

# artsentertainment

## Indo-American Arts Council Honors 3 at Annual Gala

By BHARGAVI KULKARNI

— NEW YORK

It was a mélange of arts, glamour and glitz at the Angel Orensanz Foundation for Contemporary Art here Nov. 21 as well-wishers of the Indo-American Arts Council gathered to celebrate its 15th anniversary.

Celebrities walked the red carpet and mingled with attendees over cocktails before they were seated for an evening of music, awards and fashion.

The IAAC honored author Salman Rushdie, filmmaker Mira Nair and Dr. Manjula Bansal for their contribution to the global artistic community.

Actresses Sarita Choudhury, Sakina Jaffrey, Reshma Shetty, Deborah Craig and model Lakshmi Menon, added oomph to the red carpet as they walked



ILAVAS QURASHI

Above, Dr. Manjula Bansal addresses the audience before accepting her award at the 15th anniversary celebrations of the Indo-American Arts Council at the Angel Orensanz Foundation in New York Nov. 21. Right, Aroon Shivdasani, executive director and founding member of IAAC, presents an award to filmmaker Meera Nair, left. Screenwriter Sabrina Dhawan is at right. Below, Shivdasani, center, with author Salman Rushdie and actress and food writer Madhur Jaffrey.



ILAVAS QURASHI



Above, Dr. Sudhir M. Parikh, publisher of News India Times and recipient of India's Padma Shri award, greets Rushdie on the red carpet. Below left, Dr. Manjula Bansal and her husband Dr. Rajendra Bansal speak to the media on the red carpet. Below, from left, actress Sarita Choudhury, Dr. Manjula Bansal, Madhur Jaffrey, actress Sakina Jaffrey and a guest at the Nov. 21 event.

with the award winners and guests.

Savoring gourmet Indian cuisine by Chef Hemant Mathur of the New York-based Tulsi restaurant, guests were treated to a performance by Oscar winning musician Paul Williams accompanied by pianist Kenny Ascher, performing iconic love ballads like "We've Only Just Begun," "You and Me Against the World," "An Old Fashioned Love Song" and Let Me Be the One."

A fashion show followed featuring Indian designer Manish Arora. Models showed off his creations in hues of blue, green, red, yellow, red and turquoise, embellished with Indian prints and delicate embroidery.

Comedian Dan Nainan, as the master of ceremonies, kept the audience entertained. "My dad is a Malayalee and my mom Japanese," he told the crowd; "I buy my sushi at 711," he joked referring to the chain of stores that are often owned by people of South Asian origin.

Welcoming the crowd at the packed-to-capacity venue, Aroon Shivdasani, executive director and founding member of IAAC, presented an overview of the organization and its work in the past 15 years to advance Indian arts and culture.

Choreographer Jonathan Hollander, founder of the Battery Dance Company, introduced Dr. Bansal, an attending pathologist at The Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan; Screenwriter Sabrina Dhawan introduced Nair; and actress and food writer Madhur Jaffrey introduced Rushdie.

"In a way, honoring me is a way of honoring the organization; it's a way to jointly celebrate the IAAC," said Rushdie who has supported the organization from its beginnings.



ILAVAS QURASHI



ILAVAS QURASHI

