

## FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

RSVP 'Yes' to these upcoming charity events

BY BENJAMIN-EMILE LE HAY

On any given evening, some of the nearly 38,000 registered nonprofits in New York City—sometimes it feels like all of them—stage benefit dinner-dances, concerts, auctions, art shows, poetry readings, theater performances and even nude revues (cheeky James Franco recently flashed his ass at the Broadway Bares event to raise a few bucks to fight AIDS). With the battle for your donation (and attendance) brutal, the *Observer* sorted through our mounting pile of invites to save you the chore.

### THE FRENCH HERITAGE SOCIETY'S FALL GALA DINNER DANCE

The fête of the season. The Pierre Hotel  
Monday, November 10

The French Heritage Society, which promotes French architectural culture, honors Hermès International and interior designer Timothy Corrigan. Grouse about those vulgar Americans in flyover country with Ambassador to the U.S. Gérard Araud and try out your n-disco moves with expected guests Elizabeth Stribling, CeCe Black and Jean Shafiroff.

Tickets start at \$300 for guests under 39 and \$1,000 for everybody else who's honest.  
(212) 759-6846 / frenchheritagesociety.org

### LINCOLN CENTER GALA

A fashion icon takes a bow.  
Alice Tully Hall  
Thursday, November 13

The Lincoln Center Corporate Fund presents Stella McCartney with a Women's Leadership Award. Meryl Streep, Madonna, Charlize Theron and Sir Paul are likely to attend and will be entertained by a conversation between the fashion designer and Jerry Seinfeld (reminder, Jer, leave the puffy shirt at home).

Tickets for the conversation are \$200; available tickets for the gala cost \$5,000.  
(212) 875-5467 / lccorporatefund.org

### AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY GALA

A whale of a time in the Whale Room.  
Thursday, November 20

Cocktails flow early in the Theodore Roosevelt Rotunda—bully!—followed by dinner and a live auction (suggestion for AMNH: bidders would pay dearly for a date with out-of-this-world Neil deGrasse Tyson) in the Milstein Family Hall of Ocean Life. The annual event, which supports the museum's educational and scientific programming, always draws a star-studded crowd; Meg Ryan, Baz Luhrmann and Kyle MacLachlan attended last year. This year, Tina Fey will serve as emcee and Bruno Mars entertains.

Tickets are \$1,500 and up. (212) 769-5932



Tina Fey.



James Earl Jones.



Joan Weill.



Stella McCartney.



Daniel Boulud.

### ALVIN AILEY OPENING NIGHT GALA BENEFIT

Give dancers a leg up.  
Performance at New York City Center, dinner at the Hilton Times Square.

Wednesday, December 3

Bravo, Joan Weill. The dance company's longtime board chairman recently announced her retirement so this year's soiree should be bigger than ever. The evening starts with the premiere of Hofesh Schect'er's *Uprising* and Robert Battle's *Unfold*, starring opera star Angela Gheorghiu, followed by dinner and dancing at the Hilton. Aside from Ms. Weill and her husband, Sandy (who is offering to match gifts of \$100,000 or more), look out for cameos by Kathryn and Kenneth Chenault, Taye Diggs, Marcus Samuelsson and Jessye Norman.

Tickets range from \$500-\$5,000.  
(212) 405-9000/alvinailey.org

### ACRIA ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER

Picture this: A cure for AIDS  
Skylight Modern

537 West 27th Street

Wednesday, December 10

ACRIA, a foundation battling HIV and AIDS, will pay tribute to Larry Kramer and photographer Bruce Weinstock at its annual holiday dinner, a who's who of the gay, downtown and East End art world. Score some underpriced Contemporary works at the silent and live auctions, but be prepared to bid against the likes of Ross Bleckner, Gabby Karan DeFelice and Ariel Foxman. Don't fret if your bid falls short; Tiffany provides swag bags so no one goes home empty-handed.

Tickets start at \$1,000.  
(212) 924-3934/acria.org

### THE METROPOLITAN OPERA'S NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA

Help the Met's fund-raisers hit a high note.  
Lincoln Center

Wednesday, December 31

No need to suffer through a glorified wedding band playing "Auld Lang Syne." The opera company will present Franz Lehár's *The Merry Widow*—a favorite of Upper East Side wives. Renée Fleming stars, frequent Tony Award winner Susan Stroman directs and Kelli O'Hara makes her Met debut as Valencienne. Guests then enjoy a dinner-dance.

Tickets for *The Merry Widow* start at \$42.  
Tickets to the performance and gala begin at \$2,500.  
(212) 362-6000/specialevents@metopera.org

## 2015

### YMA FASHION SCHOLARSHIP FUND GALA

School the next generation of designers.  
Waldorf-Astoria

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

Rub strapless shoulders with Mary Alice Stephenson, Diane Von Furstenberg, Glenda Bailey, and a bevy of fashion executives as they pay homage to Isabel and Ruben Toledo, legendary interior designer Iris Apfel, Levi Strauss CEO Chip Bergh and Men's Wearhouse president Douglas Ewert. The party, according to YMA's website, pays for scholarships for "gifted and enterprising young people" who nevertheless want to enter the fashion industry.

Tickets cost \$2,000 each.  
(212) 278-0008/ymaff.org

### WINTER ANTIQUES SHOW OPENING NIGHT PARTY

Shop for tchotchkes while aiding your neighbors.  
Park Avenue Armory  
67th Street & Park Avenue

Thursday, January 22, 2015

Board president Arie L. Kopelman and likely guests, Michael Bloomberg, Martha Stewart and Bunny Williams stop by for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and arts décoratifs. But the real winner will be East Side House Settlement, a social service agency, which should receive a hefty check from the fund-raiser.

Tickets start at \$300.  
(718) 665-5532/winterantiquesshow.com

### THE DRAMA LEAGUE 31ST ANNUAL GALA

A Standing O for James Earl Jones.  
The Pierre Hotel

Monday, February 2, 2015

Hollywood meets Broadway at the Drama League's black-tie gala. The highlight of the evening will be a musical revue drawn from honoree James Earl Jones' career in theater, film and television. Likely guests Judith Light, Jefferson Mays, Billy Porter and Tyne Daly will act glad to see you.

Tickets start at \$750.  
dramaleague.org/events/gala

### NEW YORK PHILHARMONIC CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Help an orchestra conduct business.  
Avery Fisher Hall

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

To celebrate the year of the sheep, acclaimed conductor Long Yu will lead the orchestra featuring Yo-Yo Ma. The guest list for the recital will likely include: Angela Chen, Karen LeFrak, Steven Rockefeller and China's Consul General Sun Guoxiang, (who will no doubt be on hand for crowd control—applaud!).

Tickets for the concert cost \$55.00-\$145.00. Gala tickets start at \$1500. nyphil.org

### THE NIGHT OF TOO MANY STARS

Comedians get serious to fight autism.  
Beacon Theater followed by after-party  
at Museum of Natural History.

Saturday, February 28, 2015

Some people apparently die from fits of laughter. Perhaps that's why the producers of *The Night of Too Many Stars* schedule the star-studded comedy extravaganza—benefitting New York Collaborates for Autism—only every other year. Jon Stewart hosts and co-produces the event. Past performers have included Jimmy Fallon, Mike Myers, Sarah Silverman, Chris Rock and laugh riot Harvey Keitel.

Tickets for the concert cost \$125 and up and will be available later this year through Ticketmaster; VIP Benefit tickets begin at \$1,500 per person.

Email [nighttoomanystars@eventassociatesinc.com](mailto:nighttoomanystars@eventassociatesinc.com) for further information. nyc4a.org

### DANIEL

Cheers to the do-gooding gourmands.  
60 East 65th Street

Sunday, March 8, 2015

Chefs Daniel Boulud and Pierre Gagnaire, owner of a renowned eponymous restaurant in Paris, share cooking duties at Citymeals-on-Wheels' famed Sunday supper. Loosen the belt and book a post-feast session with your personal trainer because you will chow down—dessert, too. Last year's event, "burgundy, black truffles & blue jeans," drew Drew Nieporent, Suri Kasirer, Anne and Joseph Cohen and Al Roker, and raised enough to prepare and deliver nearly 130,000 meals to hungry (no, not ambitious) New Yorkers.

Individual tickets are \$1,400; gourmand tickets, which include a pre-dinner kitchen tour, cost \$2,500.  
(212) 687-1290

FRANZ LEHAR: GUY LAWRENCE; ALVIN AILEY: GUY LAWRENCE; MICHELLE KOPPEL: GUY LAWRENCE; ASTRID STAWARZ; GUY LAWRENCE; JAMES EARL JONES: GUY LAWRENCE; EMILIANE LONDI: GUY LAWRENCE; TINA FEY: GUY LAWRENCE; JOAN WEILL: GUY LAWRENCE; STELLA MCCARTNEY: GUY LAWRENCE; DANIEL BOULUD: GUY LAWRENCE