



Celebrations, Celebrities & Couture at The Pierre

Ron Galella

An exhibition of the people, the parties and the cachet
that are so Perfectly Pierre through the eyes of
“Paparazzo Extraordinaire” Ron Galella

1967 – 1987

The exhibition will be on view in the Fifth Avenue lobby
and the 61st St. Lobby, and various places around the hotel

2 East 61st Street, New York, NY 10065

ABOUT THE PIERRE

Ever since Charles Pierre Casalsco collaborated with Wall Street financiers in 1930 to realize his dream of opening a grand French chateau on Fifth Avenue, the iconic hotel has been synonymous with European-styled elegance. The Pierre NY, A Taj Hotel is rich in stories and legends that are a testament to its 90 years of unsurpassed hospitality.

It is the people -- the world's top socialites, jetsetters, celebrities, fashion A-listers and business magnates -- who have made The Pierre so iconic and an enduring go-to destination since the hotel was opened in the height of Prohibition in 1930. No hotel is complete without the guests and the people who create the stories and the memories.

Celebrations, Celebrities & Couture at The Pierre commemorates some of the glitterati who have graced our doors captured through the lens of photographer, Ron Galella in candid, real life moments. Many of the uncropped photos have never been seen before. Together they recall the rich and colorful history of celebrations at The Pierre.

"Ron was delighted to have his photographs displayed at the iconic Pierre Hotel and in such a unique way," said Geoffrey Croft who wrote the text that accompanies the exhibit. "He spent countless hours inside creating the art that now adorns its walls. This exhibit is especially moving considering its timing, going up literally hours after his passing at age 91. What a tribute."



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ABOUT RON GALELLA

Ron Galella is widely regarded as the singularly most successful candid celebrity photographer in the world.

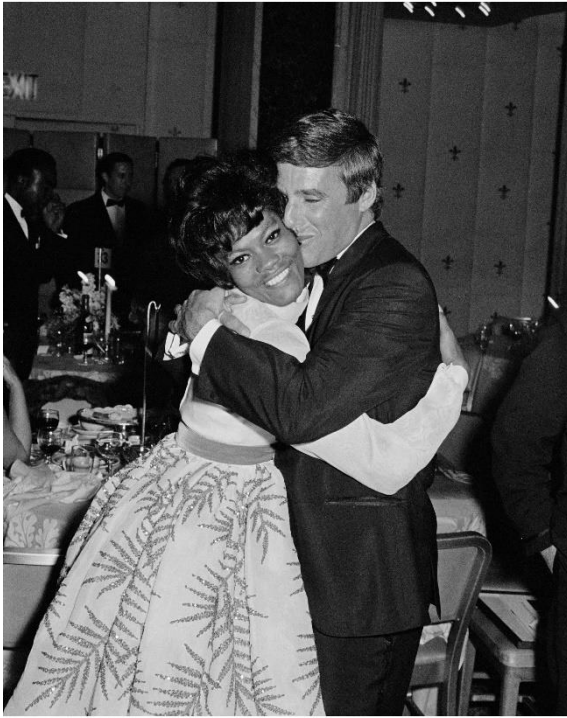
Dubbed “Paparazzo Extraordinaire” by Newsweek, Ron's passion for photography and his connection to his subjects created intimacy, resulting in a body of work that is unmatched, and establishing a unique niche in entertainment photojournalism.

During his nearly six-decade career he amassed the world's largest, single source photographic archive dedicated to popular culture.

His unique shooting style, pre-focusing his camera at 6 feet (set at F8) and holding the camera near his chest, ensured an interaction with the subject. Ron used that familiarity to extraordinary result.

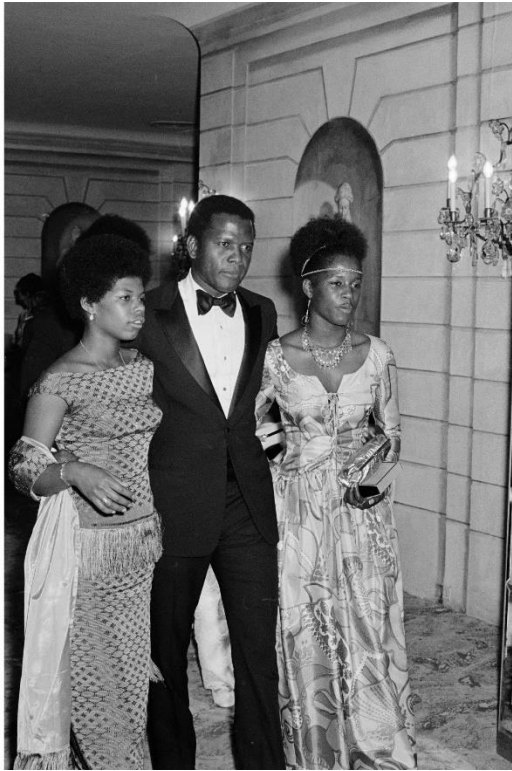
He often bounced his powerful Ascor flash off the ceiling which produced soft-bounced light, creating intimate, unexpected portraits in public places. The Pierre's expansive public spaces offered countless opportunities to demonstrate the brilliance of this technique, resulting in the beautiful "natural light" evident in many of the photos on display.

"Although my photos are still, they all have movement," Galella explains.



1. Dionne Warwick and Burt Bacharach (May 7, 1968)

Legendary collaborators, singer Dionne Warwick and song writer Burt Bacharach embrace after her Grand Ballroom performance. Scepter Records presented Ms. Warwick with a plaque commemorating her four Gold records earned with her record label. During the 60's, Warwick, Bacharach and lyricist Hal David had countless hit songs including "Walk on by". Warwick and Bacharach have amassed a total of 20 gold albums together.



2. Sidney Poitier with Daughters (June 10, 1970)

Legendary actor Sidney Poitier attends the Andrew Young Congress Support Committee Dinner Dance in the Grand Ballroom with his daughters, Beverly and Pamela. Also in attendance were Coretta Scott King, Harry Belafonte, and Lena Horne. Poitier became the first Black actor to win an Academy Award for a leading role performance in 1963's *Lilies of the Field*. He was awarded a second Oscar by the Academy in 2002 for "representing the industry with dignity, style, and intelligence".

Young, a close confidant to Martin Luther King Jr., lost his Congressional bid that year but won in 1972, later becoming the US Ambassador to the UN in 1977 and Atlanta's 55th mayor in 2002.



3. Shelley Susskind and Michael Andreas Wedding (June 20, 1970)

The bride, daughter of talk show host, and film and TV producer David Susskind & Joyce Davidson wore an Arnold Scaasi dress of dotted swiss covered with applied flowers. Susskind had produced "Raisin in the Sun", a star-making film role for Sidney Poitier.

"About 250 persons attended the ceremony and a reception at The Pierre," according to the New York Times. Guests included the bridegroom's godfather, former Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, Senator Jacob K. Javits, Lawrence O'Brien, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, former Governor Thomas E. Dewey, and Canadian fashion designer Arnold Scaasi, who designed all the gowns worn by the wedding party.



4. Barbra Streisand and Valentino (September 27, 1970)

Italian fashion designer Valentino Garavani with a newly blonde Barbra Streisand, leaving his extravagant “Scheherazade Fantasy” party at The Pierre. The décor of the legendary Moroccan-Indian themed party was described by noted *Philadelphia Inquirer* fashion scribe, Rubye Graham (Hennessy) as “breathtaking.” The guest list included fashion luminaries Oscar and Françoise de la Renta, Nan Kempner, and Women’s Wear Daily publisher, James Brady. The event celebrated Valentino’s Madison Avenue Boutique, Cerutti, which opened two weeks later.



5. Ziegfeld Girls Performers, 34th Annual Ziegfeld Club Charity Ball (November 5, 1971)

A lavish tribute to the glory of the Ziegfeld girls featured the crowning of renowned dancing star and actress, Ruby Keeler, as Miss Ziegfeld of 1972. Keeler, chief tap dancer in Florenz Ziegfeld's 1928 production of "Whoopie!", was also the tap-dancing star of the 1933 Busby Berkeley's film "42nd Street". Her return to Broadway this season in, "*No, No, Nanette*," was a triumph. The Ziegfeld Club, founded in 1936, works to sustain women in the performing arts. The group is associated with the Actors' Fund of America.



6. Lois Chiles and Yves Saint Laurent (November 5, 1974)

Beautiful, bounced light illuminate the model/actress and famous French designer at Yves Saint Laurent's Haute Couture Unique Showing at The Pierre in this stunning photograph. A former fashion model with Wilhelmina Models and Elite in Paris, Ms. Chiles appeared in "The Great Gatsby" with Robert Redford, (screenplay by Francis Ford Coppola) that year and "The Way We Were" starring Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford the previous year. She would later play Dr. Holly Goodhead in James Bond's *Moonraker* with Roger Moore.



7. Front Row - Yves Saint Laurent Haute Couture Unique Showing (November 5, 1974)

Attendees included YSL supporters Nan Kempner, Fran Stark, and Diane Von Furstenberg (in hat at right), wearing their YSL proudly. The French designer premiered sixty-nine designs at The Pierre show for his Spring Collection.

The hotel has long been a favorite among fashion designers, including Mr. Laurent who became long-time resident of the Hotel in the 70's.



8. Bianca Jagger, Lauren Bacall & Diana Vreeland (November 5, 1974)

Lauren Bacall sharing a laugh with the legendary *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue* editor at Yves Saint Laurent Haute Couture Unique Showing as Bianca Jagger looks on. Ms. Vreeland had become Special Consultant to the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art the year before and would mount her YSL show (the first show to feature a living designer), in 1983.

Bacall's life changed at 18 when Ms. Vreeland put her on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar* in 1943, leading to her casting in Howard Hawk's "To Have and Have Not". The tailored houndstooth peplum suit she wore in that film was especially loved by Saint Laurent. Ms. Bacall was a muse to many designers including Mr. Laurent and was a loyal client. "If it's pants, it's Yves," Bacall famously said.



9. Maryse Gaspard- Iconic Cardin Design (October 29, 1975)

Long-time Pierre Cardin muse and head of couture, Maryse Gaspard, wearing a woolen kinetic Cardin space age carwash dress worn over a bodysuit from the Pierre Cardin 1970s collection at the 25 Years of Pierre Cardin: Couture to Wine (For Friends of Channel 13) benefit with Pierre Hotel banquet captain looking on. Mr. Cardin, 53, organized the retrospective touring five American cities, with two shows at The Pierre, one in the afternoon for design students and licensees, and a second evening benefit.

"I wanted the students to see it" the designer said. "Many of them thought that I was dead," he remarked, according to the New York Times. Alive, he was mobbed, with students trying to touch him, asking for his autograph, Mr. Cardin was, "a little world-weary, but still vigorous looking."



10. Pierre Cardin Promoting His Wine (October 29, 1975)

Mr. Cardin holding a bottle of his wine at the 25 Years of Pierre Cardin: Couture to Wine (For Friends of Channel 13) benefit at The Pierre. Mr. Cardin had recently added wine to the 250 products that already bore his name. His wine collection consisted of a red and a white Bordeaux and a rosé and sold for \$2.99 a bottle.

“They're my ready-to-wear wines, not champagne,” Cardin quipped to the New York Times.

“I didn't want a very expensive wine; these are to drink with every meal,” he said. “It is accepted for fashion designers to make perfume,” said Mr. Cardin. “Wine is not so different. Both are made of alcohol. Both are for the spirit.”



11. John Cazale, Al Pacino and Meryl Streep (November 19, 1976)

The stars came out to celebrate famed acting coach Lee Strasberg's 75th Birthday at The Pierre's Grand ballroom. The Polish-Ukrainian born Strasberg, known for co-creating The Actors Studio, and popularizing "method acting" in America, trained several generations of theatre and film notables, including Dustin Hoffman, Montgomery Clift, James Dean, Marilyn Monroe, Jane Fonda, Paul Newman, Ellen Burstyn, Al Pacino, Geraldine Page, Sidney Poitier, Karl Malden, Joanne Woodward, Gene Wilder, Steve McQueen, and Sally Field.

Tragically, four months after the photo was taken, Streep's fiancé, and Pacino's old friend and co-star, John Cazale passed away due to cancer at age 42.



12. Princess Margaret (October 27, 1977)

Onlookers admired Princess Margaret's appropriately balletic "pink dress with lots of glitter", as she left The Pierre following a benefit for The Anglo-American Dance Foundation.

Also in attendance was Elizabeth Warner, "who is also known in some circles as Elizabeth Taylor," the New York Times remarked, "floating in wearing a deep blue chiffon gown cut low enough to more than adequately frame a mass of diamonds and sapphires." Walter Cronkite was master of ceremonies.

"With star-studded headliners.... it was only to be expected that the party was oversold and as jammed as bargain day on Orchard Street. Almost 680 men and women showed up, rather than the planned 600."



13. Marian Anderson and Marie Osmond (November 28, 1979)

Marian Anderson, the famed contralto who became the first Black singer to perform at The Metropolitan Opera, and pop idol Marie Osmond lead an emotional rendition of *America The Beautiful* at the conclusion of the *Ladies Home Journal Woman Of The Year Awards* ceremony in The Pierre's Grand Ballroom.

About 400 guests crowded into a black-tie reception to help the magazine honor "11 Women of the Decade" (including Anderson) and "10 Women of the Future".

In 1939 Ms. Anderson sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in front of 75,000 people after she had been barred from performing in Constitution Hall because of her race. Ms. Anderson was the first African American singer to perform at the White House, and at New York's Metropolitan Opera.



14. Andy Warhol (December 12, 1979)

Pop artist Andy Warhol arrives for a “Ted Kennedy for President” fundraiser while a Pierre doorman looks on. The Upper Eastside artist was a frequent visitor of the hotel. According to Warhol, Ron Galella was his favorite photographer.



15. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (December 12, 1979)

A beaming Jackie Kennedy, wearing Oleg Cassini, descends the stairs at The Pierre after attending a Ted Kennedy for President fundraiser. The former First Lady, who became Mr. Galella's most photographed subject, was also not a stranger to the hotel.



16. Clint Eastwood and girlfriend Sandra Locke (June 14, 1982)

Hollywood icon Clint Eastwood had a busy night attending “The Firefox” movie premiere at Cinema I on Third Avenue and the after party at The Pierre Hotel benefitting The Museum of Modern Art’s Film Preservation Fund. The movie, directed and starring Clint Eastwood was generally panned by viewers but the film's dog-fight sequences, directed by *Star Wars* special effects supervisor John Dykstra, is considered a high point of the film.



17. Sophia Loren (October 15, 1982)

A radiant Sophia Loren, bathed in beautiful, defused light, arrives at The Pierre. The beloved Italian superstar had just been mobbed at an in-store public appearance at B. Altman where she was promoting her fragrance, Sophia by Coty, an Amber Floral fragrance for women.

The reflection of photographer Ron Galella, and his powerful Ascor flash pointing up towards the ceiling instead of directly on the actress, can be seen in the revolving doors, revealing the secret to his bounced light technique captured in many of the striking images taken at the hotel.

Ms. Loren is among his top three most frequently photographed subjects (with Mrs. Onassis and Elizabeth Taylor being the other two).



18. Basha, Henry and Nancy Kissinger, with Lewis Rudin (November 20, 1982)

Wilhelmina model Basha Szymanska Rudin, in an original design, is a picture of elegance wearing a magnificent 3-tiered-ruffle dress with heart shaped back at The Karen Horney Clinic Social Conscience Award Honoring former Senator Abraham Robicoff. Past award winner, Charles Schlaifer, mental health advocate and motion picture marketing and advertising agency executive, was the evening's chairman.

Basha's flair for fashion led her and her sister, Genevieve, to open *Basha &*, a successful high-end boutique on Madison Avenue between 71st and 72nd Streets, where she designed her clothing line.



19. Joan Collins (Aug 12, 1985)

The *Dynasty* star, wearing a white crepe dress designed by Nolan Miller and herself, introduced The Joan Collins Hat Collection by Capo International under the direction of Design 22 LTD. at a luncheon at The Pierre Hotel.

"I do a little TV show in which I wear hats sometimes, she joked to the audience. "They cover a multitude of sins, my hair for instance. They do cut down on time at the hairdresser," Collins said.



20. Actress Carol Channing and Comedian George Burns (September 27, 1987)

The duo was among the many celebrities to attend the UJA-Federation of New York Annual Awards Gala at The Pierre. They came to honor William Morris agent, Lou Weiss. One of the last vestiges of the old guard, Mr. Weiss started as a copy boy in the famous talent agency and rose to become the Chairman of the Board. Born in Brooklyn to a Polish immigrant father, Mr. Weiss' mother was a sister of comedian George Burns.

Photography by Ron Galella
Text by Geoffrey Croft

Acknowledgments
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