



Black & White Gala



(CHARLOTTE, N.C.) Sept. 19, 2006 - Inspired by Truman Capote's celebrated masquerade ball of 1966, the Black and White Gala kicks off the holiday season of giving in style on Nov. 2, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at CenterStage@NoDa, in the heart of Charlotte's trendy art district.

Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Western North Carolina and the Young Affiliates of the Mint Museums have partnered to continue the tradition of the Black and White Gala. Net proceeds from the event benefit both organizations.

"The primary objective of our partnership with the Young Affiliates is to raise awareness of the Make-A-Wish Foundation," said Biffa Quantz, Charlotte regional director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Central and Western North.

Now in its 4th year, this year's event takes place at the newly-opened CenterStage@NoDa, recently named one of eight finalists for the *National Event Site of the Year Spotlight Award* presented by Event Solutions Magazine.

Live entertainment will be provided by THE MAXX. Catering will be provided by Mama Ricotta's and desserts by Sugar Buzz Pastry. Guests can also peruse items for bid in the silent auction, featuring a weekend package from the Dunhill Hotel, a private shopping night at Harold's, a pair of white diamond and Tahitian black pearl earrings, valued at \$1695, from Donald Haack Diamonds and a \$250 gift certificate with two tickets to the Charlotte Fine Craft Show Nov. 3-4, and much more.

This year marks the introduction of an exclusive VIP lounge area to the stylish event. Tickets are available in advance for \$35 or \$45 at the door, and include drinks and hors d'oeuvres. A limited number of VIP tickets will be available in advance, priced at \$70, and include access to the exclusive VIP area, specialty food and drinks and valet parking.

"With the change of venue, we believe it will help us raise even more money for both organizations and be one of more memorable social events of year," said Betsy Alley, chair of the 2006 Black and White.

About Young Affiliates of the Mint Museums

This organization, comprised of over 500 young professionals aged 21-45 in the Charlotte area, is an affiliate group of the Mint Museum of Art and the Mint Museum of Craft and Design. Its mission is to raise awareness of art and the Mint Museums through events, volunteering, fundraising and art acquisition. The Mint Museums are supported, in part, with a Basic Operating Grant from the Arts & Science Council, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc.; the North Carolina Arts Council, an agency funded by the State of North Carolina and the National Endowment for the Arts; the City of Charlotte; and their members. www.youngaffiliates.org / www.blackandwhitecharlotte.com

About the Make-A-Wish Foundation

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children living with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. The Central and Western North Carolina Chapter represents 51 counties from Burlington (Alamance County to the west with regional offices in Charlotte, Asheville and Greensboro. Since its inception in 1985, the local chapter has granted over 1750 wishes and has never turned down an eligible wish. www.ncwish.org.

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