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Alan Peppard: Crystal Charity Ball thrills with 007 theme

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Here's a secret about men: Whenever we enter a room, we all hear the "James [Bond](#) Theme" playing in our heads.

Apparently, **Debbie Oates**, chairman of Saturday night's Crystal Charity Ball, knows men. As the black-tie guests handed their Mercedes, Jaguars and Bentleys off to valet parkers at the Hilton Anatole, they were directed up a walk featuring Warhol-like images of **Sean Connery**, **Pierce Brosnan**, **Daniel Craig**, **Roger Moore** and **Timothy Dalton**. (Didn't see any renderings of **George Lazenby**.)

Speakers lining the sidewalk played the Bond theme on a continuous loop and suddenly everyone was craving a vodka martini, shaken not stirred.

With the fantasy established, the hotel doors opened. Crooner **Hunter Sullivan** and his big band were inside, swinging at full strength in front of a casino.

And that was only the appetizer.

Gala designer **Tom Addis** and his floral collaborator **Junior Villanueva** were charged with executing Debbie's 007 ball theme: "Licensed to Thrill."

When the big doors to the Anatole's Chantilly Ballroom were opened, they revealed go-go dancers dancing on platforms in a Hollywood Squares-style set.

As Dallas' swellegant set meandered in, the announcer said, "Ladies and gentlemen, **Sheena Easton**."

Wearing a black cocktail dress, the Scottish chanteuse stepped in front of the James Davis Orchestra to sing her Bond hit, "For Your Eyes Only."

The Crystal crowd

As the gold standard of Dallas social gatherings, the Crystal Charity Ball attracts the big names with big – uh – portfolios. The tables around the dance floor are where the big wheels gather.

From the billionaire ranks, there was **Harold Simmons** and his wife, **Annette**; **Ross Perot** and his wife, **Margot**; **Gerald "Jerry" Ford** and his wife, **Kelli**; **Kenny Troutt** and his wife, **Lisa**; and oilman-film producer **Tim Headington**.

Real estater **Vance Miller** spent much of the evening accepting condolences on the loss of his father, Dallas real estate godfather **Henry S. Miller Jr.**, who died at home Saturday at age 95.

Other Crystal Charity stalwarts on hand included Pitts Oil principals **Linda Pitts Custard** and her husband, **Bill**, and civic leader and Fidelity Union Life Insurance heir **Ruth Collins Altshuler** and her husband, **Ken**.

The Duchin story

Colin Duchin, son of bandleader **Peter Duchin**, came from his home in Livingston, Mont., to attend Crystal Charity with **D'Andra Simmons**, daughter of **Dee** and **Glenn Simmons** (brother of **Harold Simmons**).

Colin is also the son of New York real estate scion **Cheray Zauderer Hodges**. Once upon a time (January 1969), Cheray's only sister, **Pam Zauderer**, married (and later divorced) Texas department store prince **Robert "Bob" Sakowitz**, in one of the era's most spectacular weddings.

So now you know.