



MARTINA O'DONOGHUE

UNCORKED!



Donna Lyons, Gerald Kean and Jennifer Lyons from Mallow enjoying at the RSVP Fashion Awards 2008 at the Radisson SAS Hotel. Picture: Miki Barlok



Paul Ring, hair stylist, and Vicky Shorten, Power Media, with Carol Burke and Sarah Horgan, Sorrento Beauty, at the RSVP Fashion Awards at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Little Island, Cork. Picture: Gerard McCarthy



Deirdre Waldron, Doreen O'Mahony and Mary Quille, Fuzion Communications, at the fashion awards. Picture: Miki Barlok



Trish Mullins, TV3 presenter Alan Hughes and Siobhan Walsh enjoying the fashion awards night at the Radisson SAS, Little Island. Picture: Stefan Syrowatka

RSVP for a very

THE people behind RSVP magazine certainly know how to throw a party!

The magazine has expanded from its Cork origins to first Munster and then nationwide in the three years of its existence. Like their achievements, their parties seem to get bigger and better each time too.

For the second annual RSVP Fashion Awards, the entire Radisson SAS Hotel in Little Island was taken over by publishers Progressive News and Media and their 500 guests.

A choir sung and flashbulbs went into overtime as national and local celebrities made their arrival on the red carpet. Guests mingled and enjoyed the champagne reception and atmosphere, enhanced by the music of Oceans Five.

It was there I met the Radisson's Colette O'Callaghan chatting with businesswoman Colette Duggan, while I also bumped into Vikki Shorten and Rebecca McCauley of Power Media with Philip Bourke from RedFM.

Olive Roberts, director of sales and marketing at Castlemartyr's Capella Hotel, looked lovely in plum. She was accompanied by her husband Nick Smith of Progressive News and Media.

Others from the publishing company included sales executive Linda Kennedy, wearing a floor-length brown gown; marketing director Kevin Sanquest; social diarist Olivia O'Sullivan and editor Paula Lenihan, who was

there with her husband, 96FM's Neil Prendeville.

Marion Creedon Hegarty of Top Image was looking stunning in a red gown. She was accompanied by her husband Cormac Hegarty and friends Helen Hogan and Rosari Lenihan.

There was a large contingent of Dublin-based socialites present, including former TV presenter Louise Loughman with her husband Stephen Byrne; model Pippa O'Connor with her boyfriend, RTE presenter Brian Ormond; RTE presenter Emma O'Driscoll with her boyfriend, Liam Cronin; TV3 presenters Sinead Desmond and Colette Fitzpatrick; journalist Barry Egan; model and PR woman Astrid Brennan and Ann-Marie Nohl, proprietor of the Expresso Bar and Grill in Ballsbridge.

From around the country came Carol Kennelly from Kerry's Fels Point Hotel, Limerick's model agency boss Celia Holman Lee and Laura Ryan, a former TV3 reporter who is now the co-ordination officer for Limerick City.

Representing Cork in the glamour stakes were the Lockdown Models crew who had a table at the event.

Agency boss Vivienne Kelly looked stunning in blue satin alongside her business partner Emer O'Sullivan in a complementing aqua green dress, while they both wore eye-catching pieces specially made by Gemini Jewellery to match their dresses.

The girls were joined by Emer's sister

Aisling O'Sullivan, who was wearing a bright yellow gown designed by up-and-coming designer Aidan Sheehan. Also at their table was model Sarah O'Connell, Miss Tipperary Shannon Forrest with her mother Sheila and Pamela Morrissey from Sobe Brown hair salon, who styled the night's Best Dressed Woman award winner, Claudine Palmer, who looked gorgeous in gold. Pamela, a new mum to baby Rachel, who is only 26 days old, was also joined by Sobe Brown hairstylist Christine Kelleher.

Cork model Samina Zia was also flying the flag for the Rebel county, dressed in a chic, understated Peter O'Brien dress. She was joined by her friend Yvonne McNamara and seated alongside Best Dressed Man nominee Derrick Carbery, a make-up artist.

Also at their table was fashion designer Virginia Macari who might well have won a prize for the most unusual dress of the night.

I was delighted to be seated with Tracy Cronin, proprietor of Anna boutique, and her colleague Michelle Redmond, while we were later joined by their friend, the bubbly Jessica McCarthy.

I was introduced to Adrian Bartels, general manager at Ardmore's Cliff House Hotel, who was accompanied by his stunning wife Catherine, while also at our table was gourmet guru Andrew Rudd of the Andrew Rudd Food Group.

Later, I was delighted to share time on



Sarah O'Connell and Vivienne Kelly, Lockdown Models, at the RSVP Fashion Awards 2008.

Picture: Miki Barlok



Teresa Maher from Tipperary and Brenda Hallihan from Macroom at the RSVP awards night.

Picture: Miki Barlok



Lisa Murphy and Ann-Marie Nohl turn on the style for the awards night.

Picture: Stefan Syrowatka

glamorous night

the dance-floor with Assumpta Gaffney, who was there with her husband John, while I also met Christy O'Sullivan of Christy's Wines and Spirits, there with his wife Ann.

Trudi Hickey from AquaSpa enjoyed the night with Gillian O'Sullivan and Sheena McCarthy, while Fuzion Communications was represented by Greg Canty, Deirdre Waldron and Doreen O'Mahony. Also spotted were Fine Gael TD Simon Coveney and his stylish wife Ruth Ferney.

I was introduced to Kathy Littler, producer of RTE's *The Afternoon Show*, while I also met Orlagh Winters from Pendrix Display with her partner Conor Savage. Orlagh told me she had just styled the home of Gerald Kean for the Christmas edition of *RSVP* in which he'll appear in a photo-shoot with his partner, Lisa Murphy. Gerald and Lisa went away with the gong for Best

Dressed Couple on the night, while the Best Dressed Man accolade went to restaurateur and chef Lee Bradshaw.

Louis Copeland in Dublin was named the Best Men's Store, while Beth in Cork was named Best Ladies Boutique, with proprietor Beth Houghton collecting her prize in a short gold shimmering dress. The Best Fashion Designer category was won by Joanne Hynes who was wearing a dress she will be featuring in next season's collection.

The slick awards show was presented by TV3's Alan Hughes and Debbie O'Donnell, while *RSVP* publisher Michael Mulcahy also took to the podium to say a few words. He told us there were two new publications to look forward to with *RSVP Home* and *RSVP Vows* to be launched soon, followed by *RSVP Man* next February. He also paid tribute to *RSVP* editor Paula Lenihan, noting her style, charisma and dedica-

tion to excellence.

While there was no shortage of glamour on the night, there was also no shortage of entertainment, with The Swing Kings creating a great atmosphere during the gala dinner and The Groove Orchestra enticing us all onto the dance-floor afterwards.

The party continued into the wee hours of the morning but there was more to look forward to the next day as the publishers hosted an exhibition of the Sybil Connolly Collection on loan from Limerick's Hunt museum.

While the glitzy awards bash had celebrated Ireland's more recent style icons, the exhibition served to recognise a pioneering Irish designer whose work has undoubtedly inspired many of today's fashionistas.

● To contact me with a view to covering a forthcoming social event please e-mail martina.odonoghue@echo.ie.



Liam Cronin and TV presenter Emma O'Driscoll at the Radisson SAS, Little Island.

Picture: Stefan Syrowatka



Vicky and Karen Galvin from Origin Hair Design, Cork, at the RSVP Fashion Awards.

Picture: Gerard McCarthy