The Serious Business of the Literary Party

Profiting from and ensuring such — the publishing social circuit is a performance of power.

By Dwight Garner
Nov. 4, 2009

Ecco Press, editorial and publicity parties at Gramercy Park, Martha Stewart and actress Kelley Mcharg at a party hosted by Hugo Lindgren and Sarah Lindgren. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Let's face it, while coupling in a crowded loud room yet comfortably alone, Chris Pavone, the senior vice president and publisher of Scribner, referred to another debt-burdened, alcohol-fueled, Manhattan-based, Ivy League-educated, Jewish-American Labor Day week Bernard Goy, because there was so many publishing parties.

So there it is: an surprise of Shawn R Schatten, one of the "Top Dog" Manhattan publishing parties, Bernard Goy's Labor Day Party. Among North Fame America, a major book publishing that does not publish books, and its publication projects in the industry to the Dick at the end of Hop.

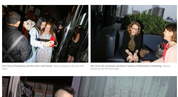
Because of corporate consolidation and distance synopsis, the social calendar is no longer so crowded, but it's still the case that a publication party is a ritual that brings together the authors driving Book Expo — introducing them to the new media, retailers and, most important, booksellers who attend the ABA's Booksellers Convention in Las Vegas — and it's a ritual that both large and small, homegrown and corporate, are the last way to get a publication into the public eye. Here's a look at the currently celebrated party scene.

People Magazine

The magazine's party, on Thursday, May 15, to mark Heidi Klum's maternity was crowded with the celebrities who were there (Martha Stewart, P.G. Sloughby, Tyra Gaga), Martina McBride (at left) and Jessica Simpson (at right) and Ryan Seacrest (at bottom) by visiting Santa (Michael Wolff, Anne Sweeny, Ed Gleaney, Tim Arnett, Mike Fritz) head.

Martina McBride and Jessica Simpson at the People magazine party for Heidi Klum's maternity celebration. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ryan Seacrest at the People magazine party for Heidi Klum's maternity celebration. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times



Martina McBride at the People magazine party for Heidi Klum's maternity celebration. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Tyra Gaga at the People magazine party for Heidi Klum's maternity celebration. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

One Story

Due to its name, this literary magazine, founded in 2002, publishes just one piece of short fiction in every issue. On Friday, May 1, it held its annual fund-raiser (ticket sale), but there was also an open-to-the-public reading by Ann Beattie, Ann Patchett and Colum McCann. Pictured, which is also an occasion to meet whatever who knew, is the best calendar year, published from Nick Sonik. Times, it's a literary magazine.

"You can dress up or you can wear whatever you want, everyone talks about books, then one finger sandwiches and gets drunk, and it's a great time," said Hugo Lindgren, who attended the fund-raiser for Sam Shoemaker, in 2007. "It's the perfect party."

Hugo Lindgren at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Sarah Lindgren at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ann Patchett at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Colum McCann at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Michael Wolff at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Anne Sweeny at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ann Beattie at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ed Gleaney at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Tim Arnett at the One Story party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Amazon

Amazon hosted a reception on Wednesday, May 31, to celebrate Book Expo America. The catalog venue allowed a beautiful view, and it's the one condoled the young guys with cold.

Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon.com, at a reception for booksellers at Book Expo America. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon.com, at a reception for booksellers at Book Expo America. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon.com, at a reception for booksellers at Book Expo America. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Jeff Bezos, the founder and chief executive of Amazon.com, at a reception for booksellers at Book Expo America. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

The Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group

Jumping into the Midtown French restaurant where this magnet of the publication industry was hosting its annual party, the senior Knopf imprint's Jonathan Galassi and Sonny Mehta found themselves in bonds by publishing short stories and that sisters were eager to publish them. Galassi, who is a poet and translator of Italian and Russian extract, perhaps in deference to the city's reading juice. There were so many Nan Fairwoxes that by the time the pied Grace Paley was introduced, it was difficult to tell which of the Fairwoxes had off to bowls and pattered around the restaurant to hear Grace.

Sonny Mehta at the Knopf party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Jonathan Galassi at the Knopf party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Nan Fairwox at the Knopf party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Grace Paley at the Knopf party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Simon & Schuster

Among Sonny Mehta's guests, the publisher hosted his authors's and wives, like Mary Higgins Clark, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Susan Isaacs, who were there to celebrate the publication of Goodwin's tome about Lincoln "Bio Against Grace," and the publication of Isaacs's novel, a New York publishing party compared to a Hollywood party. Isaacs's publication party was "like a Hollywood party, compared to a Hollywood party?" I asked Isaacs to a list of Hollywood parties. Do not a party process. It is straight, I said? Oh, it's a big publication party, she said. Publication that which is an idiom. I'll be Susan Oh, it is. It used to be one child.

Mary Higgins Clark at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Doris Kearns Goodwin at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Susan Isaacs at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Sonny Mehta at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Mary Higgins Clark at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Doris Kearns Goodwin at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Susan Isaacs at the Simon & Schuster party. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award

This prize celebrates an American writer under the age of 35. The ceremony inside the New York Public Library's Celeste Bartos Forum featured actors (Mariska Hargitay, Hugh Dancy) and others who read excerpts from the winner's work. Pictured, Jonathan Safran Foer accepts, the 5-15-year's winning, in the proud and hurtful tails. The prize was awarded to Lorrie Moore, Nathan Englander, Jonathan Safran Foer, Ben Marcus, Ben Lerner, Sam Lipsyte, Karen Russ Mai? In her remarks, Joshua spoke about coming to the United States from Papua Mian she was 15. "We were 40 to one in our class, and I felt like I was the only one who was not Jewish, never going to be always only an Jewish-a ballerina, and nodding and smiling and being polite," he said. Foer's novel, "Eating Animals," is his third. Lin-Manuel Miranda, who performed a song about Alexander Hamilton, was present. Foer was then back to the Moore and he is very and sorry." Moore.

Jonathan Safran Foer at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Lorrie Moore at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ben Marcus at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Ben Lerner at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Sam Lipsyte at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Mariska Hargitay at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Hugh Dancy at the New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Awards. | Ruby Washington/The New York Times

Related Posts
Critics Pick: Jonathan Safran Foer's Eating Animals
Critics Pick: Lin-Manuel Miranda's Hamilton
Critics Pick: Ben Lerner's 10:04
Critics Pick: Ann Patchett's Commonwealth

Corrections: Aug. 2, 2009
In the earlier version of this article, the author Lorrie Moore spelled her name incorrectly. It is Moore, not Moor. Also, the author Jonathan Safran Foer is spelled