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THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

73rd year



The Next Gen

9th Annual Special Issue



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Congratulates Hollywood's "Next Generation," Class of 2002.

NextGenLifestyle

Living It Up

DOWNTIME: "With my wife and son — we love Central Park."

IN 10 YEARS I'LL BE: "Leading the most exciting, successful, creative and artist-oriented record label in the business"



CATEGORY **LEGAL**

Rob Szymanski

FOUNDER, ECLIPSE LAW CORPORATION, AND CONSULTANT, FIERCE ENTERTAINMENT LLC

Clients include actors Michael Ironside, Busy Philipps, writers Kate Boutelier, Jennifer Brandes & Chris Hepler, Todd Berger and the Altieri Bros. and directors Henry Barrial, Adam Nimoy

BORN: June 19, 1968, Warsaw, Poland

EDUCATION: A.B., U.C. Berkeley; J.D., Harvard Law School

FIRST JOB IN HOLLYWOOD: "I started writing for the English rock press at the age of 19. It was very 'Almost Famous,' and I loved every minute of it. I really couldn't imagine working in the straight world after having a taste of that."

BIG BREAK: "Getting into Harvard Law definitely changed the shape of things to come, but there wasn't any single event that brought me here. It's been more a game of chess than bingo."

GREATEST CHALLENGE OVERCOME IN THE BIZ:

"Kind of an odd question for a lawyer since my job basically entails negotiating around obstacles or removing them altogether; that's what I do all day long."

CAREER MILESTONE: "Deciding to build a new breed of entertainment law firm and having the courage to do it on my own terms."

INSPIRATION: Nature

FAVORITE MOVIE/TV SHOW:

"sex, lies and videotape," "Apocalypse Now," "Dr. Strangelove," "Good Fellas," "Raising Arizona"; "Curb Your Enthusiasm"

LESSONS LEARNED: "You can't always get what you want (but if you try, sometimes, you'll find, you get what you need)."

POWER SPOT: "Scuba diving half way around the world, 100 feet below the surface, surrounded by schools of shimmering fish and stunning coral reefs"

DOWNTIME: "Yoga, hiking, sailing, staying out late with friends — anything involving adrenaline"

IN 10 YEARS I'LL BE: "Just starting to fulfill my potential"

— Profiles by Nellie Andreeva, Scott Collins, Sheigh Crabtree, Chris Gardner, Zorianna Kit, Ian Mohr, Minju Pak, Josh Spector and Andrew Wallenstein

POWER TOY

'A Barneys credit card'

What Next Gen'ers do when deals aren't being made

YOUNG ONES

Next Gen'ers sink their teeth into everything they get involved in, and **Genesis**, an offshoot of the Entertainment Industry Foundation, is the newest charity organization that is comprised of producers, agents, executives and talent under age 35. Although there is a dearth of charity organizations, some felt there was a lack of "junior committees in this town," so today, a board of 32 35-and-under industry insiders, including co-chairs Maryam Lavi and Marc Rosen, film producer William Sherak and ICM agent Jim Osbourne, have founded Genesis, which focuses on philanthropic activities in the Los Angeles area. The organization sets out to prove that one doesn't need to plunk down a thousand dollars for a charity dinner and, instead, should set aside time to give back to the community. Genesis has now organized a group to read to kids in elementary schools. Next up is a six-week campaign to help alleviate child hunger in California.

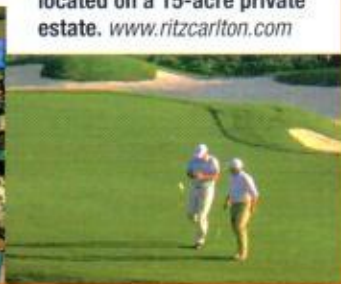


R&R

Bring on the tired and weary. The **Ritz-Carlton** in the Caribbean and Mexico provides the perfect getaway for those Next Gen'ers'



rare moments of downtime. The San Juan location boasts a casino and spa, where one can indulge in a passionfruit massage or cafe con leche body scrub with locally grown Puerto Rican coffee grounds. Want to explore the underworld? Try snorkeling or diving at the Cancun location. For a more secluded getaway, visit the St. Thomas resort, located on a 15-acre private estate. www.ritzcarlton.com



EAT WELL

With sushi a requirement on most Next Gen'ers' diet, the newly opened **Koi** on La Cienega Boulevard is the place to go. Choose from four dining areas, including a private room that seats up to 25 and a back patio with Buddhas resting in stone pools. A lounge area with couches makes Koi an ideal place to meet for a drink, while the front stone patio with opposing fireplaces and green bamboo means smokers can hang out in a beautiful setting without being shamed into a cramped alleyway. 730 N. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, (310) 659-9449



The patio at Koi

Graduating Class '02

Hollywood's new power brokers converged on the Viceroy on Tuesday to celebrate publication of the ninth annual The Hollywood Reporter: The Next Generation issue. "Use your influence wisely, and don't forget to mentor those who are coming up behind you," THR editor-in-chief and publisher Robert J. Dowling told members of the Class of 2002, who mingled with more than 500 friends and guests poolside and throughout the mirrored lobby of the elegantly refurbished Santa Monica hotel and restaurant.

Each year, THR's Next Gen issue celebrates the career achievements of 35 industry leaders under 35 years of age.

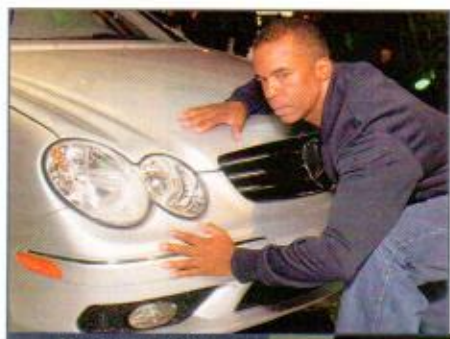
"I've been an agent for a little more than three years, having been a publicist and working in casting before that, so it's an honor to be recognized for a job that I've only been doing a short amount of time," said UTA's Billy Lazarus, one of the executives identified as "moguls of tomorrow" in Tuesday's issue.

Nine Yards Entertainment's Matt Luber, also a member of this year's class, revealed how he received calls from Next Gen alumni welcoming him to "the fraternity." "And there really is a sort of tight-knit association between the people that have been recognized," Luber said.

Attendees also included ICM's Nicole Clemens ('01) and David Unger ('99), UTA's Sharon Sheinwold ('00), Josh Pollack and Chani Rosenzweig with Pop Art's Sam Maydew, Universal's Tim O'Hair, Current Entertainment's David Gardner, producers Andy Vajna and Bo Zenga, director Kimberly Peirce and actresses Amy Bressette and Kathryn Morris. Mercedes-Benz USA again was presenting sponsor, and Heineken USA was contributing sponsor. Pouring sponsors were Bacardi O, Gran Centenario Tequila, Neibaum Coppola Estate Winery and Vermeer Dutch Chocolate Cream Liqueur. The festivities were overseen by Viceroy catering and sales manager Hector Rosario.



Hollywood: The Next Generation, Class of 2002



David Alan Grier



From left, UTA's Billy Lazarus ('02), actor Dave Monahan and actress Jessica Whitney Gould



Nine Yards' Matt Luber ('02) with Georgia Emelin



WMA's Charles D. King ('02), left, and Paradigm's Jonathan Silverman ('02)



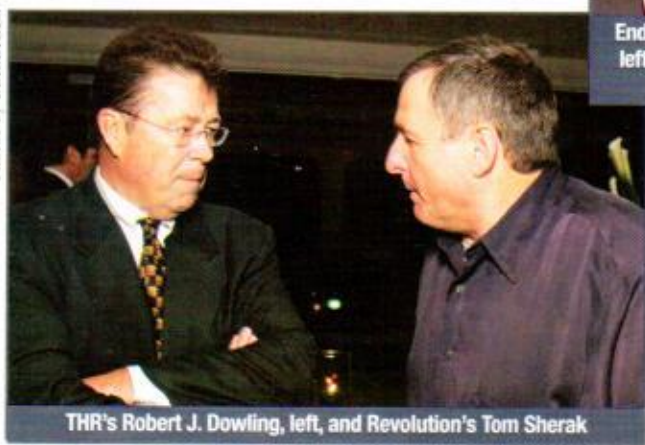
ATAS' Bryce Zabel with wife Jackie



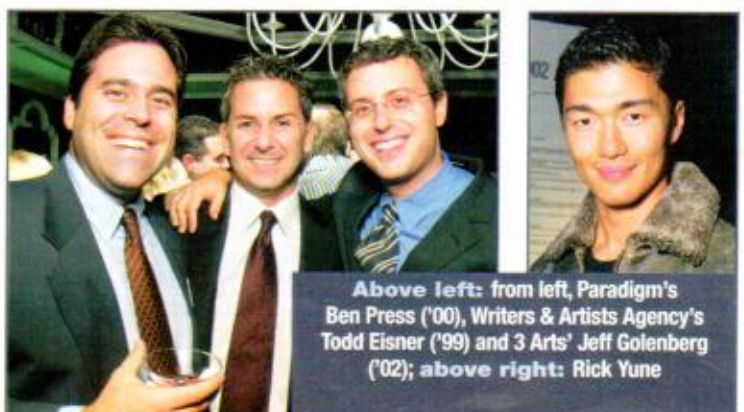
Endeavor's Andy Elkin ('02), left, and John Wells Prods.' Andrew Stearn ('02)



From left, Hyde Park's Jon Jashni ('98), Imagine's Jim Whitaker ('02) and ICM's Brian Sher ('00)



THR's Robert J. Dowling, left, and Revolution's Tom Sherak



Above left: from left, Paradigm's Ben Press ('00), Writers & Artists Agency's Todd Eisner ('99) and 3 Arts' Jeff Golenberg ('02); above right: Rick Yune

Photos by BELMAGES