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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The A Game: Arts, Angels, and Amy Adams

Angel Ball raises money for cancer research



The scene at the Angel Ball 2015 at Cipriani Wall Street. PHOTO: NO CREDIT AVAILABLE

On Monday night, the fashion brand MaxMara hosted a cocktail party at the Four Seasons restaurant for the actress Amy Adams. Ms. Adams doesn't have a movie coming out this fall, but she did, apparently inspire the company's latest "A" Bag.

How is Ms. Adams most like the "A" Bag? We don't know the answer to that question, because we didn't make it to the party, but we can only assume her answer would include something about versatility.



Amy Adams at the MaxMara party. PHOTO: NEIL RASMUS/BFA



Amy and Brian France PHOTO: NICHOLAS HUNT/GETTY IMAGES

A few blocks away, at Cipriani 42nd Street, Lady Gaga was honored at the National Arts Awards, presented by Americans for the Arts, alongside Sophia Loren and the arts patron Maria Bell. This sounded like a pretty decent party, too.

But we decided to go to the Angel Ball, mostly because the band OneRepublic was playing. Though it may not be cool to like OneRepublic, we like OneRepublic. So for all of you out there who wonder why we choose to attend the parties we choose attend, sometimes it's as basic a reason as that.

That's not to say the Angel Ball isn't a worthy event; lots of ladies in especially out-there, slinky dresses attend, and so, this year did Usher, Clive Davis, Nick Cannon and a ballroom full of others. Started by the songwriter Denise Rich in honor of her late daughter, it also raises a lot of money for blood cancer research. This year that number hovered around \$3.6 million, which is nothing to shake a stick—or in Monday's case, wave your Amy Adams-inspired MaxMara handbag—at.

Part of the way the event, which took place at Cipriani Wall Street, raises that much money is by cannily choosing honorees from different New York niches. This year's party honored the model and television host [Heidi Klum](#); Nascar CEO and Chairman Brian France and his wife, Amy; and

Compass Lexecon co-founder Jon Orszag and his wife Mary Kitchen. So this brings out a nice cross-section of people with money to give.



Ryan Tedder of OneRepublic performs onstage during the Angel Ball. PHOTO: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/GETTY IMAGES

And for those of us who are not OneRepublic fans, Ms. Rich also has two secret weapons for getting dollars and cents out of Hermès handbags and Zegna suit pockets.

First, there is the fast-talking Swiss auctioneer Simon de Pury who runs the live auction. On Monday, Mr. de Pury sold a bright yellow 2016 Porsche Cayman GT4 (manufacturer's suggested retail price: \$84,600) for \$125,000; a pair of Lorraine Schwartz black and rose gold sapphire earrings for \$70,000; and a six-day cruise on Ms. Rich's six-cabin yacht Lady Joy for \$140,000.

"Whoever is going to go on Lady Joy, I'm sure they will have a lot of joy," said Mr. de Pury, which is the kind of thing he loves to pepper an auction with.

Then there is Ms. Rich's battle-ax friend, Star Jones. She described Ms. Rich as her "sister from another mister." Should you be in need of raising funds, do not discount Ms. Jones, but perhaps there is already a long line behind her.

"You know if I'm here, I'm here to get some money," said Ms. Jones, who asked to bring the house lights up so she could see everyone in the crowd. And, she added, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom now, I'm going to check you out."

Lots of chattering came over the room and Ms. Jones went even further to hush the din.

"If you haven't had your life touched by cancer, then you can talk," Ms. Jones said sternly. And that shut everyone up.

The evening ended with a performance by Patti LaBelle and four acoustic songs by OneRepublic, a performance we enjoyed unabashedly. Goody bags on the way out included a large container of fine Virginia peanuts covered in dark chocolate, salty and sweet, just like the evening.