



Samba dancers, stilt-walkers and fire-eaters entertaining the guests.

Night of merrymaking

By CHRISTINA CHIN

GLAMOROUS in feathers, sequins and glitter, the northern region's socialites turned into bohemian revellers for the *Rhapsody des Reves - Un Carnaval de Couleurs* or 'Rhapsody of Dreams - A Carnival of Colours' at a hotel in Penang recently.

The venue for the charity arts carnival was transformed into a world of fire-eaters, stilt-walkers and sexy samba dancers with beautiful tanned bodies.

Guests indulged in free-flowing wine and danced to non-stop music as they dug deep into their pockets to participate in a specially held charity auction.

Organised by INTACT Marketing Sdn Bhd in aid of the Dream Zephyr Foundation (Dreamz), the event raised a total of RM110,000 from the sale of tickets and auction.

INTACT's director Angelina Cheong said 'Rhapsody of Dreams' was conceived as a celebration of the arts.

"We wanted to organise a fun event to celebrate creativity and freedom of expression. 'Rhapsody' is actually an integration of three world-famous carnivals - the Brazilian Olinda Carnival, the Venetian Massafra Masquerade Ball and the New Orleans Mardi Gras.

"This event is also a platform for us to bring to our shores the wonders of both local and international artworks in the name of charity," she said.

'Rhapsody' opened with the entrance of dancers clad in cloaks and masks, swaying to mesmerising 80s hit 'Amadeus'.

Pulsating drumbeats sounded as tribal dancers invaded the stage with their flaming torches.

A fashion show featured 17 outfits specially created by the

crème de la crème of Penang and Kuala Lumpur designers for the event.

The parade culminated in a resplendent red Zang Toi piece which was worn by GUESS international model Amber Chia.

A charity art auction saw art by Choo Beng Teong, Patrick Lam, Sim See San, Chong Kok Leong and Dr Suchart Vongthong being put up for sale.

The highlight of the evening was definitely the auction of the Cartier Santos 100 limited edition timepiece.

Frenzied bidding ensued as the crowd tried to get the magnificent item and it was reported there was currently a world-wide waiting list for the luxury piece.

Co-founder and director of Dreamz Ch'ng Huck Theng said the foundation was finalising the list of beneficiaries for the funds collected.



The guests dancing the night away.