



[November 5, 2012](#)

Recap: Knock Out Abuse Gala

BY [Marlene Hall](#)

November 5th, 2012 [1 comment](#)

[Like](#) [17 people like this.](#) Be the first of your friends.



Thursday night was the amazing **Knock Out Abuse**, founded by **Jill Sorensen** and **Cheryl Davis Masri**, and co-chaired by the beautiful and gracious **Michelle Gloden Schoenfeld** and **Charrisse Jackson-Jordan**, at the Ritz Carlton in downtown D.C. Renowned event planner **Andre Wells** put together the Moulin Rouge-themed event. The color of the night? Red with a splash of bare chested gorgeous men, delicious drinks, exquisite silent auction, celebrities like **Carre' Otis** and **Amy Baier** (FOX News' **Brett Baier's** wife), emcee **Andrea Roane**, gorgeous men and women, delicious food and delicate decor.

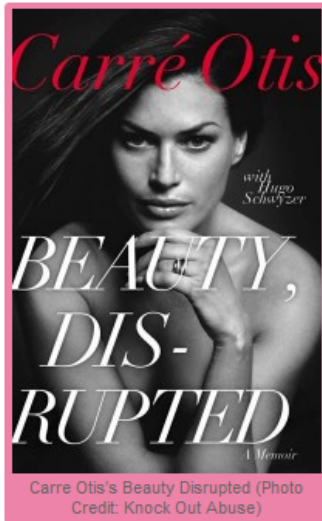
Knock Out Abuse is a special night, where 750 of Washington D.C.'s most prominent women, from members of Congress to leaders in the corporate and philanthropic communities, gather to knock out abuse. This one night a year event has raised over \$6.5 million to restore dignity and respect to thousands of victims of domestic violence in the National Capital Area. The evening is a true celebration of the power of women to affect change for the most vulnerable women and children in our community.

I arrived at the Ritz to find a shirtless man with six-pack abs in tuxedo pants lounging on a chaise with the Eiffel Tower hovering in the background. Men, all in tuxes, lined the stairs to escort every single female guest downstairs. I don't know what it is, but it's a thrill to be escorted by a guy with his arm extended. I guess chivalry is not dead. Just a great touch having well dressed men walk you down the winding stairs with a touch of conversation.

I attended the reception and it was lovely. After checking in as media, I ran into the beautiful actress, former model, author, women health activist and Knock Out Abuse Honoree, Carre' Otis. She is the author of ***Beauty Disrupted***. The book talks about how underage women are abused in the modeling industry. She is working to prevent young models from being exploited. She shared with me how young women are treated like clothes hangers and are only being valued for bodies and not who they are as people. She wants to change how women are treated in the modeling industry and overall. We are more than just our bodies. While she hasn't testified to Congress yet, organizations she works with are lobbying Congress. Carre' is simply a gorgeous person inside and out and it was a huge pleasure talking with someone in her stature that is so passionate, educated about the issues and down to earth nice!



Knock Out Abuse (Photo Credit: Knock Out Abuse)



Carré Otis's Beauty Disrupted (Photo Credit: Knock Out Abuse)

Carré Otis published her memoir, *Beauty Disrupted*, in 2011 with HarperCollins Publishers. She's a regular guest blogger on [Huffington Post](#), [Mind Body Green](#), [Elephant Journal](#), [Patheos](#) and [The Conversation](#). She's also a contributing writer for [Vogue Australia](#). She's passionate about the dangerous impact subversive media-messaging has on our culture—especially our young women—but also enjoys writing on topics related to health, nutrition, yoga, relationships, sexual intimacy, mind-body connection and spirituality. As a world famous model in the '80s and '90s, Carré grew increasingly concerned about unfair labor practices and poor working conditions in the modeling industry and has since become an advocate for young women in and out of the industry.

She's on the Advisory Board of [The Model Alliance](#), a non-profit industry group working to establish fair labor standards for models in the U.S., as well as an ambassador for the [National Eating Disorders Association](#). She's been featured on numerous

nationally-televised programs, magazine publications and Internet platforms offering her unique insight into the business of beauty and the high price it demands. Carré's strong commitment to helping others reclaim physical and emotional health, develop positive body image—fulfill and empower themselves in all areas of their lives—is what makes her one of the most powerful and inspiring voices for change in the world today.

I also chatted with the Co-chair **Michelle Gloden Schoenfeld**. She has been with Knock Out Abuse for several years, and it is a fantastic organization. She knows the money goes to help women of domestic abuse. Michelle is passionate about helping women escape abusive situations. She said many women feel ashamed, like they did something wrong, when that is not the case or do not have the means to escape an abusive situation. She is grateful for people attending the sold-out event since she knows it is expensive, but the money goes to a great cause.



Michelle (at top 3rd from left), models, friends and talented make-up artist John Paul Hamilton (bottom) (Photo Credit: Knock Out Abuse)

I ran into Amy Baier, Fox News' Brett Baier's wife, and she shared how her husband was speaking at **Fight for Children aka Fight Night** that night to raise money for the **Children's Medical Hospital**. The Baiers are good friends with the late **Joe Roberts** who founded Fight Night.

The most amazing story I heard that night was from a man I met, a retired air force pilot. He and his wife fostered 47 kids and adopted four kids. It's amazing what people do to make this world a better place.

The cocktail reception was held outside the main ballroom. There was a windmill and two more hunky models standing outside the cocktail area. A bar decorated with white was in the back and in the far back room were many more male models who you could take pictures with against a green screen. Waiters had delicious hors d'oeuvres. Another room was full of silent auction items.

As I headed out, it was evident how much this night meant to so many people. One of the ladies working the coat room told me that there are more animal shelters than women's shelters in the District. She wondered where the priorities are.

Knock Out Abuse, **Michelle Gloden Schoenfeld**, **Carré Otis**, **Andre Wells** and all those involved did a great job for a great cause. Congrats on another amazing event!