

frocktails

Glam not gloom on Sat 1st May 2010

A night in your favourite fantasy! Dreams will come true when Auckland's Relais & Chateaux hotel, Mollies, employs the magic of design to fashion six worlds in one evening – and all in a good cause. World Vision will benefit from Mollies' World of Dreams on Saturday 1st May, as some of the hottest names in fashion, style and interior design employ music, makeup, lighting, couture, coiffure and cocktails to conjure up worlds we might like to live in, but never have the chance.

The gardens, suites and lounges of Mollies will surrender themselves to six incarnations: opera, jazz, glunge, 1930s, gentlemen's club, and disco bling. Into these forms will be injected the arts of Sera Lilly, Stitch Ministry, Kingan Jones, Adrian Hailwood, Trove Design, Sharondelier, TCD and Republic. Samala Robinson Academy, Visage and Dan Ahwa will be styling and providing makeup artistry and models. Live music will serenade the sensual, while top DJs in one area will contrast with old world vinyl ambience, cigars and sports in another. Mollies staff, suitably attired, will waft through the worlds with morsels and drinks all evening.

"Discerning the most compelling fantasies has taken all our experience as confidential hoteliers," hints Mollies general manager Joanna Bourke. "There are men who really see themselves back in the era of the gentlemen's club, and many young ones who simply have not had the opportunity. We are including that in our suite of dreams. The Grand Circle lounge will celebrate the art of opera, for which Mollies is famous internationally, and glamour meets grunge in our Fashion Off lounge. Bling's the thing at SNF (it is a Saturday!) where disco dudes of any age can dance back to the future. If the 'speakeasy' era of torch songs and jazz is your fantasy, dress for your dream and come to the jazz terrace or the Peacock Lounge at Mollies."

The artistic context of the "bijou" hotel is perfect as a canvas for creativity, with some of the most talked-about designers in the city working with Mollies to materialise the fantasy worlds.

The theme of a world we dream to live in serves as a reminder that the setting we find ourselves occupying in real life is often not what we choose. The serious side of the gloom-busting evening is the contribution of most of the \$150 ticket price to World Vision microfinance projects. World Vision director Van Henderson says the relief organisation focuses its effort on enabling the world's poorest people to lift out of poverty, improving children's quality of life. Much of the money raised by the Mollies' evening will support "community banking" projects that have been very successful in Cambodia, and are expanding in the Asia-Orient region. "They don't just give aid. They lend money at low interest to individuals and small businesses, which meet qualifying criteria, but often do not have the collateral demanded by banks. By investing in creative entrepreneurs we kick-start the economic engine in struggling communities. Every loan improves the lives of 13 people and the payback record is impressive - 98 percent of loans are repaid before time, even in the current economic climate," says Van Henderson.

Tickets to the new May 2010 event are being limited, to ensure not too many escapees from reality occupy any one world at once, says Joanna Bourke. "It's about becoming who or what you wish you were, or can become. We encourage those with a different vision of their world to dress the part and drift through their dreams of Mollies."

Take advantage of our early bird ticket prices and join our Early Bird mailing list.