Carolina's Madison Avenue Fiesta Herrera hosts Casita Maria's gala committee

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(NEW YORK) Madison Avenue was abuzz last night as Carolina Herrera opened the doors of her Upper East Side boutique for a cocktail party saluting the gala committees of Casita Maria's Fiesta 2006. The organization, which aids the Latino communities of the South Bronx and East Harlem, got a hearty reception, as Hunt Slonem, Carolina Herrera creative director Hervé Pierre. Mark Gilbertson, Somers Farkas, Marina Rust Connor, Bob Colacello, and Dennis Basso all passed by. Even Debbie Bancroft, Douglas Hannant, and Frederick Anderson made a quick stop on their way to the London Symphony Orchestra.

Herrera herself has had a first-hand experience with the charity—she was the recipient of their Gold Medal of Honor nearly 15 years ago, and said hosting the event was the least she could do. "It's a very glam group," noted **Beth Rudin DeWoody** of the organization's principals. "Those Latinos with their big jewels." Speaking of noteworthy eye candy, Herrera found herself on the receiving end of countless compliments over her own pieces. Complementing her



Carolina Herrera and Herve Pierre

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black-on-black ensemble, she sported a pair of Van Cleef & Arpels earnings and pendant, the latter of which was originally part of a necklace given to her by her husband, **Reinaldo**. "I don't buy my own jewels," Herrera said, bursting into laughter. "I don't now how to."

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