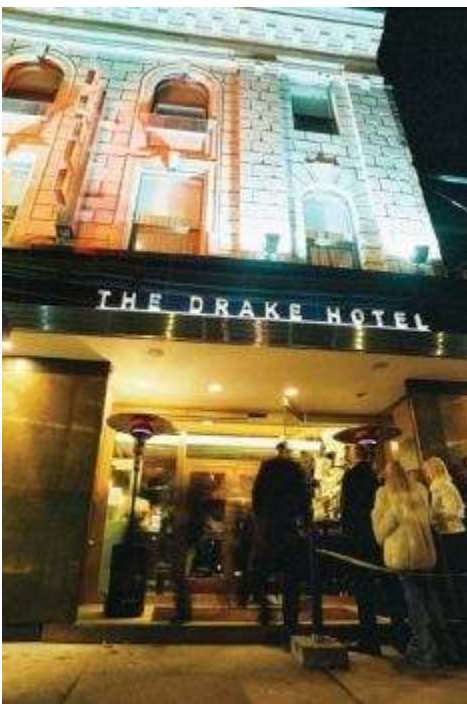




The Drake Hotel Celebrates 5 Year Anniversary



The Story of the LITTLE Hotel That Made BIG Headlines



February marks the fifth anniversary of the Drake Hotel— a cause for celebration, especially for the many Toronto artists and curators who have benefited from its diverse programming. This exhibition highlights work produced through the hotel's [ongoing residency program](#), which imports talent from international cities into the Toronto scene. Participants include Danish multi-disciplinarian Sergei Sviatchenko, Miami video artists TM Sisters and Winnipeg's Paul

Butler, whose affection for collage informs the exhibit's curatorial approach.

The Drake Hotel has become a Toronto cultural, entertainment and culinary landmark. In the five years since the opening, the Drake has come to be known as an energetic hub for visual & performance art, dining and hospitality, providing one of Canada's most unique and sought after hotel and culinary experiences.

The Drake has earned a following that includes some famous faces - **Johnny Knoxville, Kevin Bacon, Maria Bello, Nick Nolte** (who insisted on mixing his own cocktails), **Orlando Bloom, Penélope Cruz, Rachel McAdams, Ron Howard, Scott Speedman, Tommy Lee, Viggo Mortensen, The Black Eyed Peas, Heather Graham**. Part of the appeal is the hotel's rags-to-riches pedigree: The Drake was rescued by intrepid and ingenious owner **Jeff Stober**, who injected C\$6 million into creating a boutique hotel. The renovation endures as one of Toronto's refurbishment success stories. While the 19 guest rooms are mostly on the tiny side -- they range from 14 to 36 sq. m (150-385 sq. ft.) -- they are cleverly designed and have good amenities -CD/DVD players and pretty linens, for example.

The Drake's strength is in its public spaces, and for a property this intimate, it offers many options. There's a restaurant and bar, a rooftop lounge, and a cafe; an exercise studio for yoga classes and a massage room; and a performance venue, the Underground, that features live music.

By Si Si Penaloza

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