concert and

dinner at SummerStage.

Mr. Shapiro, 43 years old, took over the since-shuttered Wetlands venue in 1996 and has been in the business for 20 years. "You can hear it in my voice," he said. "I felt it was OK to accept the honor."