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Interior designer, Matthew White, creates a spectacular event in Venice during Carnevale 2006 to benefit Save Venice.

Venice is always magical, but during Carnevale it is surreal. Playing off that otherworldly atmosphere, Matthew White, along with his co-chairs Francesca Bortolotto-Possati, Terry Stanfill, Hutton Wilkinson, Adelina Wong-Ettelson, Amanda Stonnington and Shane McCoy created what will undoubtedly be known as the most spectacular series of events ever produced in Venice to benefit Save Venice Inc. Save Venice is an American non-profit organization that is devoted to the restoration of art and monuments in Italy's most ethereal city.

Matthew White's involvement with Save Venice illustrates his passion for beauty, history and Italy. Over the years, he has chaired, hosted, and designed several spectacular events to help fund Save Venice's many important restoration projects. Mr. White has served as a board member of the organization for five years.

The Save Venice *Carnevale di Venezia* was held from February 18-21, 2006 and included cocktail parties, concerts, lectures, luncheons and balls. Considered one of the most successful fundraisers ever for Save Venice, the events were a particularly strong draw due to their taking place in some of Venice's most sumptuous, and heretofore unseen, private palaces.

One of the highlights of the four-day gala was a special performance produced by Matthew White and generously underwritten by the Walt Disney Company. This event took place at the recently rebuilt opera house, La Fenice, the ceiling of which was restored by Save Venice.

Calling on a few friends, Mr. White realized a dream of creating a one-time-only performance to raise funds for continued restoration projects in his favorite city. Rick Elice, who co-wrote the book for the Broadway smash hit *Jersey Boys*, created the script for this special performance. With the Tony Award winning actor and artistic director of the Williamstown Theatre festival, Roger Rees, directing and acting in the piece, it was a given that the evening would be special. Add to the mix the world-renowned talents of Michael York and Kate Burton and the noted pianist and composer, Bryan Louiselle, and it was easy to see that this was more than mere entertainment -- it was an incredible evening of world-class theatre performed in one of the world's most famous opera houses.

Those lucky enough to attend this theatrical performance and the other events during this unprecedented gala agreed that it was by far the most visually beautiful and enjoyable they had ever experienced.

The funds raised during Save Venice's *Carnivale di Venezia* will go toward the many important restoration projects that Save Venice continues to champion. Over its long history, Save Venice has restored many significant works of art and architecture and in doing so has given a gift to future generations.

For more information on Save Venice, please visit their website at www.savevenice.org

For more information on Matthew White and White Webb, please visit www.whitewebb.com.