

ENTERTAINERS WITH HEART: "People keep asking me about Ryan Seacrest, but I say, 'Who cares?'" **Paula Abdul** stated as she opened up one of the live auctions on Saturday, at the elegant third annual Alfred Mann Foundation Gala.

The fete, which honored unsung heroes of the medical and bioengineering worlds, including **Dr. Jane Burridge** and **Dr. Ross Davis**, took place at the vast Mulholland Drive estate of philanthropist **Alfred Mann** and was co-hosted by **Adrianna Costa**. There were pools and waterways as far as the eye could see, representing the arteries of the human heart. The black tie event featured a silent auction and haute cuisine from the kitchens and imagination of the Patina Group's Joachim Splichal.

Laura San Giacomo was there, as was former **L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan** and wife **Nancy**. **Danny DeVito** gave a funny speech before presenting a short documentary illustrating the groundbreaking work the Mann Foundation is achieving, including the development of tiny cochlear implants for those with hearing damage and miniature, implantable microstimulation devices to help cure stroke and paralysis victims of all ages.

"Can you see it?" DeVito asked, holding up the slender, almost microscopic device, then quipped, "No? No more booze for you."

After the progressively sluggish live auction concluded (**Mrs. Claude Mann** purchased the 2007 SLK 280 sports Mercedes for \$50,000), the **Pointer Sisters** took to the stage and electrified the room. Stunning and svelte, they belted out disco standards such as "Jump," "Automatic" and "Fire" that saw the audience leaping to the dance floor. However, former Laker Girl dancer, pop singer, and "American Idol" judge Abdul kept to her seat. Maybe the reality show star is holding out for an appearance on the next season of "Dancing With the Stars."



COSTA and ABDUL:
Philanthropy and fun

Phil McCarten/Associated Press