

## SCENE

# A different kind of hero movie

Redford said to be considering role as Canadian general



SHINAN GOVANI  
at Sundance

At the Sundance Film Festival, where the vibe is casual but the stakes are high, and stars are both born and reignited, I find a general at a party. “Congratulations,” I say to **Roméo Dallaire**, the Canadian whose odyssey in the wrenching eyewitness doc about Rwanda, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, has turned him into the unlikely of stars in Parka-ville, Utah. This, at a festival where, as I’ve been telling you all week, I’ve seen the vaudeville acts of **Paris Hilton**, **Pam Anderson** and even **Snoop Dogg**!

Looking professor-rumpled, with eyes that have seen it all, Dallaire, the one-time UN commander in Rwanda, proves to have a Yuk Yuk’s edge when I tell him I’m from the *Post*. “That they should get a sense of humour!” he answers, before I have a chance.

I have a question for Dallaire: “General, what does it feel like to be a movie star?” He replies: “That’s the furthest thing from my mind.”

But is it, really? Once you’re caught

up in this weird vortex, can you get out? Even here, in a second-storey bar on Main Street, where **Sarah McLachlan’s** *Blackbird* is playing on the sound system and a few people are nibbling on egg rolls, a CNN camera is trailing Dallaire, and the talk is all about **Robert Redford’s** gung-ho-ism for the film. In fact, at the screening just before this Canuck-together, Redford personally introduced the film. “He never does that,” someone who would know tells me. “He introduces the opening film at the festival, and that’s usually it.” In fact, there’s much talk about the big Hollywood feature that’s said to be in the works about Dallaire’s journey — his mission in Africa, the alcoholism and near-suicide, the return of his idealism — and the rumour going around is that Redford, the Sundance Kid, wants to star in it. “He’s definitely interested in the project,” a spy tells me.

I’m not so certain. Sure, Redford is older now, but he still looks like the overgrown captain of the football team, and the aura of movie-star privilege clings to him. My own vote goes to that man for all seasons, **Albert Finney**.

It’s been a hoot in Sundance. Watching **Elijah Wood** attempt to scat-sing at a small hobbit jam session is never boring. Neither is dropping by a party hosted by **Tommy Hilfiger**, who, just in case you’re both blind and dumb, has a penchant for wearing sweaters with “Tommy” emblazoned on the front.

But here’s one party that happened in T.O. last week that makes me sad I had to miss out.

Le scoop: Mysterious gallerist **Bruce Bailey** and his spouse, Spanish heir **Alfredo Ferran Calle**, held a Dom Pérignon cocktailer at the Bailey Fine Arts Gallery in honour of leading Canadian artist **John Massey** and the launch of the catalogue of his most recent photography exhibition, *The Phantoms of the Modern*.



JUSTIN SULLIVAN / GETTY IMAGES

Robert Redford is so intrigued by Roméo Dallaire’s story, he may play the general in a biopic.

About 150 guests attended this Edmund Hillary of local soirees, we hear. First to arrive was Canada’s grande dame of collectors, **Ydessa Hendeles**, wearing a spectacular late-19th-century mine-cut diamond-and-gold necklace. Other prominent collectors included **Sandra L. Simpson**, **Roz Ivey**, with *Toronto Life’s* **John Macfarlane**, **David Daniels** with his wife, **Kate Alexander Daniels**, who heads up an eponymous new PR company, former Liberal MP **Barry Campbell** and his wife, **Debra Campbell**, and those never-fail party perk-ups **Suzanne** and **Mark Cohon**.

Also seen dipping in to the *hors d’oeuvres*, created by Dinah Koo: U of T philosopher **Mark Kingwell**, handsome young composer **Dustin Peters**, Bailey’s muse, **Dr. Virginia Griffin**, artist **Michael Snow** and his wife, curator **Peggy Gale**, Power Plant president **Victoria Jackman** and her architect husband, **Bruce Kuwabara**, Power Plant curator **Reid Shier**, **Cawthra Burns**, socialite **Joan Boxer** and her husband, financier **Richard Boxer**, of

Buckingham Capital Corporation, and Westwind Capital’s **Daniel Brooks**, in from London.

What makes Bailey such a consummate host? I’ll tell you. It’s his V8 mix of guests and a Baz Luhrmannesque attention to detail. Extravagant floral arrangements were by **Melissa Bourque** of Emblem Flowers. On the way out, guests were presented with warm spice-infused chocolates to keep them cozy in the frigid night. And though Bailey is a noted non-smoker, he provided guests with a heated smoking terrace and a selection of Cuban cigars and special cigarettes. Now that’s hospitality!

Scene and heard:

**Tina Turner**, on her whirlwind one-day trip to Toronto on Monday, mixing it up with local media, record retailers and other guests at Caban on Queen Street West. (We asked: What’s Caban got to do with it? But nobody would tell us.)...

**Gerry Schwartz** and **Heather Reisman** opening the doors of their

castle last week to host a friendly birthday fete for their friend **Diane Bald**, the *Roots* First Lady, who always reminds me of that other Diane, **Diane Lane**. Seen at the home gathering — no, it wasn’t a potluck — was Mr. Movie Star **Mark Wahlberg**...

Wahlberg’s co-star **Andre 3000** of OutKast making himself quite at home at the happenin’ new Beaconsfield down near the Drake...

**Suzy Greenspan**, wife of leading legal guy **Eddie Greenspan**, proving to be plenty fascinating in a recent CBC *Life & Times* of her husband when she admitted on-air that Eddie brought along the Criminal Code as bedside reading on their first trip together when they were courting. “He told me right off the bat that he loved me very much but that he loved the law more,” Suzy recalls, adding, “The law is his mistress. He loves that mistress.” Eddie’s insightful two cents: “If it wasn’t for Suzy, I would have been divorced three or four times.”

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