

Headline	Stars dig deep at charity Cannes AIDS gala		
MediaTitle	New Sabah Times English (KK)		
Date	27 May 2017	Color	Black/white
Section	NST PLUS	Circulation	17,182
Page No	3	Readership	51,546
Language	English	ArticleSize	286 cm ²
Journalist	N/A	AdValue	RM 611
Frequency	Daily (EM)	PR Value	RM 1,833



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. It's a goal within our reach and one amfAR was among the first to recognise as attainable," said the foundation's president, Kenneth Cole.

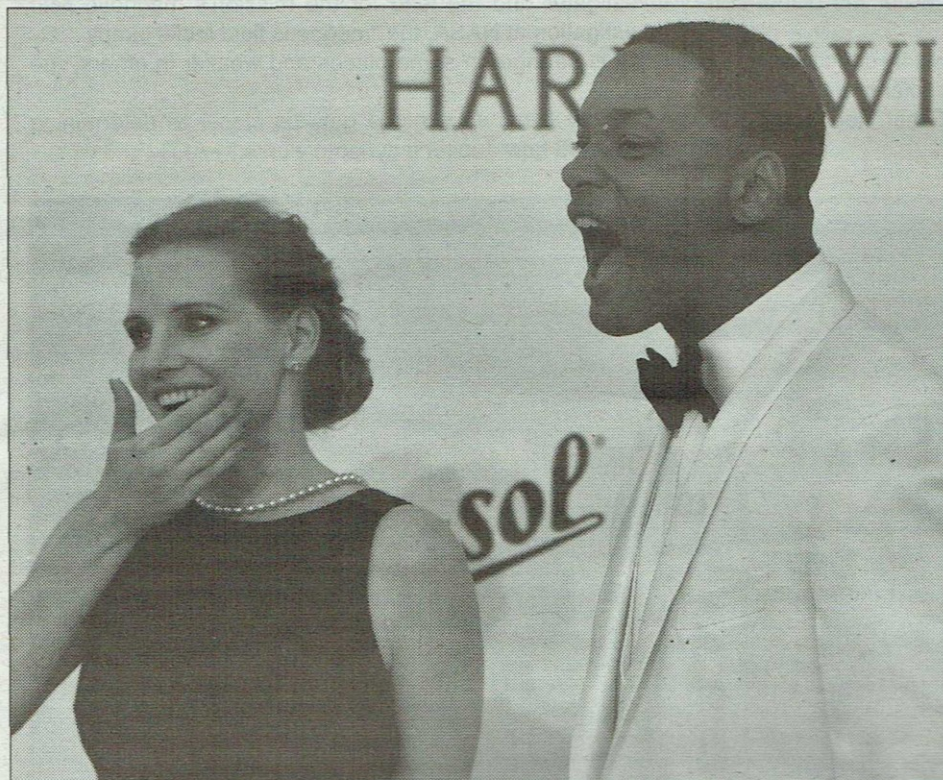
"Our goal is a cure for 2020. You have the power to stop this pandemic that has killed 35 million people," he told the gala's guests.

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



US actress Jessica Chastain (left) and US actor Will Smith laugh as they arrive for the amfAR's 24th Cinema Against AIDS Gala at the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc in Cap d'Antibes, France.