

# New York Social Diary

## As the holiday season approaches

DECEMBER 17, 2019



John Demsey and Cornelia Guest's Holiday Fete in full swing.

SOCIAL DIARY • BY: DAVID PATRICK COLUMBIA

*Tuesday, December 17, 2019.* One week to Christmas Eve. It was cold and grey in New York yesterday. Temps in the mid-30s and rain and/or snow (depending on the hour).

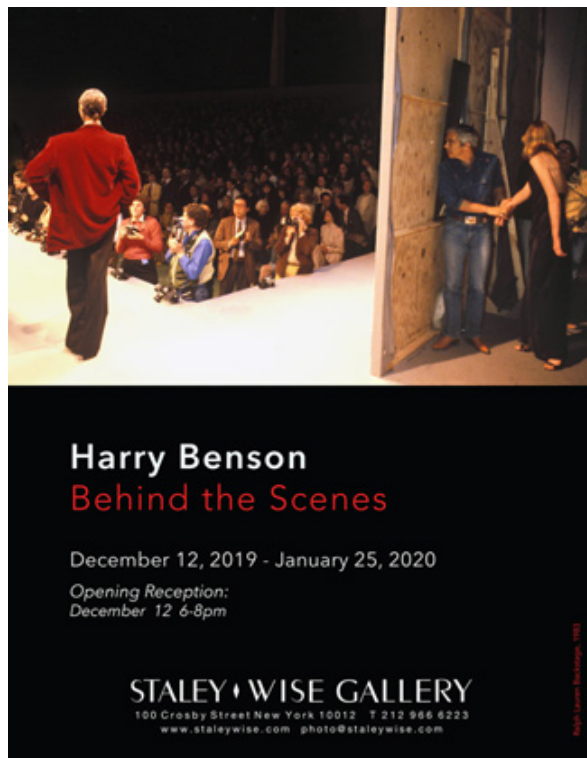
*As the holiday approaches* and moves to the New Year, the activities increase both privately and publicly. Last Thursday, December 12th, **Harry Benson** and his wife **Gigi** were joined by more than 400 friends and photography fans for the opening of *Harry Benson Behind the Scenes* at the Staley-Wise Gallery in Soho.

People were surprised by the 92 photographs in the exhibit, taken between 1969 and 2007 as most had not been printed before, such as the behind-the-scene fashion photographs that Harry took for French *Vogue* and *LIFE* magazine. Several of the guests that night were subjects of the photographs, with their pictures on the wall including **Mary McFadden, Kirat Young, Barbara de Portago and Charlotte Ronson.**

Enjoying the celebration with owners **Etheleen Staley and Taki Wise** and Gallery Director **George Kocis** were Harry's daughter **Tessa** with husband **Tucker Tooley** and son **Tucker**; also Harry's son-in-law **Michael Landes**; as well as **Jonathan and Eileen Otto, Beth Rudin de Woody** with her husband, photographer **Firooz Zahedi**; **Cathy Kaplan**, president of the Aperture Foundation; **Lynn and Genevieve**

**Crystal, Eleanora Kennedy, Sue Bloomberg, Edgar Batista, *Entertainment Weekly* Editor J.D. Heyman; Ursula Striker, Ellen Saltzman, Elizabeth Biondi, Sallie Lewis Longoria, Nancy Paulsen, *VF*'s David Friend, former editor of *LIFE, TIME* and *PEOPLE* magazines, James R. Gaines; Jonathan Delano, Neil Leifer, and David Burnett; Donna Olsham, Pete Bonventre, Nate Reuss, Ben Havrilak, Luke Tricomi, Chiara de Rege, Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss, CeCe and Lee Black, Leigh Curry, James Koutoulas, Dick Miles and Pat Whitaker** who flew in from St. Louis for the party, **Joyce and Jim Seymore, Stephen Jacoby, Royce Pinkwater, Mary Hilliard, Sharon Hoge, and Aiden McDougall.** You get the picture.

The exhibit runs thru January 23rd. Staley-Wise is located at 100 Crosby Street, #305, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 am – 5 pm.



---

All photographs taken by Jonathan Delano





Etheleen Staley, Harry Benson, and Taki Wise.



Donna Olsham, Harry, David Friend, Jim Gaines, and Pete Bonventre.



Beth DeWoody, Tucker and Tessa Tooley, Gigi Benson, and Firooz Zahedi.



Charlotte Ronson, Nate Ruess, and Michael Landes.





Barbara de Portago next to costumes she designed for Brooke Shields.



Dick Miles, Gigi, and Pat Whitaker.



Firooz Zahedi, James Seymore, Harry, and Joyce Seymore.



Gigi and Harry, with Sue Bloomberg.





*L. to r.:* Beth DeWoody and Harry; Tucker Benson Tooley.



Ursula Striker, Chiara de Rege, and Tucker Tooley.



Tessa Benson Tooley and Sallie Lewis Longoria.



Susan White, Harry, Jimmy Walsh, and Gaspar Tringale-White.





Stephen Jacoby, Royce Pinkwater, Gigi & Harry, and J.D. Heyman.



Mary McFadden next to her Benson portrait.



Michael Landes, with Lynn and Genevieve Crystal.





Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss.



Lou Desiderio, Harry, and Cece Black.



Leigh Curry, Gigi, and Eleanora Kennedy.



Kirat Young, Edgar Batista, Gigi, Taki Wise, and Mary McFadden.





Kirat Young next to her portrait.



John and Sue Sabel, with Harry.



Jill Troise, Eileen Otto, and Kelley Davis.



Jonathan and Eileen Otto with Harry.





Joyce and James Seymore, Pete Bonventre, and Harry.



Harry, with Dr. Paul Alberts and Tessa Benson Tooley.



Harry, with Ann King.



Gigi, Stephen Jacoby, Royce Pinkwater, and Harry.





Gigi, Elizabeth Biondi, and Joel Hecker.