



Photos by Shamus Christinger

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# On The Red Carpet

*As always I am excited to write about the truly wonderful experiences I encounter interviewing glamorous celebrities and movie stars on the red carpet.*

**H**ELLO DARLINGS,

This year was no exception. I had the pleasure of being invited to many high profile outstanding events. Three of which were the most thrilling to me.

The Tribeca Film Festival, The International Emmy Awards and my favorite the 14th Annual Gala, "A Magical Evening" hosted by the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. It is always a treat to be invited to the Tribeca Film Festival anticipating glamorous celebrities getting out of their black limousines and interviewing them at red carpet arrivals. This year I attended several blockbuster movie premieres.



Cognac and Leslie Ann Down

Photos by Gary Silberman  
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Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation. Dana Reeve, who succeeded her husband as the chairman of the Foundation after his death provided the emotional high point speaking eloquently of his strength and the hope he provides to all spinal cord injury victims.



Cognac and Harry Belafonte

Actress Minnie Driver hosted the event as a last minute replacement for actor Nathan Lane. Actor William H. Macy presented the Human Spirit Award to long time friend of the Reeves, Glenn Close. Ms. Close was honored with this award in recognition of her contributions to the foundation. Among the 900 guests attended the somber gala reception including Carol Alt, Giancarlo Esposito, Alec Baldwin, Socialite Jocelyn Wildenstein who all spoke to me how inspirational Christopher Reeve was to them.



Alec Baldwin

Opening night was the star-studded world premier of Gary Marshall's latest film, "Raising Helen", a romantic comedy from Touchstone Pictures starring Kate Hudson, John Corbett and Joan Cusack. John Corbett talked to me about his character as a sexy minister in the film. Director Gary Marshall expressed to me how exciting it was to be in New York again and what a delight it was to direct this film. Kate Hudson of course is always a fashionista wearing a Gucci gown and actress Joan Cusack expressed to me the challenges of parenting. Another fabulous and star studded premier that I attended was "New York Minute" starring Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen. The action comedy

New York Minute follows one monumental day in the lives of 17 year old sisters Jane and Roxanne Ryan, adversaries who begrudgingly journey together from their Long Island home to New York City. Their plans go wildly awry. Roxy and Jane seem to have everything going against them? but anything can change in a New York Minute Darlings!!! Of course the Olsen Twins took the time to talk to me about this film that they produced and starred in. David Duchovny makes his directional debut with the film House of D which he strongly emphasized to me that the film is called "House of D" not "The House of D". I made a special note to attend First-time writer/director Randal Cole's feature film comedy, "2BPerfectly Honest" which made its world premier at the 2004 Tribeca Film Festival.



Mr. and Mrs. Giancarlo Esposito

"What makes this Magical evening So Magical? I asked Actor Giancarlo Esposito? Mr. Esposito wearing an Armani tuxedo expressed to me that "I think it's so magical because we are honoring a man who passed away who has done so much for paralysis victims. In his life and in his death he lived his life as a great example to be an innovator to gracefully persuade people to do so much more". Super model Carol Alt wearing a gown designed by Roberto Cavalle shared with me how inspirational he was to her and her son.



Carol Alt, Will and Dana Reeve, Glenn Close

I was able to get a very special interview with newly appointed President and CEO of the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, Ms. Kathy Lewis. "Tell us about the new Research Review Act that just passed on November 18th", I said. "That is a very exciting thing to have just happened. As you probably know CRPH has been trying to get legislation to pass the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act. This is one part that has just been passed", she declared. The bill, which requires the National Institutes of Health to detail how they have encouraged use of multidisciplinary research teams to advance treatments, develop new therapies and collaborate on clinical trials with respect to spinal cord injury and paralysis research. This is a crucial provision that will bring the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Act one step closer to becoming a law.



Cognac and Michael E. Knight

The cast included well-known actors including my high school classmate John Turturro, Actor Andrew McCarthy, Adam Trese, Soprano Star Aida Turturro, comedian/Actor Michael Badalucco who all talked to me about how fun they all had working on this film. Veteran Actor Robert Vaughn, who you all know from many great films and of course his TV role in "The Man from Uncle" explained the story to me about the challenges he had playing the character of the father to actor Adam Trese.



Jocelyn Wildenstein & Lloyd Klein

Another great film was "Brotherhood" directed by Libilbet Foster. "Brotherhood" focuses on Squad 252 in Brooklyn, the prestigious Rescue Company 1 of Manhattan and Rescue Company 4 of Queens. From an insiders point of view, the film vividly captures the men's individual personalities, their teamwork, camaraderie and commitment to training and uncompromised respect for fire.

Blockbuster Movie Star Vin Diesel shared with me his support for this touching film about New York City Fire Fighters and gave me a big warm hug and kiss. What a guy!!!! November 18, 2004 I attended the 14th Annual Gala, "A Magical Evening" hosted by

Red carpet arrivals concluded with socialite Jocelyn Wildenstein escorted by famous fashion designer, Lloyd Klein. Ms. Wildenstein bedazzled the paparazzi wearing a spectacular black beaded gown designed by Mr. Lloyd Klein. Jocelyn spoke to me about what a truly marvelous man Mr. Reeve really was. Last but not least was the 32nd International Emmy Awards Gala on Monday, November 22nd at the Hilton Hotel in Manhattan. The event was hosted by award-winning television personality Mr. Graham Norton. The event honored excellence in television programming produced outside of the United States. I had the pleasure of interviewing soap star actors, Lesley Ann Down from The Bold and The Beautiful, Michael E. Knight, All My Children, Fashion Savant Carson Kressley, Queen Eye for the Straight Guy and Benjamin Bove and Junior from the French format for Queer Eye for the Straight Guy. But my thrilling interview was with the legendary Musician and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mr. Harry Belafonte himself. BT



William H. Macy

Till the next red carpet event darlings, Pink Champagne Kisses  
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