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SMUIN BALLET SPINS CONFECTIONS



Drew Altizer / Drew Altizer Photography

Smuin gala co-chair Patti Hume (left), John Konstin and Smuin Artistic Director Celia Fushille.



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Tatum and Alexander Getty at the Smuin Ballet gala at the San Francisco Design Center.

As Hollywood gathered March 4 for the Academy Awards, philanthropic dance fans here fundraised \$400K at the San Francisco Design Center for Smuin Ballet, in its 25th season this fall.

Led by co-chairs **Jerry** and **Patti Hume** with **Athena** and **John Konstin**, the enthusiastic affair commenced with cocktails followed by a McCalls dinner and a sizzling contemporary performance by Smuin stars, sources said.

Guests noted a delicious Oscar irony amid the live auction: While Hollywood stars starved themselves to squeeze into size 00 Oscar gowns, slender Smuin dancers whipped up decadent desserts for bid at a live auction.

Terez Dean's dark chocolate buttercream cake raised a whopping \$3K. Lemon pie by **Ben Needham-Wood** raised \$2K. And **Benjamin Warner**, who's nursing a ruptured tendon, created Kneecap Cakes: cupcakes decorated with anatomically correct tendons and nerves that raised a healthy \$1,400 for the troupe.

Board chair **Dell Larcen** turned the spotlight on Board of Supervisor President **London Breed**, who honored Smuin supporter-philanthropist **Bruce Braden** with a proclamation for his support of the arts.

"Ballet is one of my favorite arts forms," he enthused. "And Smuin is my favorite of the favorite!"