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Stars raise \$20 million at AIDS

Cannes

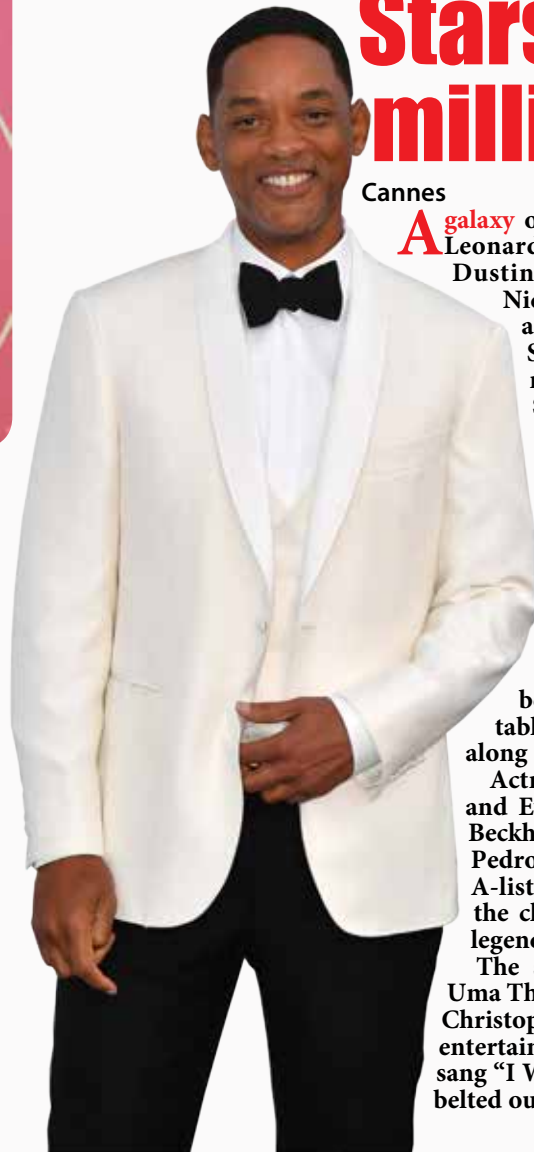
A galaxy of stars including Leonardo DiCaprio, Dustin Hoffman, Nicole Kidman and Will Smith raised more than \$20 million (18 million euros) at the AIDS benefit that is the social highlight of the Cannes film festival, organisers said yesterday.



The annual amfAR Foundation for AIDS Research gala dinner late Thursday saw celebrities and benefactors paying up to \$500,000 for a table at the exclusive Eden Roc hotel just along the French Riviera at Cap d'Antibes.

Actresses Jessica Chastain, Milla Jovovich and Eva Longoria, former footballer David Beckham, and directors David Lynch and Pedro Almodovar were among the other A-listers present for the auction to help the charity founded by the late Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor.

The starry guest list which also included Uma Thurman, Tobey Maguire, Adrien Brody, Christoph Waltz and model Bella Hadid were entertained by Motown legend Diana Ross who sang "I Will Survive", while rapper Nicki Minaj belted out her hit "Truffle Butter". (AFP)



Manchester horror looms over Kruger movie

Cannes

Hollywood actress Diane Kruger said Friday she took her new film role as a mother who loses her family in a terror attack to show how survivors are often left alone with their suffering.

Kruger, who drew glowing reviews for her part in "In the Fade" by German-Turkish director Fatih Akin, said the cast and crew in Cannes for the film's premiere were haunted by the 22 victims of the Manchester bombing and the fate of their families.

"I haven't slept in days thinking about what happened, not just in Manchester but (in other attacks) all around the world," Kruger told reporters.

"We live at a time when such horrors are occurring almost daily. You read about 22, 23, 100 dead but you never see a film about the people who are left behind. How do you continue to live after experiencing something horrible like that, how can you come to grips with such injustice?" (AFP)



DR Congo film about coal seller wins top prize

A documentary about the back-breaking work of a young Congolese coal seller to feed his family has won the top prize at the Cannes film festival's Critics' Week. "Makala" by French director Emmanuel Gras follows Kabwita, who goes door-to-door selling coal on his bicycle in the southern Democratic Republic of Congo.

"Makala" means coal in Swahili.

"There is something beautiful and dignified in his work," the director told, "earning his living by the sweat of his brow."

"I wanted to show a man of action, not someone in (the misery) of poverty but someone who lives their life," he added. (AFP)



(FromL) Bulgarian actor Stefan Denolyubov, Bulgarian actor Dimitar Banenkin, Bulgarian director Stephan Komandarev, Bulgarian actress Borislava Stratiieva, Bulgarian actress Irini Zhambonas, Bulgarian actor Ivan Barnev and Bulgarian actor Dobrin Dosev pose yesterday during a photocall for the film 'Posoki' (Directions) at the 70th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes (AFP)