



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wolfgang and Gelila Puck Receive Champion of Children Award from Children's Institute

Beverly Hills, CA – March 19 , 2009 – Couture designer Gelila Assefa Puck and her husband, superchef Wolfgang Puck, were honored today by the Children's Institute in Southern California with the prestigious Champion of Children Award.

Master of Ceremonies for the event was actress Angie Harmon. Harmon and her husband, former NFL defensive back Jason Sehorn, have been among past Children's Institute honorees that include Nancy Reagan, Maria Shriver, Brooke Shields and husband Chris Henchy, Diane Sawyer and Mike Nichols, Annette Bening and Warren Beatty, Shawn and Larry King, Sophia Loren, Audrey Hepburn, Anjelica Huston and Robert Graham, and Police Chief William Bratton.

Among the 600 guests in the Grand Ballroom of the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills were philanthropist Wallis Annenberg; former supermodel Cheryl Tiegs; designer James Galanos; and actresses Virginia Madsen, Joan Collins and Deborah Raffin.

Children's Institute, Inc. of Los Angeles serves more than 17,000 children and their families in the city's most challenged neighborhoods, and trains more than 9,000 professionals in the realm of child development, mental health and welfare. The Institute is considered one of the nation's strongest models for working with children affected by violence, child abuse and neglect.

The Institute provides healing so traumatized children can recover and lead healthy lives, while working to shape the field of children's services through innovative research, demonstration projects, and professionally accredited training programs.

The annual Champion of Children Award benefit is organized and sponsored each year by CII's premier support group, the Colleagues, founded in 1950 by Mrs. Homer Toberman. The 2009 event raised more than \$400,000 for the Institute's 25 programs, more than 350 employees, and hundreds of volunteers.

About Gelila Style

GelilaStyle features the couture collections of Gelila Assefa Puck, an internationally known designer of fine gowns and handbags, who was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Gelila's designs are rooted in her East African heritage and today are principally focused on a distinctive handbag line, which includes simple, classic clutches and bags made from crocodile, ostrich and African springbok.

Gelila and her husband, superchef Wolfgang Puck, support numerous charities worldwide, and were both honored in March of 2009 for their philanthropy by the Children's Institute in Southern California with the prestigious Champion of Children Award.

Contact

Gelila Style
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