

Googlers and Goldmanites Gather for Art, Science and Good Causes

by **Amanda L Gordon**

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- Dream and Hudson Guild host benefits; stem cell lab opens
- 'Church & State,' a play about gun violence, gets intense

Goldman Sachs partner Kristin Olson probably didn't count on Madonna's "Material Girl" playing as she took the stage at Dream's "A League of Our Own" benefit, celebrating the nonprofit's softball teams for girls and honoring her own success on Wall Street.



Richard Berlin, Kristin Olson and Vik Sahwney
 Photographer: Amanda Gordon/Bloomberg

But the '80s hit about a woman wanting a rich man was so wrong, it was right. In fact, it was a pretty campy event where stereotypes of femininity were played for irony. So yes, there was wine and chocolate -- heaps of it, served under more than a dozen chandeliers with fake flickering candles. The flowers were pink, the chaise lounges silver and purple velvet.

But also there was guy food -- fries, sliders -- and a lot of guys, including Blackstone Group's Vik Sahwney, Karim Assef, chairman of global investment banking at Bank of America, and Robert LeBlanc of Onex. "We never said guys weren't invited," Richard Berlin, Dream's executive director, said. "This year, we encouraged them."



That said, the organization's name, [Dream](https://twitter.com/wearedream?lang=en) <<https://twitter.com/wearedream?lang=en>>, sounds a little sappy compared to Harlem RBI, which it went by until earlier this month. Sahwney, the nonprofit's chairman, explained the name was changed to reflect the organization's expansion to

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Rob Nagle, in red flannel, talks gun violence on the set of "Church & State." Photographer: Amanda Gordon/Bloomberg

In the play "Church & State," up now at New World Stages, Rob Nagle plays a North Carolina senator a few days shy of an election who doesn't feel right about the speech he's about to give. Soon the audience learns why: he's attended a funeral for children killed in a shooting at the same school his kids attend. He's rattled and begins to reckon with his views of gun violence and what he can do about it.

"For 20 to 25 minutes after the show, I'm not myself, I'm coming down from it," Nagle said after the

performance Wednesday.

In the audience that night: Jack Hayflick, who worked at Goldman Sachs for 30 years and is a co-producer of the play. He said he didn't do it just because of the message. "I did it because it's a good play," he said. He has seen it many times and is still arrested when he hears Nagle deliver his speech. "It's the emotion that gets to me," Hayflick said.