

## Misbehavin'

By Jean Horne  
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Think the golden age of jazz is over? See "Ain't Misbehavin,'" and think again. Think the **Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force** benefit at the **Pittsburgh Public Theater** is passe after all these years? Then you missed one of the season's most joyous nights of theater and thanksgiving that trod the boards on Wednesday at the O'Reilly. Because everything old is new again.

This marked the nation's longest continuous partnership between a regional theater company and an AIDS service organization: 19 plays, 19 benefits, 19 years. One replete with 370 scenesters having a swell time, bars that never stopped pouring and endless trays of hors d'oeuvres butlered by CMU's hip theater majors with a passion for fashion.

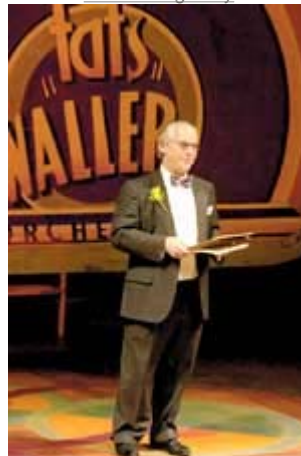
Taking a page from Harlem's famous Cotton Club, a staggering bouquet of calla lilies in the lobby segued to a glitzy nightclub and lounge on three that was singin' and swingin' to the music of Fats Waller and Craig Zinger playing stride piano. Mercy, mercy, ain't we got fun. And, bless their hearts, *everyone donated everything* ... actors, stagehands, musicians, the house, florists, caterers and servers.

An Obie to party chair and 718 designer **Gavin Benjamin** for such stunning visual effects as his life-sized photographs that lined the walls of the nightclub and its swank setting.

It was also a stand-up night for Pitt professor **Wesley Scott**, who was tapped with the Kerry Stoner (PATF's founder, who died of AIDS-related complications) Award for giving so generously of his time and support over the years. He was a major player in the eve that raised \$60,000 for the Task Force's free HIV/AIDS

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services.

On the playbill: PPT director **Ted Pappas**; honorary chairs **Nancy** and **Milt Washington**, with daughter **Lara Thomas**; PATF's new director **Kathi Boyle** and prez **Philip Parr**; host chair **Mary Frances Dean** with **Dan Johnson**; Dr. **Larry Leahy**; **Richard Parsakian**; brothers **Elliott** and **Dee Jay Oshry** with **Bart Rack**; **Gordon Fisher**; **Joanne Wilder**; **Ann Funge**; **Nachum Golan** and **Steve Hough**; **Tim Condron** (he has supplied flowers for the benefit from day one); **Clyde Jones**; **Jim McDonald**; **Susie Wean**; **Pam Golden**; **Stacy Weiss** with daughter **Cyd Mullen** in from NYC; **Nancy** and **Joe DiFiore**; **Mary McVay** with sons **Tim**, **Kelly** and **Jack**; **Debbie** and **Mark Zappala** with daughter **Anna**; **Ed Harrell** and **Jim Hageder**; and **Bob Feikema** and **Carol Maurin**.

Front-row, center, were **Tom Sokolowski**; **Caddy** and **John Harper**; D.A. **Steve Zappala** and **Mary**; **Bob Davis** and **Kathi Gambridge**; **Estelle Comay** and Dr. **Bruce Rabin**; **Phil Hallen**; **Jerry Morosco** and **Paul Ford**; Drs. **Ellen** and **Loren Roth**; **Mindy Rossi-Stabler**; **Janet Henderson Acie**; **Mary Beth Johnson**; Dr. **Cecilia Golden**; **Jamini Davies**; **Joanne** and **Woody Chetlin**; **Sylvia Denys**; **Phyllis Kitzerow** and **Eugene Strassburger**; **Lorene** and **Denis Vinski**; **Willa Koenig**; **Michele Heck**; **Mark Power**; **Jeff Nych**; **Don Arnheim**; **Wendi Miller** and mom **Marian**; **Eileen D'Amico**; **Bill Korenich**; **Maryann Bacharach**; **Joy Sato**; **Weesie Wells**; **Jean Robinson**; and **P.J. Maloney**.

Get ready to be entertained. This "Misbehavin'" has it all ... sassy women, brassy suits and enough sizzling ragtime to make you forget the cold.



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