

An Interview with Celebrity Photographer Fadil Berisha

By Ava Roosevelt

AVA: As you are without a doubt the most famous visual artist to come out of Eastern Europe's Albania, do you consider your Annenberg Space for Photography Exhibit to be your greatest accomplishment to date?

FADIL: My greatest accomplishment is and always shall be bringing out the innermost beauty of my subjects.

AVA: Where do you see yourself, career-wise in five years, in the ever-changing landscape of the 'business of beauty and luxury branding'? Do you envision the dominance of social media and the mammoth power of celebrity influence to continue to reign?

FADIL: In fashion, beauty and the arts, everything is about the change. I am on a happy river boat moving forward with the flow.

AVA: What do you still aspire to accomplish?

FADIL: It is not money, power or even prestige. It's about creating images I am proud of, as well as earning the respect of my peers.

AVA: Not to put you on the spot, but out of all the politicians, heads of state, celebrities, wannabe divas and drama queens, who inspired you the most and with whom have you had the most fun shooting pictures?

FADIL: Carmen Dell'Orefice



Carmen Dell'Orefice by Fadil Berisha

AVA: What inspired you to create the Carmen and Beverly photo shot? As it has become an iconic event, please tell us how it all came about?

FADIL: I photographed Carmen for many years, and she became a muse for me. I felt the same way about Beverly. It was only natural for me to pair them up.

AVA: Do you remember the moment when you first lifted a camera to your eye? When was that? Who was your first subject and what inspired you then?

FADIL: When I was growing up in Albania everyone was your neighbor. Down the street lived an older gentleman who one day gave me a camera and showed me how to work it. Suddenly my whole world opened visually. He became my first subject.

AVA: Tell us, please, how you manage to draw out the inner beauty from those you photograph?

FADIL: The one time I really connect with someone is when I am behind the camera. I shower the subjects with assurances that their beauty is as unique as they are themselves.



FadilBerisha.com

Ava Roosevelt is a philanthropist and published author, as well as a columnist and feature writer for the Palm Beach Journal and Cavallino Magazine. As a contributing writer for International Opulence Magazine and Eloquence Magazine, she specialized in Q&A with newsworthy individuals and completed over 40 articles.

Ava studied French literature at La Sorbonne in Paris, France, and creative writing at Columbia University, New York. She is the widow of William Donner Roosevelt, FDR's grandson. Ava also worked for an international

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The Racing Heart is her first novel. She has adapted it for a motion picture. Visit the author's website at www.theracingheart.com. Ava is a Founder and President of The Racing Heart Productions, LLC. www.theracingheartproductions.com. She currently divides her time between Palm Beach, Florida and Wilson Point, Connecticut.