



## Salma Hayek Brings Together a Star-Studded Room of Women to Raise \$4.5M at the Caring for Women Dinner

The Kering Foundation's annual fundraising gala supported organizations addressing gender-based violence.

By Freya Drohan



Anyone attempting to leave their office in Midtown Manhattan on Thursday evening was likely perplexed. Even by rush-hour standards, the traffic on Park Avenue was at a literal standstill. As the Kering Foundation's fourth annual Caring for Women Dinner returned to The Pool, the glitzy New York restaurant, everyone emerging from a car on East 52nd Street was someone.

An ardent advocate for social change, Yara Shahidi was finally able to attend the event this year. Dressed in a feather-trimmed Gucci gown, the actress said she is always impressed by how many people rally together for the cause during such a busy time at the start of New York Fashion Week. "I'm just another person in the room, wanting to learn and pay attention," Shahidi tells ELLE. "The Kering Foundation has chosen to highlight four organizations [**Sanctuary for Families, FreeFrom, Violence Intervention Program, and Equality Now**] that really do such incredible work year-round. If any of us were to leave with more of an idea and understanding of how to engage with helping the cause of eliminating gender-based violence, not just on nights like this, but in our everyday life, then I think that would be a win."

In keeping with the old-school elegance of the '50s-era venue, guests from the worlds of entertainment, fashion, art, and philanthropy donned their black-tie best to gather at The Grill for a pre-dinner cocktail. Dakota Johnson and Demi Moore, one of the evening's co-hosts, both went the gothic-but-glamorous route in lace and sequined Gucci numbers. Julianne Moore, also on co-hosting duty, went with an understated Bottega Veneta gown and a metallic Intrecciato knot clutch, while Colman Domingo was debonair as ever in butter-yellow Valentino.





After walking the red carpet in a Balenciaga take on the tuxedo dress, Salma Hayek Pinault slipped into the role of photographer, happily taking group pictures of her friends and members of her community. Meanwhile, in a quiet corner of the bar, her daughter, Valentina, was hanging out and shooting the breeze with Linda Evangelista. When a reporter asked the legendary supermodel, who shares a son with Hayek's husband, Kering CEO François-Henri Pinault, what woman inspires her most, her swift one-word response was "Salma."

Though the room was already exclusively filled with VIPs, the upper level of The Grill was for the VVVIPs, if you will. Think: Kirsten Dunst, fresh from the Toronto International Film Festival. Diane von Furstenberg, along with her newly engaged granddaughter, Talita. The evening's master of ceremonies, Ariana DeBose, already warming up a small crowd. Lauren Sánchez Bezos and Jeff Bezos, the latter initially declining any photos, but eventually obliging. And Cristiano Ronaldo's fiancée, Georgina Rodríguez—yes, identified because her **viral engagement ring** could be spotted all the way from downstairs.

Later in the evening, Sánchez Bezos brought François-Henri Pinault over to her table to meet Rodríguez, explaining how the model first met her husband-to-be at a Gucci store in Madrid. (Rodríguez was working there when Ronaldo came in shopping.) The table, which included ELLE editor-in-chief Nina Garcia, was filled with Latin industry leaders.

During dinner, an auction led by Lydia Fenet included fantasy-ticket items from many of Kering's fashion houses—including Gucci, Saint Laurent, Balenciaga, Bottega Veneta, Boucheron, and Pomellato—as well as hospitality experiences and original artworks by Damien Hirst. Together, they helped raise over \$4.5 million to further the work of the four nonprofits in their tireless mission to address violence against women and children. "We must commit to providing survivors with the resources and support necessary to rebuild their lives with autonomy and safety," François-Henri Pinault told the room.

Von Furstenberg also gave a particularly moving speech, noting how grateful she is for the support of women in her life and how her ultimate mission is to connect people together, very much in keeping with the ethos of the evening. When Hayek Pinault then brought the heads of the four organizations up on stage—Mona Sinha, global executive director of Equality Now; Judy Harris Kluger, CEO of Sanctuary for Families; Margarita Guzmán, executive director of Violence Intervention Program; and Sonya Passi, founder and CEO of FreeFrom—the room was brought to tears.

To end the evening, FKA twigs took to the mic. As an ambassador of **Sistah Space**, the London-based domestic violence charity supporting women of African and Caribbean heritage, the singer gave a particularly poignant performance.

