

by Christopher London

Mixing Drinks

Photos by Christopher London and Gregory Partanio

THE SOCIETY SHOW, like a circus, has a unique cast of characters – socialites, publicists, philanthropists, entertainers and those in the fashionable circles – a mix one commentator referred to as “society in a blender”. It even has its own in-house paparazzi, the “celebrity photographers”. It’s a designation I informally adopt, though I photograph almost exclusively the world of philanthropy, and very rarely actual Hollywood celebrities. With this style of photography, permission is implicit. Jumping out of bushes is not required, nor is a zoom lens to capture them from 1,000 feet. That would be impersonal, impolite, and rather unnecessary. Par for the course is full-length close-ups to capture the magnificent couture designs worn to these events. In New York, it’s about who you know, what you do; it’s also very much about being seen in Vera Wang, Douglas Hannant and Lily Pulitzer. Often, the upwardly social are toggled in fineries well exceeding the net worth of some small countries. I see The Show as a necessity for Fashion and Philanthropy to thrive. Hollywood has celebrity. New York has Society. A merger of the two seems evident, with more Hollywood types mixing among the city’s socialites, philanthropists; but not entirely, because the star system in New York is still a tad different than it is in Hollywood. Cheers. ☺



Ms Somers Farkas, Ms Grace Hightower De Niro, Ms Daphna Kastner and Mr Harvey Keitel

AT THE CARLYLE HOTEL FOR AN EVENING FETE HOSTED BY MICHELE GERBER KLEIN AND MAGGIE NORRIS TO BENEFIT “OPERATION SMILE”



Mr Richard Johnson

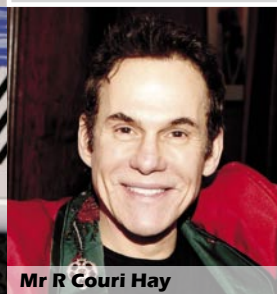
AT THE 21 CLUB FOR A PARTY TO CELEBRATE THE PUBLICATION OF JAY MCINERNEY'S NEW BOOK, THE GOOD LIFE



Mr Jay McInerney and Ms Anne Hearst



Ms Janna Bullock



Mr R Couri Hay

AT THE RUSSIAN NATIONAL ORCHESTRA'S HOLIDAY MUSICALE WITH VIOLINIST MIKHAIL SIMONYAN AT THE UPPER EAST SIDE HOME OF RUSSIAN BORN PHILANTHROPIST AND REAL ESTATE DEVELOPER JANNA BULLOCK



Mr Ben Widdicombe



Ms Hilary Ross and Wall Street Titan, Mr Wilbur Ross

AT THE THE BOY'S CLUB
OF NEW YORK BENEFIT
PREVIEW NIGHT
COCKTAIL RECEPTION
AND EXCLUSIVE CHEF'S
TASTING AT THE PARK
AVENUE ARMORY



CHRISTMAS PARTY
AT DOUBLES HOSTED
BY SYLVESTER AND
GILLIAN MINITER

Esq Executive Director of Boys & Girls Harbor,
Mr Hans E Hagemen and Ms Neri Kastner

AT THE
MONTBLANC
JUILLIARD
CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION



Mr Joe ("Joey Pants") Pantoliano
and President & CEO of Montblanc,
Mr Jan-Patrick Schmitz



Mr Braden Keil, Ms Gillian Minitzer and Ms Jennifer Gould Keil

AT THE NEW YORK
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOR A SPECIAL
EVENING WITH VOGUE
EDITOR-AT-LARGE,
ANDRE LEON TALLEY



Ms Lois Chiles, VIP Guest, Ms Erin Lazard and Ms Pat Altschul