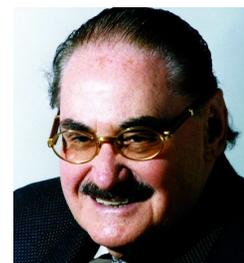


Social Event

The Grand Opening of **Le Cirque**

Story by: Sheldon Landwehr



Sirio and Joyce Brooks



Cardinal Egan and Sirio



Joyce Brooks and Marty Richards



Joyce and Bill Cosby



Michelle Herbert and Gerard McKeon

Gerard McKeon and
Nurit Kahane Haase

Dale Coudert and Gerard

Barbara and Bob Bradford
with Joyce BrooksMichele and Frank Rella, Joyce Brooks
and Denise RichArlene Dahl, Marc Rosen, Joyce and
Joan Rivers

R. Couri Hay and Joyce

I must compliment Le Cirque's proprietor Sirio Maccioni, on his artistry, that he did not find it difficult to prepare classic hors d'oeuvres, haute cuisine-style for his opening night on May 18th, 2006, catering to a throng of over 1500 very high-profile loyalists, many of them A-list celebs. In one fell-swoop he gave them an advance peek into his elegant new \$18 million rendezvous now found on East 58th Street.

Everything went precisely as planned. In short, it's Sirio's third epic opus and his way of welcoming back the old crowd, who came to inspect the smaller, more exclusive Le Cirque, which incidentally, officially opens to the public after Memorial Day on May 30th.

Perhaps Manhattan's most profoundly neoteric restaurant, Le Cirque occupies a space in the new architectural gem labeled The Bloomberg Building found at 151 East 58 Street. A flamboyantly handsome circus motif embraces and abounds Le Cirque's sole main dining arena. Here just about everyone can clearly see and be seen. Adam D. Tihany's exciting decor is best described as fiercely lush modernism. Suspended from the towering ceiling is a characteristic albeit scintillating fabric circus tent. Posh banquettes and chairs are executed in plush supple leather, backed by blue and gold striped velour. Walls are imposingly embroidered in burnished ebony, the entire premise drenched in soft golden radiance. A strikingly inviting bar, lounge and Cafe have their very own entrance on East 58th Street. Among the prolonged laundry list of attending American royalty, movers and shakers, high-and-mighty, columnists, journalists, gossip mongers and

acclaimed actors, as well as publicity-crazed celebrities and just plain old rich folk, included such glittering stalwarts as Cindy Adams and her expected contingent of devotee's, bright eyed Joan Rivers, former flick goddess Arlene Doll with hubby in tow, Rex Reed, Bill Cosby, Cardinal Egan, Woody Allen and wife, Martha Stewart invading the kitchen itself, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Cronkite, newscasters Sue Simmons and Chuck Scarborough, Tony Bennett, Billy Joel, Montel Williams, Liz Smith, ex-mayor Ed Koch, current mayor, Mr. Bloomberg, restaurateurs Daniel Boulud and Drew Nierporent, Neil and Leba Sedaka, Marty Richards, Denise Rich Armand Assante, and, of course, party-hound Donald Trump, along with countless other affluent and famous faces.

And so Sirio Maccioni carries on the traditions he introduced three decades ago, nobly assisted by his three sons Mario, Marco and Mauro, and his long-time head chef Pierre Schaedelin.

Though Le Cirque has always been known for its strict dress code, the reincarnated Le Cirque is relaxing its standards to a degree--jackets are still a given, but one can sport stylish jeans underneath. This should pique the interest of the celebrated, deep-pocketed younger generation, with an unbridled appetite for uncompromised victuals.

Le Cirque, 151 East 58th Street, New York. Phone: 212-644-0202, accepts reservations and major credit cards.

