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POWER
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MEET VANCOUVER'S PLAYERS. Who's really running City Hall? Who's the godfather on our waterfront? Who keeps our symphony and opera afloat? Who's got the connections to get things done quickly? And why is a man in Washington, D.C., one of this city's 10 most powerful people?

A small illustration at the bottom of the page shows a man in a red suit kneeling and interacting with a large, glowing, rectangular screen or device. The screen is surrounded by a circular pattern of small, glowing points, and there are some lightning bolt-like symbols around it.

BY TYEE BRIDGE, STEVE BURGESS, MARCIE GOOD, MICHAEL HARRIS, ROB HOWATSON, JONATHAN LIN, ALEXIS ROOHANI, MASAJI TAKEI AND THE EDITORS • ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN HESHKA

POWER⁵⁰

he says. "Part of the fascination for me is how things need to be different in other places." That will be the challenge with one of his more recent commissions—overseeing a new design for the United Arab Emirates city of Abu Dhabi. Closer to home, Beasley will form a new company in co-operation with condo marketer Bob Rennie (No. 8) in the new year, doing planning and development work.

What's your No. 1 priority in 2007?

To start engaging in urbanist challenges around the world.

Which leader do you most respect?

[Urban critic] Jane Jacobs. Her theories and ideas were very influential in my development and my practice, so I'm going to miss her.

If you had the power to change one thing about Vancouver, what would it be?

I would have much more housing at an affordable level for all our citizens; I would not have a situation where a young family felt they had to go to the edge of our region in order to find a place to live.



46 SAM FELDMAN H CEO / S.L. FELDMAN & ASSOCIATES

THE MAN WITH ORACLE ears has heard the future and it is a young Ben Folds-meets-Billy Joel pianist from Anderson, Indiana, named Jon McLaughlin. At

least that's what the aggressive talent scouts at S.L. Feldman & Associates, Canada's largest full-service entertainment agency, are telling its founder. Feldman—whose fame factory includes a tour booking division, a film and TV production company run by his wife Janet York (Big Pictures), a film and TV talent agency (Characters) and a sister talent company run by long-time partner Bruce Allen—created Watchdog Entertainment in 2003 to develop the next generation of contemporary and alternative musicians. The junior beat seekers promptly signed Abbotsford rockers Hedley, who went maple leaf platinum last year, and they continue to troll north and south of the border in hopes of adding more big fish to the star pool (which Feldman co-manages with Steve Macklam). Giants in that pond include Diana Krall, The Chieftains and Jesse Cook.

What's your No. 1 priority in 2007?

Aside from new records coming out from our clients Norah Jones, Joni Mitchell, Elvis Costello and Ry Cooder, I'd say it's going to be producing a second season of *Whistler* for CTV.

What was your personal highlight from the past year?

Developing a strategic alliance with the William Morris Agency so that we can trade a significant amount of talent back and forth.

What's the one thing you feel absolutely powerless over?

Geopolitics. The evening news is starting to look like a bad

outtake from *Team America: World Police*.



45 THOMAS FUNG ▲ CEO / FAIRCHILD GROUP

THOMAS FUNG RUNS a business empire with multiple interests: Chinese-language television and radio stations, real estate development, retail and pharmaceuticals. But he's not the stereotypical all-powerful, unapproachable man-at-the-top: when he read his Power List entry last year that criticized his Aberdeen Mall's lack of direction, he took careful note. "That helped me give second thought," he says. His revitalization plan includes adding more brand-name tenants from Asia and increasing direct sourcing to offer wholesale prices in his own stores. The next part of his strategy is to expand the mall with a new wing, this one featuring North American stores. The revamped mall ("where East meets West") only stands to gain from his on-site condominium development now under construction and the future Canada Line station to be named Aberdeen.

Which leader do you most respect?

Jim Pattison. Last month he came to my house—he's a man of charisma and intelligence, and he gave me a lot of advice. In many ways he resembles my late father. They both started their businesses from scratch, they struggled—and they went all the way to the top.

Who do you bounce ideas off?

At times, I talk to my rivals. We see each other and even send gifts to each other at Christmas. I listen to their suggestions. But those suggestions are for the things I shouldn't do.

What's your best stress-reliever?

I love to write. [Fung's film, *The Paper Moon Affair*, was nominated for five Leo Awards this year.] I'm planning to do a medium-budget film and I wrote the script again. It's an action film but without violence. And a love drama.



44 ROB FEENIE H LUMIÈRE CHEF & PARTNER

WHEN HE WON the Iron Chef competition in early 2005, Rob Feenie became something more than a celebrity chef: he became a brand. Ever since, he and his partners David and Manjy Sidoo have been marketing the brand to spectacular effect. Operating out of his flagship rooms on Broadway, Lumière and Feenie's, the Burnaby-born chef has turned up in everything from White Spot commercials to Harmony Airways ads (he oversees the menu in business class—see David Ho, No. 40) to Red Bull billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz's foodie bash in Vienna. Like Umberto Menghi in his Vancouver heyday, or Wolfgang Puck in Los