

Star Struck



CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2008 61st Annual

Over the past 60 plus years, Cannes has truly become the standout of all film festivals around the world. It is a gathering place of filmmakers, film industry, film fans and last but not least, film party people! It is a dizzying whirlwind of activities over 10 days of hype and happenings all in the hopes of promoting and selling movies and stars. The Croisette is the main drag for the action with the **Hotel Carlton** (www.intercontinental.com) being "Grand Central Station" followed by the **Hotel Majestic** (www.jpmoser.com/majestic_hotel_cannes.html) and **Hotel Martinez** (www.hotel-martinez.com). Private parties stretch from **Mougins** (www.moulin-mougins.com) for the Annual **amfAR** fundraiser (www.amfar.org) to the **Soho House** (www.sohohouse.com) soiree at Chateau de la Napoule plus the **M1nt Festival House** (www.m1nt.com.cn) at Le Californie area to the A-list hideouts in **Antibes** at **Hotel du Cap** and **Eden Roc** (www.hotel-du-cap-eden-roc.com).





Linda Evangelista



Penelope Cruz



Dennis Hopper



Xavier Tournaud



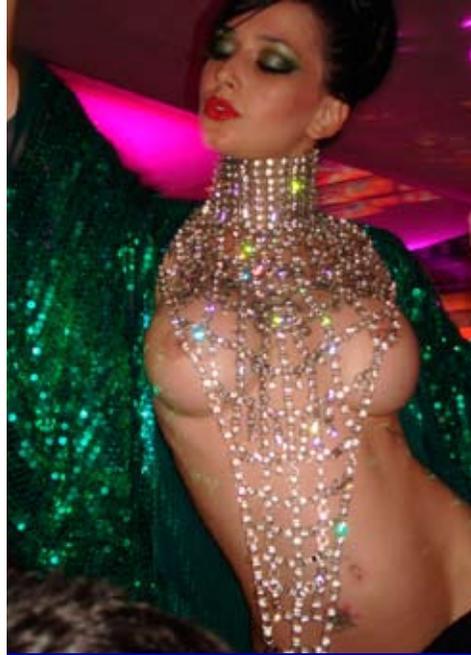
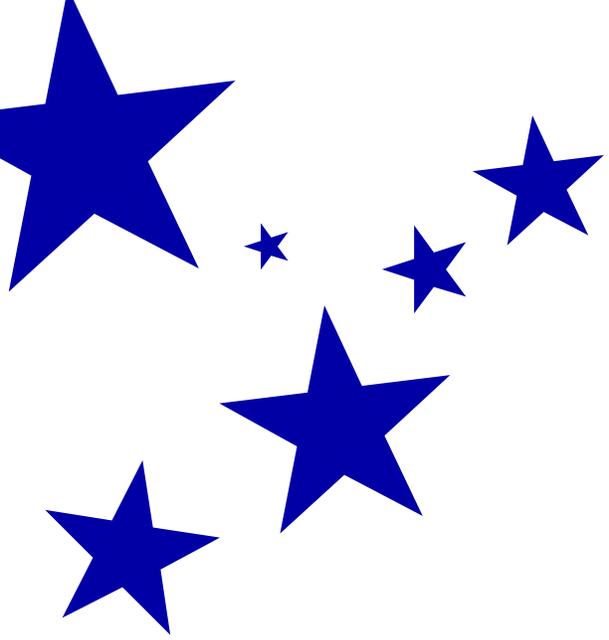
Marcus Schenkenburg

Last year I was a [Cannes Film Festival](http://www.festival-cannes.fr) virgin and this year a veteran. I must admit being a virgin was more fun! Being naïve got me into many more places. This year the party security seemed to be revved up several notches from multiple check points to even dogs sniffing out the party crashers. Last year I found myself walking into one party alongside [Claudia Schiffer](#) and photographer, [Ellen von Unwerth](#) and partying in VIP rooms with [Victoria Silvstedt](#) and [Marcus Schenkenburg](#) while dancing to the tunes played by [Kid Rock](#) as he took a turn DJ'ing at [Eden Roc](#).

Ocean's Thirteen hunks held their movie bash at [Le Baoli](#), but I did not cross paths with George or Brad to my dismay. But instead I met a handsome new rising French movie star, [Xavier Tournaud](#), so [Alain Delon](#) move over! Irish legends, U2 premiered their U2 3D concert. And [FTV](#) (www.ftv.com) hosted a nightly After Party aboard a megayacht complete with a pool on deck and early morning fashion shows....running from about 4am to 9am finishing in time for breakfast!

This year, Mother Nature did not cooperate as the rains hit the Red Carpet and umbrellas accessorized

tuxedos and couture gowns. My first celebrity sighting happened before even arriving in Cannes. Art imitated life as [Morgan Freeman](#) was sitting just in front of me on our [Aer Lingus](#) flight while the movie "[Bucket List](#)" played on the plane starring both him and [Jack Nicholson](#). He was traveling sans entourage. The first night at the Carlton Hotel in Cannes I spotted him at a Black Tie dinner and had a brief chat since he seemed quite approachable. That was after an elbow brushing with birthday boy, Dennis Hopper in the hallway.



I had arranged for Grammy award winning singer, [Macy Gray](#) to perform opening night at [Nikki Club](#). [Nikki Beach](#) (www.nikkibeach.com) which started in our own sandbox of South Beach, is now a global brand with outposts just about everywhere trendy. They set up a temporary beach club and night club for the duration of the Cannes Film Festival. During the day, scenesters and stars show up at Nikki Beach Club for lunch and endless champagne spraying. At night, they hit the Nikki Club for dancing til dawn.

[ASW](#) (www.asmallworld.net), the elite social network for jetsetters by invitation only, has many members attending the Cannes Film Festival. This year, ASW even decided to host an official party at [Nikki Club](#). Founder, [Erik Wachtmeister](#) was in the house meeting and greeting members. I was even lucky enough to be staying with some new Scandinavian ASW friends during the festival, [Joanna Trenck](#) and [Erik Kaastad](#), a handsome couple who looked like young starlets themselves walking along the Croisette.



From top to bottom:
 Nikki Club Dancer
 Macy Gray
 Hope @ Nikki Club
 British fashionista Simone
 Joanna Trenck & Erik Kaastad
 Hope & Erik Wachtmeister





I also helped with a celebrity gift lounge inside Nikki Beach Club at Cannes bringing some sexy brands like Rosa Cha swimwear (www.rosacha.com.br) straight from the Brazilian beaches to the shores of the Cote d'Azur. This is my favorite designer bikini brand with the most unique embellishments. To my pleasant surprise, Rosa Cha has become a total lifestyle brand that can dress us now from 'tits to toes'. And

for quenching the stars' thirst, I brought Voss (www.vosswater.com) natural Norwegian spring water, to the scene. We also had a celebrity yacht escape aboard Absinthe (www.motoryachtabsinthe.com), a 201 foot megayacht which celebrities were shuttled to aboard Zeelander mini superyachts (www.zeelanderyachts.com). Other fashionable brands gifting the celebs included Marlies Dekkers lingerie (www.marliesdekkers.com) from the Netherlands, Bogosse men's custom shirts (www.bogosse.com), Versace sunglasses (www.versace.com), Simone Gabor Paris jewelry (www.simonegabor.com) and Xtreme Lashes (www.xtremelashes.com).

Colombian couture designer, Carlos Arturo Zapata was my personal couturier providing me with custom-made gowns and cocktail dresses

for all the extravaganzas. Arriving late to the Vanity Fair party, I missed the Eden Roc gig so I headed direct to the Hotel du Cap where I was immediately star struck by Harrison Ford. He was standing alone (Calista Flockhart was nowhere in



Voss Water

Carlos Arturo Zapata couture gown



site)...so some serious eye contact was being exchanged between me and Indiana Jones himself! Even though Clint Eastwood was in town, it was Harrison Ford who truly made my day!





Marta Mazotto & Alberta Ferretti



One of my favorite encounters during the Cannes Film Festival was not with a celebrity, but with one of Italy's most notable socialites of high society, [Marta Marzotto](#). I met her at a yacht party on [Prometej](#) hosted by fashion designer, [Alberta Ferretti](#) (www.albertaferretti.com) whom I had met during Art Basel Miami Beach. This private soiree was in honor of the movie, "Che" and its cast. I rubbed elbows with celebs like [Bill Pullman](#), [Julia Ormond](#) and supermodel, [Marcus Schenkenberg](#), but it was meeting Marta Marzotto, a fashion icon that made my night special! What a super elegant, timeless lady!

Monday night during the festival I contributed my time and resources to an event for the charity, [Operation Smile](#) (www.operationssmile.org) which raises money to fix children's facial deformities, thus bringing more smiles to the world. Participants in-kind included the ever so kind photographer, [Craigt](#) (www.craigtstudio.com), DJ [Nico de Andrea](#), champagne from [Armand de Brignac](#)

(www.armanddebrignac.com) thanks to my new friend Pascal, [Khortytse](#) vodka (www.khortitsa.com) from the Ukraine and [Voss](#) water. There was a dinner prepared by celebrity chef, [Mark Kearney](#) along with an After Party on board the classic [SS Delphine](#) (www.ssdelfphine.com) 280 foot megayacht built in 1921. It was magnificently restored by the current owner, [Jack Bruynooghe](#) who I had the pleasure of meeting that evening. Some lovely ASW members joined us for the After Party. Also, attending was my special Russian friend, [Maria Lavnikovich](#), CEO of her own film company, [Bodrov](#) (www.bodrovfilm.com) in Moscow. Only in her early 20's, Maria has already had an

Academy Award nominated film, "[Mongol](#)" (www.mongolmovie.com) for "Best Foreign Film" showing now in theaters. Maria helped donate the vodka for our event and also invited me to the "100th Anniversary of Russian Cinema" celebration. That same night, [Chopard](#) held an exclusive VIP event appropriately titled "[On the Rocks](#)" as they showed off their bling in the Carlton. My Swedish ASW friend, [Sara Erman](#) attended and coined a new phrase saying a 'model bomb' exploded inside!



SS Delphine



Khortytse vodka



Elaine Lancaster & Hope
Mike Tyson
Tatoosh



Another charity event for **Gabrielles Angels** (www.gabriellesangels.org) was hosted by **Denise Rich** aboard her new award-winning yacht, **Lady Joy**. She screened a film about her foundation to raise money for cancer research in memory of her daughter. **Lea Black**, our Miami native also premiered her documentary, "**Fundraiser**" about her efforts for Bay Point Schools at the Palais. Our local drag diva, the one and only, **Elaine Lancaster** starred in the film. And there was yet another charity event for Peace (www.peaceoneday.org). And of course the charity event of all charity events for **AmfAR** with a superstar lineup including, Global chair, **Sharon Stone** and **Madonna** plus a laundry list of A-listers! Another documentary premiered about soccer living legend, **Maradona**. Also, **Mike Tyson** had his 15 minutes on the silver screen this year. And there was even a party for "**The Perfect Man Reality TV Show**"...so there are parties for everything you can image. If there is a pitch there is a party!



There are also the boys with big toys showing off in Cannes. Revlon chief, **Ron Perelman** had a cocktail soiree aboard **Ultima III** while Microsoft founder, **Paul Allen** hosted partiers aboard **Tatoosh**, his 301 foot megayacht rather than his gigayacht, **Octopus** that stretches 414 foot.

Helicopters are the major mode of transportation from point A to B on the **Cote d'Azur**. Or rather from N to M as in from Nice to Monaco or C to S, from Cannes to St. Tropez. I was lucky enough to be invited for a heli ride (www.helicopter-saint-tropez.com) over to St. Tropez for an official press tour and luncheon compliments of **Pan Dei Palais Hotel** (www.pandei.com). A fellow Miami PR agent **Andria Mitsakos** rounded us up, no sleep and hangovers still pending. We were greeted by **Severine Petilaire-Bellet**, General Manager (one of the only female GM's in Europe). It was a rainy morning which did not help matters. But when we arrived and walked through the magical doors of Pan Dei, we were transformed to another world. It was built in 1835 by French General Allard for his wife, Princess Pan Dei. You can still feel the love in the air here. This mansion has been lovingly restored into a luxury hotel with just 12 rooms. This exotic enclave has furnishings collected from India, Indonesia and the Orient plus a spirituality that will touch your soul. There is a private garden with a mosaic pool and honeymoon beds for relaxation. Spa services include a Turkish bath, massages and beauty treatments. We met the hotel hosts, **Patricia Presse** and her husband **Stephane Le Grall** who treated us to a flavorful and decoratively presented lunch prepared by Chef Cuisine, **Satoshi Kubota**. His masterfully prepared dishes with Provencal flavors and Asian accents were mouth-watering from the ravioli stuffed with truffles and celery turnip to the sea bream fillet with tomato marmalade, purple artichokes and wok veggies. And then we completed the meal with a dessert of Lili Khoi salad with lemon sorbet....mmmmm!



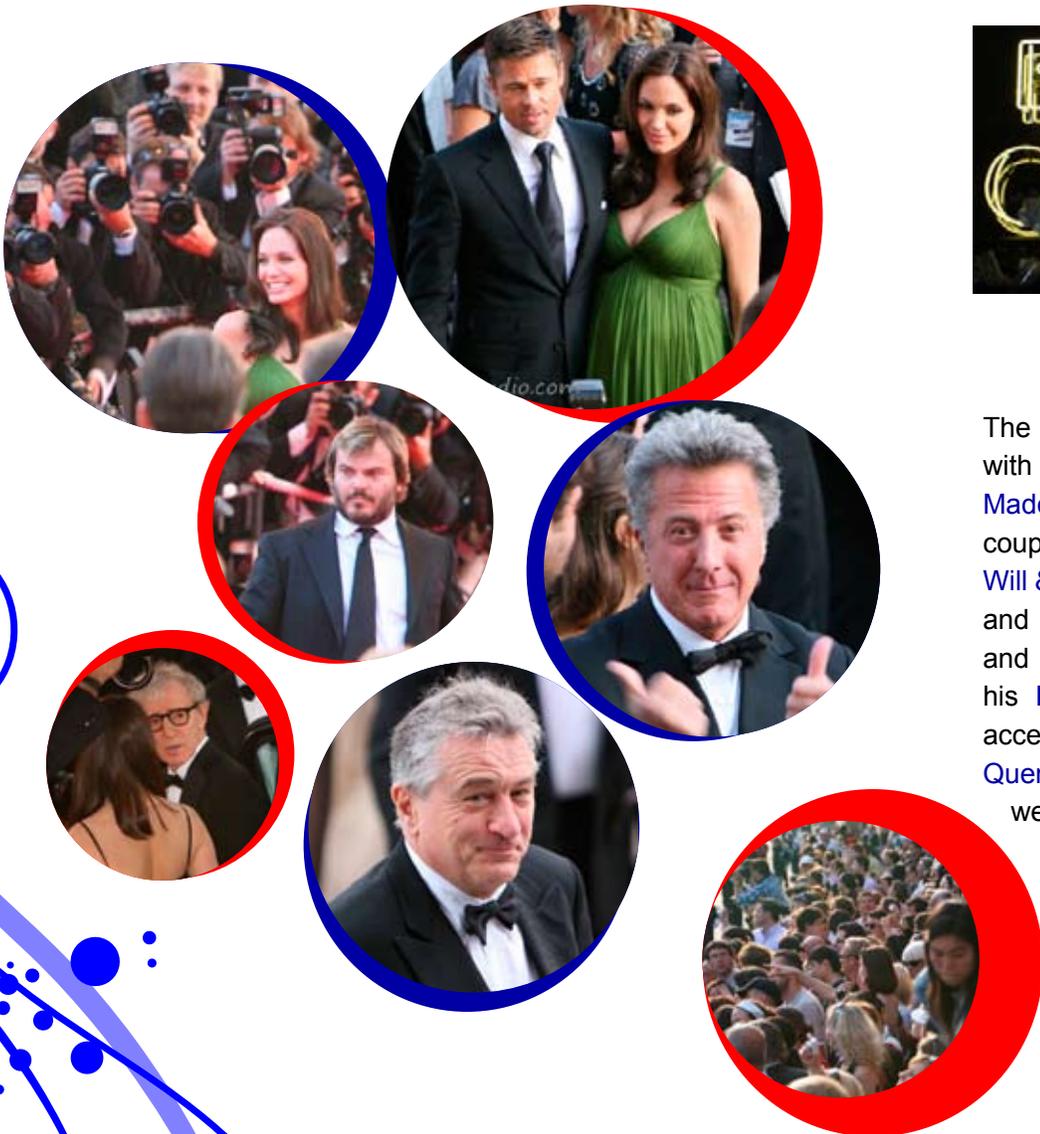
Pan Dei Palais Hotel, St. Tropez



This year **VIP Room** (www.viproom.fr) was clever enough to attach star power names to their nightclub each night to draw the crowds. From **Jade Jagger** to **Mike Tyson** and of course **Puff Daddy** who seems to show up everywhere. Celebrity DJ's also do gigs in Cannes. **Mark Ronson** hit the Croisette along with other star spinners.



If the usual venues are not enough, there are all sorts of spots to park and party nonstop. This year there was the **Anheuser Busch Yacht**, **Nike Lounge**, **Heineken Lounge**, **Net Flix Lounge**, **Verizon Lounge** and on and on and on.... you get the picture. Products to pitch and plenty of people to party! The best new product I spotted was flavored vodka in a tube, raspberry and lime (www.go-more.com). So now our astronauts can imbibe on their next trip to space!



The Cannes Film Festival is filled with A-listers everywhere. From **Madonna** to **Maradona** to power couples like **Brad & Angelina** and **Will & Jada** to veterans like **Woody** and **Dustin** and **Bobby DeNiro**.... and comics like **Jack Black** and his **Kung Fu Panda**. The best accessorized star award goes to **Quentin Tarrantino** whom I spotted wearing silver wing-tipped shoes.



Sean Penn



Dolce & Gabbana Closing Party



Jeffery Dread & Hope

Even though the much hyped [Dolce & Gabbana](http://www.dolcegabbana.com) (www.dolcegabbana.com) closing bash at [Baoli](http://www.lebaoli.com) (www.lebaoli.com) was packed like sardines, a bevy of boys helped keep a smile on my face. The complimentary [D&G](#) sunglasses encrusted with crystals provided the bling factor and helped me exit comfortably without squinting at sunrise.

Believe it or not, between all the endless parties from sunset to sunrise, business is actually being conducted...

The [Cannes Film Festival](#) numbers are in: The [Marche de Film](#) is the leading film market in the world with 10,500+ participants, 5000 films, 1500 screenings, 4000 journalists representing 1600 media companies.

The jury is out...with this year's President, [Sean Penn](#) at the helm, the [Palm d'Or](#) went to the French for "[Entre Les Murs](#)" by [Laurent Cantet](#). Both renowned artists and emerging talent compete and all motion picture producing countries can participate. In 2008 the festival had 42 countries represented with seven new ones including [Colombia](#), [Emirate of Abu Dhabi](#), [Jordan](#), [Belgium](#), [Russia](#), [Japan](#) and the [Ukraine](#). And there is the [Cinema de la Plage](#), an open air theater on the beach screening complimentary classics for the masses. Thus, the festival has something for everyone!

“The Festival is an apolitical no-man’s land, a microcosm of what the world would be like if people could contact each other directly and speak the same language.”

Jean Cocteau



Limo en Route to Monaco



MONACO GRAND PRIX 2008 66th Annual

Today, the [Grand Prix of Monaco](http://www.formula1monaco.com) (www.formula1monaco.com) is one of the most prestigious of the Formula One Championships.

Get your engines ready, on your mark, get set, GO! But don't forget to don your earplugs first for the thunderous roar about to ensue for several hours on the fourth Sunday of May in [Monaco](#). The weekend long festivities actually start on Thursday with pre-trials plus plenty of parties. Both [Red Bull](http://www.redbull.com) (www.redbull.com) and [Amber Lounge](http://www.amberlounge.com) (www.amberlounge.com) along with megayacht owners kick-off the F1 extravaganza. Of course, a pot pourri of celebrities, supermodels and sheiks hit the town fraternizing with world class race car drivers and royalty. Plus, [Prince Albert](#) comes down from his palace and mixes and mingles.



For over 700 years **Monaco** has been linked to the **Grimaldi Dynasty**. The initial masters of the rock offered tax exemptions to attract newcomers way back in the 13th century. Today the incentives still attract residents, but tourists continue to flock here to check out the **Casino de Monte Carlo** where James Bond first ordered his infamous martini 'shaken not stirred'. Across the street the stately **Hotel de Paris** (<http://en.hoteldeparismontecarlo.com>) is priceless and the nightlife tour is not complete without checking out **Jimmy'z**, **Sass Café**, **Zebra Square** and the **Sea Lounge** (www.montecarlobeachhotel.com/The-Sea-Lounge.html).

Congratulations to **Lewis Hamilton** of the **McLaren** team for winning this year's Monaco Grand Prix. Hamilton picked up his trophy from **Prince Albert** while second place **BMW** driver, **Robert Kubica** received his from **Princess Caroline**. The race is 77 laps around the narrow, winding streets of Monte Carlo making it one of the most dangerous with little room for driver error.

Sightings at the races included **Flavio Briatore** who runs the **Renault** team and Sardinia's **Billionaire Club**. Billionaires Club set up "shop" for the weekend in Monte Carlo and hosted the likes of **Naomi Campbell**, **Victoria Silvstedt**, **P. Diddy** (or whatever he wants to be called now) and of course many many billionaires and even trillionaires and probably a few gazillionaires.

A few days earlier, I was picked up in the requisite red **Ferrari** by an Italian Playboy (actually an investment banker), **Claudio Fabbri**, who then invited me to be front and center to watch the race from his balcony of the **Mirabeau Residence** in **Monte Carlo**. It just happens to be a prime location overlooking a sharp curve of the course...perfect for catching crashes. There was even a big forklift ready for the wipeout pick-up. Fellow Ferrari drivers **Felipe Massa** and **Kimi Raikkonen** started the race in first and second position, but could not hold out to winner, Hamilton.

After the races, I headed back to Cannes. My last day there I had lunch at **L'Avion**, the best pizzeria in town and stopped for a refreshing gelato. Then I had meetings with a new contact who is supposedly my gateway to the **Middle East**...since I am interested in moving or doing projects in **Dubai** and **Abu Dhabi**. Let our new American President get his feet wet, clean up our economy and put some muscle back into the U.S. dollar while I go where the big bucks are in the oil rich regions. I love South Beach, but a girl has to do what she has to do...as **Gloria Gaynor** says, "I will survive."

Stay tuned for the **St. Tropez** Summer Scene. "St. Tropez Nonstop" documentary premiered at this year's film festival. **Brigitte Bardot** may have started it all in the 1950's, but it's still going strong today!

Au Revoir,

HOPE (*Espoir* for my French friends)

Hope International

www.ehopeinternational.com

www.sbirealty.com



L'Avion



Gelato



St. Tropez



Carlos Arturo Zapata couture gown