

Headline	Stars dig deep at charity Cannes AIDS gala		
MediaTitle	Daily Express (KK)		
Date	27 May 2017	Color	Full Color
Section	People & Events	Circulation	25,055
Page No	27	Readership	75,165
Language	English	ArticleSize	215 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 1,108
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 3,324



Stars dig deep at charity Cannes AIDS gala

CANNES (France): A galaxy of stars including Leonardo DiCaprio, Dustin Hoffman, Nicole Kidman and Will Smith turned out for an AIDS benefit that is the social highlight of the Cannes film festival.

The annual amfAR Foundation for AIDs Research gala dinner late Thursday at the luxury Eden Roc hotel just along the French Riviera at Cap d'Antibes saw celebrities and benefactors paying up to half a million dollars (466,000 euros) for a table.

Actresses Jessica Chastain, Milla Jovovich and Eva Longoria, former footballer David Beckham, director David Lynch and director and jury president Pedro Almodovar were also among A-listers present for the auction to help the charity founded by the late Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor.

They were aiming to beat the 22 million euros raised at last year's dinner when DiCaprio – who acted as auctioneer – sold a sculpture by British artist Damien Hirst for 3.1 million euros and a day with Hollywood star Kevin Spacey for half a million.

“Ending AIDS is not a fantasy. Its a goal within our reach and one amfAR was among the first to recognise as attainable,” said the foundation's president Kenneth Cole.

“Our goal is a cure for 2020. You have the power to stop this pandemic that has killed 35 million people,” he told the gala's guests.

This year's lots included a week in an exclusive resort in the Maldives for 60 people, a fully restored 1958 Jaguar XK150 sports car and a weekend for 30 on a luxury yacht.

For those on more modest budgets, there was a 14-metre (46-foot) statue specially created for the occasion by French artist JR, whose “Faces Places” documentary with Agnes Varda is one of the hits of the festival, which ends Sunday.

The final figure from this year's auction will be released later Friday.

Since the galas began at the Cannes festival in 1993, the “Cinema Against AIDS” dinners have raised more than 174 million euros for the charity. – AFP



Chris Tucker (left), Uma Thurman (second left), Will Smith, Jessica Chastain and Tobey Maguire (right) attend the amfAR's 24th Cinema Against AIDS Gala.