

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Laughing Off the Frenzy of the Gala Season

By MARSHALL HEYMAN | November 17, 2015



It's that most wonderful time of the year, when everyone tries to get in their events in before Thanksgiving. That's why Monday night included:

- a benefit honoring Elie Wiesel for Blue Card, which provides assistance for Holocaust survivors;
- the annual parade of charades from Labyrinth Theater Company, which brought out a cuddling Jennifer Aniston and Justin Theroux;
- a dinner at the Beatrice Inn hosted by Shala Monroe for 151Luwolt, a so-called platform for emerging designers;
- the New York premiere of Cate Blanchett's new movie "Carol," sponsored by Chanel;
- a benefit for World Wide Orphans with funny ladies Amy Poehler and Ilana Glazer and Abbi Jacobson of "Broad City,"
- and a screening, hosted by Anna Wintour, Ben Stiller and Ed Norton, for Oscar hopeful "Beasts of No Nation," attended by 300 fancy folks (including star Idris Elba) at the Signature Theatre despite the fact you can watch it on Netflix in pajamas in the comfort of your own home.

Not that you were necessarily invited to all (or any of) these things, but if you had been, like us, you might have simply glanced at your calendar and just laughed.

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Instead, we decided to laugh in public, at the Beacon Theatre. That's where Amy Schumer and Jerry Seinfeld were headlining a show in support of the 15th anniversary of Baby Buggy, a charity founded by Mr. Seinfeld's wife, Jessica. The New York-based organization helps parents of children below the poverty line and is gradually expanding its reach nationwide.

"I can't believe I have to speak in front of you without having a glass of wine," said Ms. Seinfeld, as she described the goals of Baby Buggy to the audience. "Amy Schumer gave me that joke."

Apparently a lot of people had the same idea we did because the Beacon was sold out.

Before the show started, Ms. Seinfeld's good friend and Baby Buggy board member Ali Wentworth needed to raise an additional \$50,000 to get a matching gift from the evening's title sponsor, Bank of America.

"There are a few of you out there with a handbag that costs \$50,000," said Ms. Wentworth, as she encouraged those individuals to donate. "If you have a Porsche, you should donate \$20,000. If you have a house in the Hamptons, you should donate. If you're wearing Laura Mercier makeup, you should donate because I was just at the makeup counter at Saks and that stuff costs a lot of money."

Narciso Rodriguez; Beth Stern; Nancy Jarecki; Caroline Berthet; Niccole and Jeremy Kroll; Steve Martin; Michael J. Fox and Tracy Pollan; Karlie Kloss; Kirna Zabete's Beth Buccini; and Drew Barrymore and Will Kopelman were just some of the people in the audience, so Ms. Wentworth, of course, reached her goal. She also urged everyone who was doing any social media after the show to make sure they included that she had "opened for" Ms. Schumer and Mr. Seinfeld.

Ms. Schumer's set focused on some of her usual targets, of late: Gwyneth Paltrow (one of the evening's co-chairwomen), Women's Health magazine, the Kardashians and paddleboarding.



She also announced that her apartment nearby on the Upper West Side was for sale, she is currently single, and her HPV is no longer detectable. And she felt uncomfortable in the white dress she was wearing.

Now that she's famous, she explained, "I have a stylist, and sometimes she's very, very mad at me."

Mr. Seinfeld focused mainly on the typical quotidian minutiae of our daily existence, including how what's "great" and what "sucks" are basically two sides of the same coin.

"What else is annoying in life besides everything?" he mused.

One thing that wasn't annoying was attending a lovely and classy reception post-comedy show at the New-York Historical Society underwritten by Joe Fresh. Although the limited edition Baby Buggy x Joe Fresh blue puffer coats for sale at the party, those were a little annoying. \$79 for down-filled ones for adults, \$49 filled with nylon for the kidlets.

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