

# WWD

Fashion. Beauty. Business.



### Strategic Shift

Pandora said it is shifting gears to focus on "design, brand and market" after a tough quarter.  
Page 2

### All About Ralph

Thames & Hudson has released the book "Ralph Lauren Catwalk," tracing the designer's runway history.  
Page 3

### Art Focus

Bulgari CEO Jean-Christophe Babin on the jewelry brand's partnership with the Venice Biennale Arte 2026.  
Page 5

## Whispering Society

What was the secret being shared Monday night between Naomi Watts, seen here in Dior, and Odessa A'zion in the lobby of The Mark before they headed to the Met Gala (A'zion, of course, changed before doing so)? Perhaps they'll never tell, just as many of the celebrities are keeping mum about the antics they got up to at The Mark and The Carlyle as they got dressed. For more from the hotels pre-Met, see pages 15 to 17.

PHOTOGRAPH BY MASATO ONICCA

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# Inside The Mark Hotel

From Odessa A'zion to Hudson Williams in a Frette robe to the first robot Met Gala guest, here's a look at the Mark Hotel lobby scene.

BY KRISTEN TAUER  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY MASATO OMODA

**Just when you thought** you'd seen all the possible Met Gala novelties, the hotel elevator at The Mark Hotel delivered a new spectacle for 2026.

The gala's very first robot guest (2) was an early departure for the red carpet, although it took awhile for its handler to maneuver it out of the elevator and get it in position for the bank of photographers waiting to capture the first look at the 2026 Met.

Naturally, Anna Wintour and her children were the first ones out the hotel doors, followed soon after by Naomi Osaka, Google cofounder Sergey Brin, and Christian Cowan with Sam Smith—who was dressed, of course, in Christian Cowan. "It's all him," said Cowan, gesturing to his partner's look.

"I can't breathe," said Sabine Getty of the tightly fitted bodice on her gown, primed with the image of hands wrapped around a naked body.

Next up? The Robot. "He's a bit shy," said one of its helpers, asked if it was available for comment (rumor was that it can speak 50 languages). The Robot, the least dressed guest of the evening, was a guest of Alexander Wang and was emblazoned with the name of Wang's soon-to-launch drink brand.

Moving on: Maluma, dressed in fellow Colombian-born designer Haider Ackermann, was en route to his fifth Met Gala. "I feel like every year is different, but I'm for sure going to have fun," said the singer. ▶



Conner Ives, Lila Moss, Laura Harmer, Adwo Aboah and Louisa Jacobson.



Culmon Domingo in Valentino and Chase Infiniti in Thom Browne.



Alex Consani in Gucci.



Samson Roth in Robert Wun.



Sombra in Valentino.



Venus Williams in Balmain and Andrej Kostic in Versace.



Naomi Osaka in Robert Wun.



Dree Hemingway in  
custom Valentino Specula  
Mardi Haute Couture



Sam Smith in  
Christian Cowan



Paul Anthony  
Kelly in Dior



Miaou  
Apantow in  
custom  
Valentino



Sophia Poulsen in  
custom Moxine  
Fécales



Odessa A'zion and Hudson  
Williams in Frette Urtile  
shawl collar bathrobes

"I feel like I've been lying in a black lake, and walked out with extreme beauty attached to me," said Naomi Watts, dressed in a Dior gown featuring a constellation of individually stitched silk flowers, which was inspired by a Dutch painting. "Tonight, I'm stoked to be trying to honor Jonathan Anderson's vision."

"This is crazy!" exclaimed Odessa A'zion, making her way around the lobby in a hotel robe as cameras followed her every move. She stopped for a quick whispered conversation with Watts. "Wait, let me see your nails!" A'zion called out, catching a glimpse of Watts' floral-accented tips.

A'zion started to head back up the staircase when she encountered a familiar face: Hudson Williams, who was also robed up (Frette) and in full glam. "Love you?" Williams called out as they headed in opposite directions.

Karlie Kushner's favorite part of attending the Met Gala? "This," she said, as husband Jared Kushner waited dutifully nearby.

"You look hot!" A'zion called out to Alex Consani after reappearing in the lobby, still robed but with a black train trailing behind her.

"It's my wedding day," said Consani, as she posed for photos in her white strapless Gucci gown. "Who are you marrying?" asked Lila Moss, standing nearby with Connor Ives and blowing Consani a kiss. "Connor," Consani called back, offering the designer a hug.

The lobby swelled as stars including Chase Infiniti in Thom Browne, Tessa Thompson in Valentino, Doechii in Marc Jacobs and more continued to debut their gala looks and wait their turn to walk out the hotel's front door.

"Oh, this is going to get busy," remarked one guest, as the crowd ebbed to make room for new arrivals. "I'm standing in awkward places right now," said NFL player Joe Burrow to himself, stepping aside to allow for gown traffic control.

Louisa Jacobson, in Dilara, made her debut alongside sister Grace Gummer and Gabriela Hearst. "I feel like something from another galaxy," said Gummer of her custom look by the designer. "It's extremely raw, like nature itself," added Hearst of her design, crafted with bonded gold leather.

As the stars continued to make their way out the front door and into waiting sprinter vans, one major VIP was still left to appear: Cardi B.

Soon, several umbrellas popped open to announce (and conceal) her presence. "That's seven years of bad luck right there," offered a photographer, as the rapper was hurried out the door.

Anything for fashion. ■

Jordan Roth made his way down the staircase holding the hand of a cloth mannequin doll attached to the back of his look. As the producer held court in the lobby, someone came by to smooth out the doll's arm with a hairbrush. Irina Shayk also headed to the gala holding a plus one: her dog.

Simon Porte Jacquemus dressed a very important guest this year: his grandmother, who made her very first trip to New York just for the gala.

"I just want to see everything that everybody has envisioned," offered Dree Hemingway of what she was looking forward to as she headed into the evening. "We're here to have fun, not Fashion is fun."

"I'm working out right now," said "K-Pop Demon Hunters" singer Ejae, asked about the weight of her full Swarovski gown. The upside? "I feel like a goddess," she added.