



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT.** Choreographer Brian Friedman.

**DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH.** A black diamond auction lot.

**UNDERCOVER AGENT.** Caprice Bourrett.

**SPEECH.** Nombulelo Malaza.

# Cut, colour, clarity and carats

**THE BOLD AND THE BLONDE.** Actress-slash-model Noelle Reno with the doyenne of designers, Zandra Rhodes.

Pictures supplied by the DEF



THE non-profit Diamond Empowerment Fund (DEF) was founded in the United States in 2007, and its mission is to raise monies towards supporting education initiatives that will change the lives of African communities based around diamond mines. This week the DEF, together with its founder Russell Simmons and South African supermodel Nicola Breytenbach, raised over \$1-million for named beneficiaries CIDA City Campus and The African Leadership Academy at a glittering DEF BENEFIT AND AUCTION held at Banqueting House in London.

Guests of honour at the sold-out dinner and live auction were chairman of De Beers Nicky Oppenheimer and Peter Sarda, group chief executive for Standard Chartered Bank. Students who directly benefit from DEF's programme in South Africa made speeches.

Nicola was named the first African Angel Ambassador, together with model Flaviana Matata. US celebrity Kim Kardashian, who attended, is also an African Angel Ambassador for the fund. Other VIPs included Hofti Golan, Dr Ben Chavis, Duncan James, Scott Henshall, Zandra Rhodes, Keisha Buchanan, Alexis Jordan, Scott Young, Michelle Williams, Zaraah Abrahams and Varda Shine, the MD of Diamond Trading Company International. Varda was a co-chair of the event, along with Anna Martin of Standard Chartered Bank.



**BONHOMIE.** Nicky Oppenheimer at the auction.



**DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER.** Nicola Breytenbach with DEF founder Russell Simmons.