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AT 8:00^{PM}

Location:

Northwest Neighborhood Cultural Center
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Tickets: \$12 in advance or at the door
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CULTURE

Snickers Goes to Hollywood

Portland diva reports on gay glam event

BY SNICKERS LABARR



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER MARTIN

Pecs, porn, and *paparazzi*! Those are three accurate words to describe what happens when Snickers goes to Hollywood. Charmed! Especially when I attended the Gay Video News Awards. This particular event is sponsored by Adult Video News, a trade publication.

Last month I packed my Gucci bag and— with my enormously talented writer, friend and AVN staff person Darklady—headed off to cover the glamour and glitz of the fifth annual event. This year's ceremony was held in the grand ballroom of the Universal Hilton Hotel in Hollywood, Calif.

This star-studded industry event honors excellence in the world of gay male sex videos. It acknowledges video production, directing, editing and screenwriting. I personally get sooooo excited over award events. I find liquid eyeliner is the only thing that calms my nerves! Ooooooh!

The GAYVN event draws hundreds of fans, friends and professionals from the entire movie industry. Arriving at the event is not unlike arriving at the Oscars. The red carpet is overflowing with news reporters, cameras, limousines and, of course, porn stars—making it almost impossible to navigate through the crowd.

Snickers, being press from out of town, was also interviewed by a television reporter from West Hollywood. That was my official cue it was time to start working the crowd as I do each year.

My first mission was to locate the dinner table where I sat with the AVN staff, judges and screenwriters. Along the way, I had to stop and chat with folks, such as renowned veteran porn star Ron Jeremy. Also had a quick hello or photo with legendary actors Cole Tucker and Ken Ryker, as well as video producers Kristen Bjorn and Chi Chi LaRue. I know many of you readers who are avid adult gay video viewers will recognize and/or visualize the above-mentioned. Charmed!

After locating my table, I spotted a few more people I wanted to meet and talk with. Fortunately, I made my way backstage to have an exclusive chat with the host of the event, Bruce Vilanch. He is a comedy writer, most visible on *Hollywood Squares*. Bruce was very personable and cool as a cucumber as we talked—while he ate a banana for that last boost of energy before he began to emcee. She really was a hoot, if you know what I mean. There are no secrets here.

Soon, the music swelled and a booming voice announced 10 minutes until show time.

At that point, I decided to snatch a martini and get situated to watch the presentation and enjoy the exquisite dinner. So I sashayed past the table where Camryn Manheim from the hit series *The Practice* was sitting. What a sweetheart she was, constantly making herself available for photos and conversation. I think everyone has a crush on Camryn. (No, she was not wearing a tight corset that sent her undulating cleavage to the sky.)

Next, I passed by the tables that had packed around them the men of Falcon Studios. And then the ones with the Men of Odyssey, Catalina Video guys and the remarkably chiseled men from Colt Studios. By this time I was so overwhelmed, I needed to sit down. A case of the vapors for sure. The show began. The dinner of salmon and steak with all the trimmings was as well-cut as most of the men in the room.

The two-hours-plus award ceremony and show was eye candy for sure. I just want to share with you three winners among the many,



PHOTOS BY SNICKERS LABARR



GAYVN Awards host
Bruce Vilanch

many categories. Best gay video: *Dream Team*. Best gay performer of the year: Jack Simmons.

Best newcomer: Spike.

As my heart, eyelashes and libido fluttered nonstop, I found myself wondering what I would wear next year. How ironic—I dress up to go to work, and most of the people in the room undress to go to work! Go figger!

■ **SNICKERS LABARR** is a star of Portland-area cable access television; check your local listings for show times. She welcomes messages on her voice mail, (503) 727-2491. Check out her faboo Internet site, www.labarr.com.