



‘Shake Your Groove Thing’ with the SHARE ladies and ‘Disco Duck’ at the 63rd Boomtown Gala

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BY MARGIE BARRON ON JUNE 11, 2016

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The SHARE (Share Happily and Reap Endlessly) ladies’ Boomtown shows are legendary. Founded 63 years ago by seven women who wanted to help children and improve the world, SHARE is a fabulous charitable organization that can boast of a stellar roster of entertainers who have headlined the Boomtown gala fundraiser over the years (most at the behest of their wives). Johnny Carson hosted for 10 years and Dean Martin hosted 17 times. Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Judy Garland, John Wayne and Bob Hope are also among the luminaries who have appeared in the SHARE shows.

Recent headliners have included Bruce Willis, Sharon Stone, Jennifer Holliday, Michael Bolton, Michael Feinstein, and Jamie Lee Curtis. Always a highlight of the show is seeing the SHARE ladies turn into a chorus line of showgirls, dancing feverishly for their cause.

There was a disco fever theme this year with “An Evening at Studios 53” (SHARE was founded in 1953). But guests at the 63rd Annual Boomtown Gala still embraced the tradition of wearing “dressy western attire” to create a fun and comfortable atmosphere for everyone. And a lot of glitzy buckaroos were among the VIPS attending including producers Julie and Roger Corman, Candace and Steve Garvey, Shelby and Tommy Chong, Peter Repovich and Catherine Bach, Dyan Cannon, Kathleen Quinlan, Finola Hughes, George Chakiris, Sandra Taylor, Jen Lilley, Gia Carides, Adrienne Maloff, Lena Jolton, Ericka Joy, Jim Bowden, Dr. Lois Lee, Joanna Carson and Ruta Lee.

SHARE president Ellen Feder thanked the volunteers and supporters, and reported, "Since 1953, the amazing women of SHARE have raised over \$53 million to improve the lives of underserved children." Feder also presented "The Member of the Year Award" to Diane Forrester. Kudos also go to auctioneer Jim Nye for his great job.

A sensational show produced by Gary Smith was enjoyed at the Beverly Hilton with entertainment from Grammy-winning singer Hazel Payne of "A Taste of Honey," who launched the night with "Boogie Oogie Oogie." The hilarious Yakov Smirnoff praised America throughout his comedy routine, and the super-cool disco/soul band The Trammmps featuring Earl Young got the ballroom blazing with their "Disco Inferno" tunes. Renowned radio personality Rick Dees was the emcee and performed his '70s hit "Disco Duck," with SHARE cuties quacking up to the crazy tune.

The SHARE ladies had the mirror ball spinning all night, especially when they did all the energetic production numbers choreographed by award-winning Anita Mann, who is said to have "the patience of 10 angels." And it paid off when the gals did "Shake Your Groove Thing," and personified the lyrics "Let's show the world we can dance."

SHARE has 80 active members who strive to raise funds to better the lives of children in our community. Most of the ladies are not dancers but they kick up their heels for their big fundraiser. The ladies of SHARE performers included Ellen Feder (President), September Sarno (Board Chairman), Barbara Aaron, Terry Baldwin, Lois Bloom, Geron "Caszper" Canidate, Sondra Currie-Levi, Samantha Faulkner, Carole Gaba, Nancy Gregory, Wendy Hammers, Cooley Jaxon, Joy Jolise, Adele Langdon, Bonnie Lythgoe, Dolores Nemiro, Esther Rosenfield, Linda Schlesinger, Sandra Siegel, Laura Stone, Christine Wallace, Jamy Woodbury, Dana Grilikhes Nassi (first Vice-President) and Anita Mann Kohl (Choreographer). Watching singer-dancer Neile Adams do some fancy routines and daring leaps was a joy, and she has her own cabaret act coming to Catalina Bar and Grill in June.

Another delight was talking with enthusiastic Catherine Bach (of The Dukes of Hazzard fame), who said, "I'm giving it my all. I've enjoyed the Boomtown event before, but this is my first time dancing in the show. It always looked like fun, so I was thrilled to join the girls. I may not be the best dancer but I'm so proud to be part of this."

At the end of the show folks were invited on stage to show off their Saturday Night Fever moves. So yes, this reporter got a chance to step into the Wayback machine and share the disco craze one more time thanks to SHARE.

Margie Barron is a celebrity journalist. A member of the Television Critics Association, she has written for a wide variety of television, entertainment and travel publications for more than 30 years. Among her credits: being featured in the movie Alligator, and being half of the husband and wife writing team: Margie & Frank Barron.