





## Royal Welcome

Bafta's dinner with William and Kate had a "cool Britannia" feel.



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Guests drank from gold goblets, and Patina's food was served on white antiquestyle plates.

The British Academy of Film LOS ANGELES and Television Arts brought together 42 "Brits to Watch" honorees, along with Hollywood heavyweights, at a black-tie gala on July 9 at the Belasco Theater. But the real focus of the night were the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, a.k.a. Prince William and the former Kate Middleton, the rare—perhaps only-guests that could bump Hollywood royalty like Jennifer Lopez, Tom Hanks, and Nicole Kidman clear out of the headlines.

The dinner was produced by Bafta's Londonbased head of production, Clare Brown, with event design by Amanda Davis of AD Events International, who brought Tami Carlson of Incubox on board locally to co-produce it. "My design focus was to give the event a stylish, cool Britannia feel with a modern Anglo-mania twist," Davis said. "An eclectic mix of English style and high fashion." The duke acts as Bafta's president. (Press was not permitted inside the dinner portion of the event.)

The tables were dressed with custom '50s-style lampshades in blue and red. Davis designed the bespoke shades and turned to Lotus Lampshades to manufacture them in rich silks, brocades, beads, and tassels, working from an 18th-century stone chapel in rural Wales. The lamps were set into gold bowls filled with blooms of English flowers, dahlias, and roses in rich, deep hues.

Patina Restaurant Group chef and founder Joachim Splichal created the three-course menu with less than three weeks' lead time.

The first course was courgette and mint tian with lemon and pine nut gremolata, the entrée filet of beef with creamed leeks and a red wine sauce, and dessert was a take on "Eton Mess," an English rose meringue with freshpicked strawberries and cream.

The production team added a giant custombuilt screen with molded gold frame to the space "to give a cinema paradiso feel to the decadent interior of the theater," Davis said. Still-life vignettes of flowers, old books, and British bulldog sculptures dressed the bars and the whole venue carried the sweet aroma of Jo Malone candles in grapefruit and orange blossom.

Pasadena-based 3Muse Press created the

invitations and tickets. The cards were printed letterpress by hand on a press built circa 1910. There were multiple setups, to make sure each feature was clean and perfect. "We used a 19th-century technique called bronzing for the spotlight beams," said 3Muse's Helen Driscoll, Ink is laid down, five cards at a time, and then fine gold-metal powder is carefully brushed over the ink, the excess tapped off, and then any that remains blown off with a small air compressor. The process was generally retired in the 19th century because it was considered so laborious. -Alesandra Duhin

## Bafta "Brits to Watch" Dinner

Catering Patina Restaurant Group Centerpiece Flowers Sada's Flowers Chairs Chameleon Chair Collection Chairs, Flatware, Glassware Classic Party Rentals China Town & Country **Event Rentals** Lighting Q1 Designs Linens BBJ Linen Menus, Ticket Letterpress **Printing 3Muse Press** PR MPRM Public Relations **Production** AD Events International Limited Security Andrews International Set Build Mendenhall Productions **Sound** Delicate Productions Inc. Step-and-Repeat AAA Flag & Banner **Production, Red Carpet** Banners, Step-and-Repeat **Design** Incubox Valet 7 Valet Venue Belasco Theater Video Creative Technology