

HEARD & SCENE

Raising a Glass, Knocking Down Pins

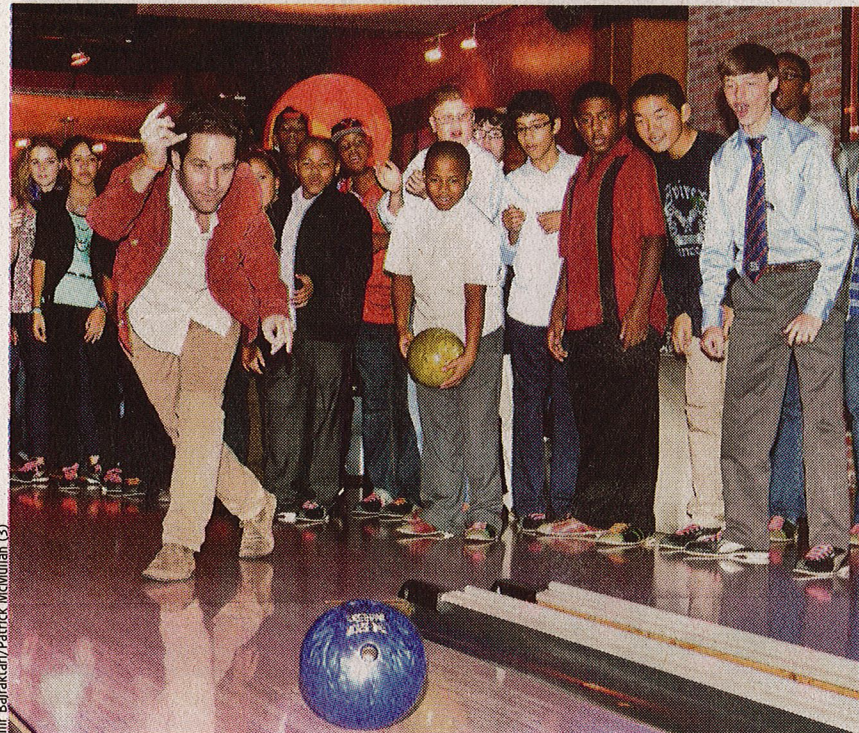
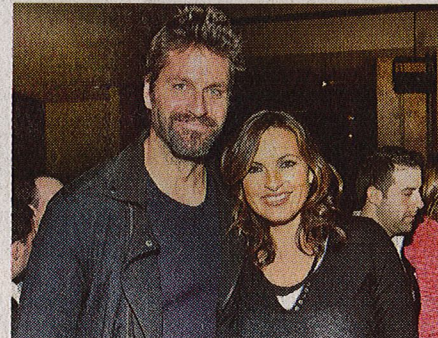
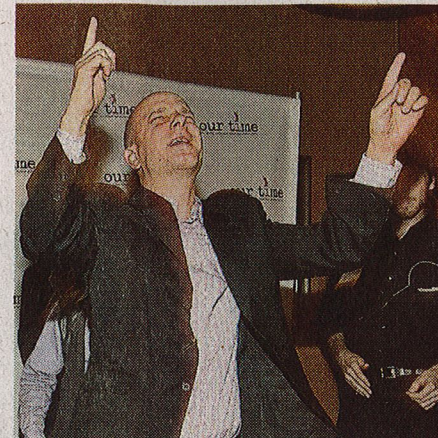


Illustration: Patrick McMullan (3)

Paul Rudd, above, hosted a bowling benefit for the nonprofit Our Time. In attendance were Our Time founder Taro Alexander, top right, and Peter Hermann and Mariska Hargitay, right.



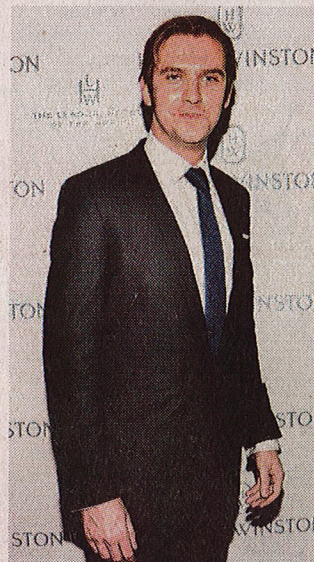
BY MARSHALL HEYMAN



The celebrities who perform in New York theaters have Monday evenings off, which means they have the opportunity to glam up a few events around town.

This week, *Leading Hotels of the World* and the jeweler Harry Winston hosted a dinner at Ai Fiori, the restaurant at the Setai, in honor of Jessica Chastain and the cast of "The Heiress," currently on the boards at the Walter Kerr.

The play, based on the novel "Washington Square" by Henry James, takes place in the 19th century. It features the plain, shy and somewhat dull Catherine Sloper (played by Ms. Chastain in the current stage revival) being pursued by Morris Townsend (Dan Stevens, of "Downton Abbey"), only to have her father step between them for fear that Townsend is only interested in his daughter's money.



totally true: They almost always want something.

There are no major jewelry moments in "The Heiress"—though Catherine does buy Morris some ruby studs while on a trip to Paris—and Harry Winston didn't even exist until the 1930s, but Ms. Chastain is



At Ai Fiori, Dan Stevens (left), Nina Arianda and Jessica Chastain (above) were on hand to honor "The Heiress," in which Ms. Chastain stars.

wig, to make her character appear more dowdy. (As her plus one, she brought her grandmother, in town from Northern California.)

"What's so astounding is she turns down all these movie roles to do Broadway," said Paula Wagner, a former pro-

ducer. "Our actors are talented, beautiful and smart. I love the theater. It's where I got my start," said Ms. Wagner, who was at Ai Fiori with her husband, Rick Nicita.

Frederic de Narp, Harry Winston's CEO, raised a glass to Ms. Chastain, who was sit-

tablemates, including the singers Patti Smith and Debbie Harry, as well as last year's Tony winner for "Venus in Fur," Nina Arianda.

"At home I eat vegetables and water and air," said Ms. Arianda, as she dug into her butter-poached lobster tail. "I could eat 13 more of these, but that would be tacky."

The action was a little less glamorous over at the Lucky Strike bowling alley, where Mr. Rudd, in plainclothes on his night off from "Grace," was hosting the first annual Paul Rudd All-Star Bowling Event to benefit Our Time, a nonprofit founded in 2001 for children with stuttering problems. Mr. Rudd became involved—and joined the board—when he was starring in "Three Days of Rain" several years ago on Broadway. He played a character with stuttering issues.

"The play ended and I stayed involved," said Mr. Rudd.

To start off the party, Taro Alexander, the founder of Our Time, did what he calls "Hype." He arranged the kids and the actors in attendance, including Rachel Dratch, Fisher Stevens, Amy Ryan, Alexander Ludwig of "The Hunger Games" and Mariska Hargitay, in a circle. A musician accompanied them on a bongo drum, and Mr. Alexander began to chant: "When I say Our Time, you say 'Bout Time.'"

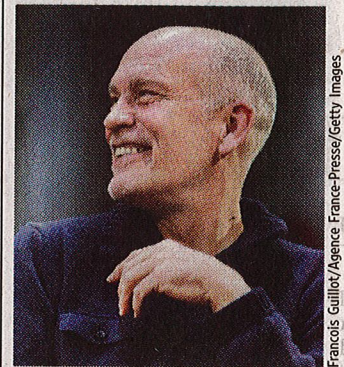
"Tonight, with all this love, are we going to knock some pins down?" asked Mr. Alexander, who has stuttered since he was 5 years old. There were many cheers in response.

"Bowling is a great way to have the kids be co-captains with the celebrities," Mr. Alexander added. Each would be given their own lane. "This night is about fundraising, but it's also a big confidence booster."

"If I remember correctly, bowling is one of the dirtiest things you can do," Mr. Rudd said. "One important piece of information: There are hand sanitizers everywhere."

Mr. Rudd explained that he's "not particularly" good at bowling. "I'm OK. I'm not bad. But the bowling was second-

SPEAKEASY



John Malkovich

Staging Splinters Of Pinter

BY BARBARA CHAI

John Malkovich has performed in and directed numerous plays written by his old friend, the late Harold Pinter. Now, together with another close friend, actor Julian Sands, he has turned his appreciation into a stage show.

To celebrate the work of Pinter, who died in 2008 at age 78, Messrs. Sands and Malkovich conceived a one-man play, "A Celebration of Harold Pinter," in which Mr. Sands shares stories about the Nobel Prize-winning playwright based on his poems and prose.

"John has a very keen ear for Harold's language," Mr. Sands said of Mr. Malkovich's direction. "In some ways, John is there in lieu of Harold, helping me become the delivery system for the Pinter experience."

Mr. Malkovich also spoke with *The Wall Street Journal* about mounting "A Celebration of Harold Pinter," which opened last week at the Irish Repertory Theatre and was extended on Monday through Nov. 25.

How did the idea for this play come about?

Julius is one of my oldest friends and I'm a godfather to one of his children. When Harold Pinter was stricken with terrible cancer, he had had a date to read his poems at a church in London, which he