

## Fall Gala honorees announced

Northern Westchester Center for the Arts (NWCA) announced its 2002 Fall Gala honorees, including noted film director Lasse Hallstrom; his wife, Academy Award-nominee Lena Olin; and local business executive Michael Perry.

The gala will be held Saturday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the NWCA Colleen Dewhurst Theatre and will include cocktails, a buffet, performances, live auction, and desserts. Call NWCA at 241-6922 for reservations.



At the news conference Thursday, Sept. 19, to announce Northern Westchester Center for the Arts' (NWCA) fall gala honorees are, from left, Anthony DeStefano of Opus Advisory Group; Pat Braja, NWCA's director of business development; Ralph Sessa of Opus; Nick Palumbo of Opus; Russ Carpentieri of Opus; Mike Perry, NWCA Businessman Of the Year; Jill Deitch, NWCA's president; and Ken Marsolais, NWCA's executive director.

Mr. Hallstrom and Ms. Olin will receive the NWCA Colleen Dewhurst Award while Mr. Perry will receive the NWCA Corporate Award.

Attendees at a press conference last Thursday announcing the honorees heard remarks from NWCA President Jill Deitch, NWCA Executive Director Ken Marsolais, Westchester County Association President Larry Dwyer, and award-winning composer Alan Menken.

Mr. Menken reinforced the commitment that he and his fellow celebrities have for the arts and how NWCA provides a unique outlet for all Westchester County residents.

Mr. Marsolais outlined how NWCA has benefited from this symbiotic relationship with the large community of celebrities who live the area and praised their efforts to advance the arts. At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr. Marsolais introduced Mr. Hallstrom who described his journey from Sweden to Westchester and how he and his wife fell in love with northern Westchester. He said that it had been his and his wife's dream since they were young to live in America.

Mr. Dwyer reinforced the importance of NWCA to the community and detailed how local businessman Mark Stevens had recently set in motion a chain of events that led to the largest contribution in NWCA's history.

Through Mr. Stevens and his company MSCO, NWCA came to the attention of the Opus Foundation- the charitable arm of the Opus Advisory Group, a Westchester financial services company. With a history of donating to children's organizations, the Opus Foundation leapt at the opportunity to assist NWCA and this morning presented Mr. Marsolais and Ms. Deitch with a check for \$40,000. This represents the initial installment of a pledge that will eventually total \$250,000 over the next five years.

On-hand to present the check were the managing partners of Opus, Michael Perry, Russ Carpentieri, Anthony DeStefano, Nick Palumbo, and Ralph Sessa.