

SPOTLIGHT ON *Boston*

by Clint Hamblin



Executive chef Nick Cummings and General Manager Deborah Dellorto of McCormick & Schmick's with Charles Zechel, executive director of Community Boating, Inc.

Raise the Sails for Kids

Fundraiser. On a beautiful September evening, what could be better than eating raw oysters and sipping mar-

tinis provided by McCormick & Schmick's Seafood Restaurant while viewing a brilliant Charles River sunset and listening to Irie Roots, a steel drum jazz band? This charming event, held at the CBI Boathouse on the Esplanade, benefited Raise the Sails for Kids, a Community Boating, Inc. (CBI) program.

About 150 generous folks bid on silent auction items including a private captained evening sail from Boston Harbor or dinner for two at the Beacon Hill Bistro. With a gross take of \$34,000, it certainly looks like Raise the Sails for Kids will continue their CBI junior program's mission of providing sailing, kayaking and windsurfing all summer to any child for just \$1. Sounds like a great deal.



Film Festival award winner Dane Cook for his film Good Luck Chuck at the Bonfire party with celebrity chef Todd English

Boston Film Festival 2007.

The first film of the Boston Film Festival had a delayed opening recently. *Grace is Gone*, starring John Cusack, experienced technical difficulty with the soundtrack. Those with little patience went on to a wild opening night party at Mantra located at 52 Temple Place. Those who finally got to see the film later joined the festivities and raved about the movie.

Now in its 23rd year, the Boston Film Festival has become one of the cultural events that annually launches the fall film season. Events were held at AMC Loews, Boston Common as well as venues throughout Boston.

Is Boston the new Hollywood? Our reservation was for 7:30 pm at G'Vanni's in the North End but Hanover Street was gridlocked with crowds of people, giant lights, cables, cameras and production people preventing anyone from crossing the street. A film representative shouted, "Please folks, no flash cameras. We need to get this next shot and it's costing us lots of money."

If you haven't noticed, Boston has been invaded by the film community, including Hollywood movie moguls and their army of production people and high-profile celebrities. Long white trailers housing everything from costumes to caterers are lining the streets, blocking traffic and contributing a good portion of their production budgets to the local economy. No less than three major movies are simultaneously filming in Boston, and they include *The Women*, *Bachelor No. 2* and *Pink Panther 2*. Rumor has it that three to five more productions will be coming to film in Boston before the end of this year.

"Boston is the new Hollywood," according to Dave Linck, unit publicist for *The Women*. "After 20 years in this business working all over the country, I have to say that Boston does it right. The film board here has really thought out the tax and incentive program, location issues, extras casting and finding housing, and we all love Logan Airport – it's so close to the city."

Get that autograph book and camera phone ready. The celebs are everywhere – in the malls, restaurants and on the streets.



Jewelry designer Chloe Sachs displays a gold necklace

Kevin McPherson of Mohr-McPherson has a great job.

For more than 16 years, he has been shopping the world, stocking his warehouses with an astonishing array of exotic antiques and artifacts.

"I make three to four trips per year. China and India are the most prolific with strong furniture traditions and spectacular values," McPherson said.

McPherson's inventory includes furnishings from Indonesia, Korea, Morocco, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Burma and Peru. You'll wonder if Sabu is hiding behind a giant hand-carved wooden elephant with a dozen arms as you cruise through the museum-like showroom located at 356 Boylston Street. Exotic artifacts are available for purchase at surprisingly reasonable prices.

"Our clients have broader profiles. Most of them have traveled and are interested in other cultures. They're an aesthetically inclined group, broad minded and outward thinking, and they love the store," McPherson stated.

Luxe Boutique, an international collection of jewelry, accessories and giftware connected to the Mohr-McPherson store recently opened. Partner Chloe Sachs

makes regular trips to India looking for unique items and precious stones to include in the exotic jewelry and textile collection.

"I buy whatever is special," Sachs said. "And the markets I go to in Delhi and Jaipur supply stones for all over the world." Sachs also buys new and antique saris, a typically six-yard length of woven silk that Indian women wear. The Luxe Boutique is filled with exotic necklaces, bracelets, earrings and headpieces. If you're looking for that unusual gift, you're bound to find it at Mohr-McPherson or the newly opened Luxe Boutique.

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