

Date: Location: Circulation (DMA): Type (Frequency): Page: Keyword: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 MIAMI, FL 272,291 (16) Newspaper (D) 8A American Black Film Festival

LA VIDA LOCAL

Dwyane Wade a movie fan?

The vodka was flowing like the rain of late Friday night when actress Sanaa Lathan (Love & Basketball, Nip/Tuck) joined HBO and Belvedere to host a posh dinner for the American Black Film Festival, which wrapped the following day.

The three-courser — featuring Asia de Cuba bites such as tuna tartare picadillo, calamari salad and char sui (barbecued) beef short ribs — was held in a private VIP suite at the Mondrian Hotel in Miami Beach.

Jovial Belvedere ambassadress **Bevy Smith** worked the dimly lit room, making sure guests like **Eriq LaSalle** (*ER*), **Wendell Pierce** (*The Wire*) and **Rockmond Dunbar** (*Prison Break*) always had a full drink in their hands.

Things must be heating up between **Gabrielle Union** (in a new set of bangs) and her date to the dinner, **Dwyane Wade**. Looking a little uncomfortable, the Heat star asked that the duo not be photographed together, which is always a good sign.

While Wade hung out on the outdoor terrace, Union stayed inside, deep in conversation with Lee Daniels, who won an Oscar for producing 2001's Monster's Ball. Could the Bad Boys II star be getting serious about her craft?

Daniels' next movie as director is *Precious*, about an illiterate pregnant teen who is given a chance at a new life. Out Nov. 6, the movie is produced by **Oprah Winfrey** and **Tyler Perry** and stars **Lenny Kravitz**, **Mo'Nique** and **Mariah Carey** (it's got to be better than *Glitter*).

Daniels was enjoying the festival and hanging out in Miami.

"I'm in between movies, so I'm happy and relaxed," he said, "It was like, I ain't doing nothing, why not come and check it out and support [the ABFF]."
So no
business, all
pleasure?
"I'm just
looking for
my next gig,"
he said.

— MADELEINE MARR



MiamiHerald.com/ people

To see a video of the party go to MiamiHerald.com.





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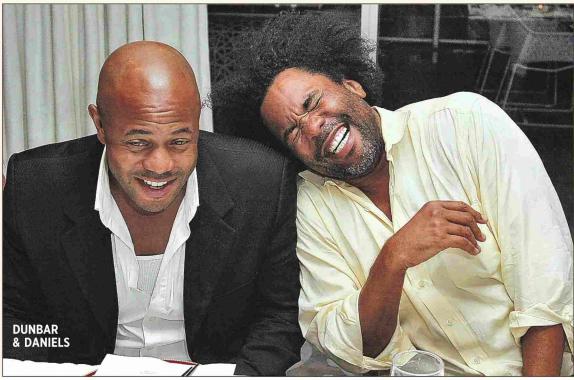
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