

WE TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT GUESTS AT THE DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL GOT THIS YEAR...

Celeb-rated gifting



As if it's not enough that they earn millions and get sent free shoes and bags weekly – the A-listers are pampered with gifts at every awards ceremony they attend! Nathalie Dubois-Sissiko, President and CEO of DPA, shares the ins and outs of celebrity gift lounges with *OK! Middle East*...

Can you tell us a little bit about your role and what it actually entails?

I have to find the best new products and brands that are not even on the market yet for gift bags, and invite the biggest stars to collect them.

Do all the celebrities come and collect their gifts?

Not always – they get a DIFF gift sent to their rooms on arrival though.

How did you end up in such an unusual career?

It was by accident. I was doing PR for a jewellery line, and I placed some on the red carpet at the Golden Globes. We rented a suite in The Beverly Wilshire at the corner of Rodeo Drive and put together a small gift bag. After that everyone kept asking what I was doing for the Oscars, and here I am four years later!

What's been the most outrageous demand you've ever had?

Going to Paris Hilton's yacht in Cannes to provide her with the



Nathalie Dubois-Sissiko



Emilie De Ravin



Charlize Theron



Josh Hartnett



Catherine Deneuve



Terrance Howard

INSIDE THE DIFF GOODIE BAG

hairstylist from our gift room. Everyone else was evacuating due to a big storm, and we had to go out on the turbulent sea!

Can you give us some examples of sponsored gifts?

An all-inclusive safari to Kenya, haute couture gowns from Lebanese designer Georges Hobeika, a session with a therapist, Dior clothing and Petrossian caviar.

Does everyone get the same gift, or is there a hierarchy?

The biggest stars usually get the biggest gifts. But it's also possible for some other talents to get big gifts.

Do celebrities still get excited with these gifts?

Yes, they get very excited. Some see what gifts are available on the invite and even reserve them! In our first year at Cannes, Sharon Stone came to our suite to get a trip to Bora Bora. Last year in Dubai, Rachel Bilson and Hayden Christensen came to our suite because of the safari to Kenya.

Have you had any diva-like experiences or tantrums from any of the guests?

Very rarely. But it can happen. Some stars may not want to take a picture. Some may request a bowl of water for their dog!

Have any celebrities ever sent you a thank-you note?

Sometimes. The first one ever was from Eva Longoria Parker.

What essentials do you have in your handbag on the day of an event?

Three mobile phones, a lipstick, business cards and a Mont Blanc pen.

What do you wear at these gift lounges?

Flat shoes and comfortable clothing. I like Calvin Klein and Donna Karan dresses in neutral colours, as they are chic but simple.

Have you had any good responses from male celebs?

Yes, Terrence Howard was so happy the first day he came, he wanted to give us a cheque. Richard Gere was thrilled after coming to our suite in Venice, and that evening he went out of his way to introduce us to his wife.

- NATURA BISSE GIFT SET AND VIP DIAMOND BEAUTY TREATMENTS

- AJMAL PERFUME

- PHILIPS ELECTRONICS PRODUCTS, INCLUDING PORTABLE DVD PLAYERS AND SWAROVSKI USBS

- PUCCI AND KARL LAGERFELD SUNGLASSES BY MARCHON

- A VACATION IN TAHITI, COURTESY OF PEARL RESORTS AND LE TAHAA PRIVATE ISLAND AND SPA

- SAMSONITE LUGGAGE

- BABYBLING GIFTS

- ANNA KOSTUROVA BATHING SUITS

- DR FRESH, SOLAVIE AND SPATHIKA TRAVEL KITS

- ITEMS FROM BAMBOO HUGS, FRENCH SISTERS, EVA VARRO DESIGNS, DOMAKAYA, PULL IN AND GEORGE HOBEIKA



TAHITI



NATURA BISSE

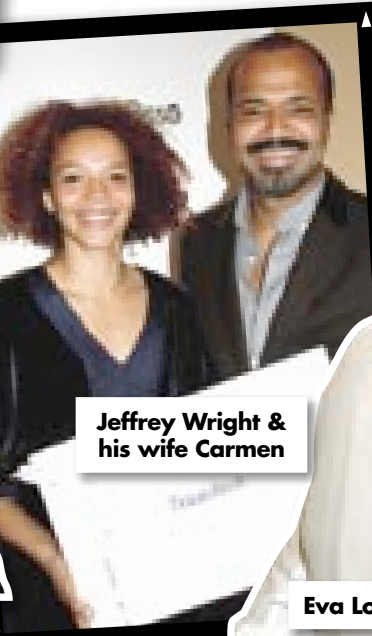


SAMSONITE

TOTAL VALUE:
Dhs146,800



PUCCI



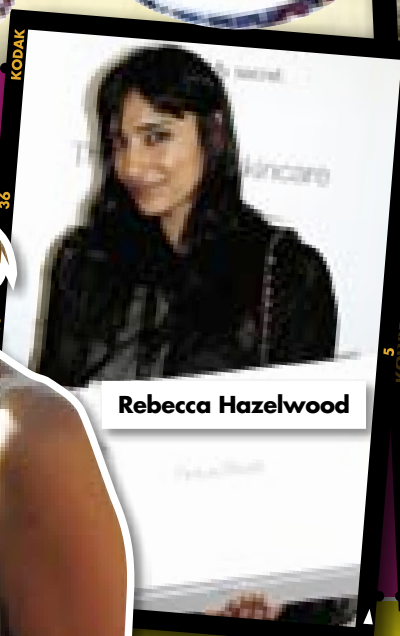
Jeffrey Wright & his wife Carmen



Eva Longoria Parker



Paris Hilton



Rebecca Hazelwood



Sharon Stone