

NEW YORK OBSERVER

SHINDIGGER



Sharon Needles (center) at her Liberty Theater bash, "Night of the Living Drag."



Deborah Norville, Karl Wallner and Ann Dexter Jones.



Katie Holmes, Taya Diggs and Lizzo Tisch at The 2014 Skin Cancer Foundation Gala.



Sofia Vergara sashays at Gabrielle's Angel Foundation Hosts Angel Ball.

HALLOWEEN MUSINGS

The party set doesn't scare easily

Last week, **Chiu-Ti Jansen**, publisher of *YUE Magazine*, hosted a black-tie gala at the Harmonie Club to honor six of the most important Chinese and Chinese-American influencers in the world of philanthropy. The honorees included **Yue-Sai Kan**, **Anla Cheng Kingdon**, **Lang Lang**, **Richard Lui**, **Hao Jiang Tian** and **Shirley Young**.

The rest of the week kicked off at Cipriani Wall Street, where **Denise Rich** hosted **The Angel Ball**, attracting the likes of **Kris Jenner**, **Sofia Vergara** and **Blake Lively** who watched performances by **Alicia Keys** and **Nile Rodgers**. Regrettably, all were as tight lipped as could be, meandering the venue like lost phantoms posing only for the cameras and declining our silly questions.

"We could get one each," **Ann Dexter Jones** cooed as she stroked a pair of taxidermied albino peacocks up for auction, after *Shindigger* moved on uptown to The Plaza for the Arts Center Casita Maria's gala.

"The home I sold in London before I moved to New York was in Holland Park, which is famous for peacocks roaming around freely," she informed us as we enjoyed a glass of vin rouge at the black-tie cocktail. We assumed she meant the avian variety of course.

Speaking of roaming around, we asked her about ghosts: "Have you ever experienced a haunting?" *Shindigger* enquired.

"Yes," Ms. Dexter Jones began dramatically, leaning in closer so we could smell her Tom Ford black orchid perfume. "Years ago in England when I went for the first time to a farm that my then-husband, Laurence Ronson, owned," she paused eerily. "I had just arrived and was laying down to rest and when I tried to move, I couldn't lift myself off the bed," she recalled. "It turns out that someone had hung themselves many years ago in the attic."

Shindigger's evening got closer to the afterlife than expected when we popped into Cinema Society's after-party for *Mr. Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown* at the Time Warner Center.

"Did you hear that Oscar de la Renta died tonight?" **Andrew Saffir** divulged to our disbelief. *Hadn't we just seen a frail but still regal glimpse of the fashion icon just a few days ago?*

"He lived an amazing life," another guest sighed as we calmed our nerves with a scotch on the rocks.

Issues of mortality were also omnipresent at the Skin Care Foundation's gala where *Shindigger* learned of the horrors of melanoma. We needed healthy pours of malbec.

"These things usually make me terrified," confessed emcee **Taya Diggs** toward the end of the Mandarin Oriental-soirée. Although the Broadway star and *Murder in the First* cast member wasn't nursing his nerves with booze. "Once **Sting** hit the stage it loosened me up," he said with a smile remarking on the surprise guest performance by the pop star.

It took until the weekend to finally score a truly disorderly celebration as *RuPaul's Drag Race* star and 2012 winner, **Sharon Needles**, hosted a devilish slew of parties and events around town.

"I celebrate Halloween 365 days of year!" effused Ms. Needles to *Shindigger* after her biggest shindig, co-presented by **Brandon Voss**, which took place at Liberty Theater, and was entitled "Night of the Living Drag."

"I love, love, love Halloween!" she cackled on. "I am the new and improved **Elvira** with an appetite for divine taste and gruesome fetish fantasies."

Ms. Needles knows that the right amount of kink, booze and naughtiness can keep a fiesta going long past midnight. But it's not ghosts that scare her: "The sight of another drag queen," she giggled, was atop her lists of frights and scares. ■

\$3.7M AMOUNT RAISED AT THE 2014 ANGEL BALL **82** THE AGE OF OSCAR DE LA RENTA AT HIS PASSING



Above & Beyond celebrates its 100th "Group Therapy" Party at Madison Square Garden.



Lang Lang, Shirley Young and Chiu-Ti Jansen at *YUE Magazine's* third anniversary bash.



Stephen Lang, Victor Garber and Dylan Baker attend 23 Blast New York Premiere.



Robert Chavez and Pierre-Alexis Dumas unveil Hermès' Nauticus pen collection.

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NEWYORKOBSERVER /Style

Halloween Musings: The Party Set Doesn't Scare Easily



Sharon Needles (center) at her Liberty Theater bash, "Night of the Living Drag." (Photo by Patrick McMullan)

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\$3.7M
*Amount raised at the
2014 Angel Ball*

82
*The Age of Oscar de la
Renta at his passing*

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