

The Oregonian

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scene and herd

## deLuxe sweats, Wagner chills

Robert Wagner has the meet-and-greet down: the upper arm squeeze, the mid-arm pat, the mid-back pat, the elbow grip, the shoulder pat with a flat hand and, if you're really lucky, the handshake and hold.

It's last week's grand opening celebration at the Hotel deLuxe (née Mallory Hotel), and Wagner is here with Stefanie Powers to grace the place with a bit of swank. He is wearing a crisp black suit with a royal blue handkerchief in the breast pocket, and every hair on his head has been arranged just so. Nearby, Gov. Ted Kulongoski is chatting up Powers.

"She's Polish!" he announces delightedly to the crush of partygoers.

It's so packed and hot that people's upper lips glitter with a fine glaze of sweat. Except for Wagner. He's not sweaty at all. Maybe it's the ice water he's been nursing.

The lobby is old scrumptious Hollywood. Mirrored tables, quilted walls, a decadent arrangement of orchids, at least one man in an ascot. In The Screening Room, Fred and Ginger dance in black-and-white grandeur, the aspect ratio of the film a setting off, so that they are just a smidgen shorter and fatter than they should be. A mirrored wall in the lobby reflects the crowd, fractured images of glittery sandals, flat-ironed hair, suits, camera flashes, sweaty necks and

Robert Wagner.

Shoulder pat. Arm squeeze.

A woman's lens cap gets caught in my hair as she tries to get a picture of him. "I'm sorry," she says, and she lifts her camera higher over my head.

On a flat screen image behind us, Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart lean in toward one another. It's the flashback scene from "Casablanca." Paris. The Nazis wore gray. You wore blue. Stefanie Powers wore black.

In the Driftwood Lounge, the Mallory's beloved dive bar, little has changed. Except now, everyone is drinking chardonnay.

—Chelsea Cain  
*Special to The Oregonian*



MELANIE CONNER/SPECIAL TO THE OREGONIAN

**Robert Wagner (center) and Stefanie Powers**

Sign autographs for Steven Steinbock (left); Todd Widme watches from behind.