

The AZ Insider: Hugh Jackman's Grand Entrance "Whoops" & More

Written by Written by Kathy Shayna Shocket

"The AZ Insider" with Kathy Shayna Shocket: Get the inside scoop on Arizona's social scene and celebrity news.



A Wolverine Woops? What you didn't hear about Hugh Jackman's grand red carpet entrance for the world premiere of the blockbuster movie.

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X-Men Origins: Wolverine

X-Men Origins: Wolverine took the box office by storm this weekend- - grossing \$87 million. And so did the media pics and video of actor **Hugh Jackman** rolling onto the red carpet on a Harley for the world premiere at Harkins Theatres in Tempe.

Amidst the worldwide coverage of the leading man and his co-stars at the red carpet premiere – here's something you didn't hear about. Now, I don't want to spoil Hugh Jackman's super-hero image – but there were a few tense moments behind the scenes.

"There was so much going on behind the scenes that anyone in attendance that day would not have known about," admits movie theater king **Dan Harkins**, of Harkins Theatres.

"Little did everyone know, the cue took place for Hugh to enter and... nothing. I waited on stage to welcome him and he wasn't there. Turns out the motorcycle, stalled a number of times before finally starting. There were some frazzled nerves in that minute or two, but he got it started." (Not, to mention that the bike was the same one used in the movie.)



Dan says there was much discussion of how Hugh would enter and they had first considered a helicopter stunt. "But we decided a black leather jacket; sunglasses and a motorcycle would definitely be a memorable entrance and make for an awesome photo op." (Maybe it's in your blood Dan, because I remember something about your dad Dwight Harkins- who left his roots in the Midwest in 1931 and hopped his Harley and moved to Hollywood.)

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Childhelp Flying High

Speaking of helicopter grand entrances... that's how **Arizona Governor Jan Brewer** arrived for Friday night's 50th anniversary fundraiser in San Diego for Childhelp USA!

In a dramatic grand entrance, serenaded by a Marine Corp band, the governor (security detail), and Childhelp founders **Sara O'Meara** and **Yvonne Feddersen** arrived by Navy helicopter, landing on the USS Midway aircraft carrier's deck.



The governor joined the 600 guests for dinner and returned to Phoenix that evening. In the spirit of the USO theme, Sara and Yvonne, former actresses and dancers, donned polka dotted outfits, duplicates of the ones they wore on the USO tours in the late 50's while entertaining the troops in Korea and Japan. (The ladies are pictured above with the governor in one of the many photos I took that night.)

The helicopter escort from San Diego's Montgomery Field to the event was in honor of Sara and Yvonne's involvement with the military in the

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50's and 70's, helping to save the lives of orphaned children in Korea and Vietnam.

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Partying with a Real Princess

By the way... the San Diego party was on the heels of last week's Childhelp's fundraising luncheon at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa. No one arrived by helicopter for the "Wings Enchanted Kingdom" fashion show and luncheon – but there were horse drawn carriage rides for the children and their parents and pictures with a real life princess.



Pictured above with Sara and Yvonne are actress **Catherine Oxenberg** and husband **Casper Van Dien** (star of Starship Troopers and he has a Lifetime movie coming up) and **Caryll Kyl** (wife of Arizona Senator Jon Kyl. Catherine and Casper also starred in the reality TV series on Lifetime, "I Married a Princess."

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Matt's Sushi Roku Party

Arizona Cardinals' **Matt Leinart** has an impressive barbeque area in the spectacular back yard of his 6,000 square foot multi-million dollar home in Chandler. But he served up sushi for his recent party.

Sushi Roku donated dinner for the 150 guests who partied at the pre-bash for Matt's first celebrity golf tournament to benefit his foundation and Banner Children's Hospital. (Matt's foundation has pledged \$500,000 over the next 5 years to the new children's hospital at Banner Desert Medical Center.)

And besides the famous faces at the party, singer **Nick Lachey** (former husband of Jessica Simpson) and Philadelphia Eagles **Donovan McNabb**, the mobile sushi station was in the spotlight.



Sushi Roku general manager **Seth Glassman** (pictured above with Matt) and his staff rolled the mobile sushi station into Matt's yard – (over the 3-hole putting green as well) near the pool table and game room. The team of sushi chefs served up culinary creations including albacore sashimi with crispy onions and spicy tuna hand rolls wrapped in soy paper.

Matt is one of Sushi Roku's celeb patrons. And you might catch Phoenix Suns **Grant Hill** and wife, singer **Tamia**, who also like to dine at the Scottsdale restaurant.

Coming up next Monday: More behind the scenes scoop from the Childhelp fundraiser on the deck of the USS Midway and a posh party in the Valley.

Kathy Shayna Shocket is a Phoenix based writer. If you have a good item for The AZ Insider, you can email her at redkarpetgirl@aol.com.