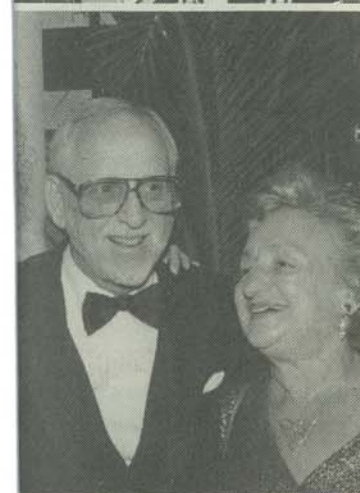
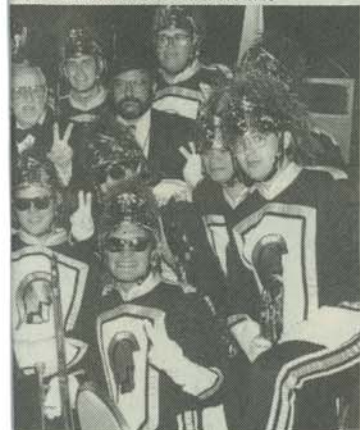


David Wolper as Chevalier in the film 'The Godfather Part II' (top) and Gene Jankowski (bottom) as American Film Institute chairman.



David Wolper and Art Buchwald, top. Gene Jankowski, David's wife, and Betty

John Fonda



For All Seasons—

Karen Lustgarten

Wolper Tribute, Take Forty

His astonishing career—producer of 500 films, documentaries, miniseries (*Roots*), spectaculars (Opening/Closing Ceremonies of 1984 Olympic Games, L.A.), winner of 150 awards (including 2 Oscars and 40 Emmys)—begged a special industry celebration for David Wolper's fourth decade of taking lunches. Problem is, the well-deserved accolades have already been bestowed upon the prodigious producer on so many occasions that his friends and colleagues are writing stand-up monologues about David Wolper tributes.

The mood was more roast than revere at a private "Salute to David Wolper on his 40th Anniversary in the Entertainment Industry." The gala gathering for 500 of his closest friends was thrown by Warner Bros./Bob Daly and the American Film Institute/Gene Jankowski and underwritten by Jonathan Tisch at his Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel. Keynote speaker Art Buchwald (writing an unauthorized biography of Eddie Murphy, he said) was Wolper's college buddy at USC where they worked on a campus humor magazine; Wolper as business manager and Buchwald as editor ("David always insisted on taking the gross and giving me the net."). In his speech, "Who is David Wolper and Why Do We Keep Honoring Him with Dinners?," the humorist assured repeat guests, "You get extra frequent flyer miles for attending a Wolper dinner." Coretta Scott King, Terry Semel, Alex Haley, Sally Kirkland, Roz Wyman, Betty Friedan, Robert Wise, James Earl Jones were some who enjoyed hilarious tributes by Wolper friends Jack Haley Jr., Bernie Sofronski, Rafer Johnson, R.J. Wagner, Bud Yorkin and Grant Tinker, who said, "I have deja vu that we've all done this before, and we have. It's an honor to see you honored... always."

Consul General Coste presented Wolper with the French National Order of the Legion of Honor, their highest civilian award and Wolper's first offshore honor, prompting the producer to announce that there are 159 more countries—159 more David dinners left.

Chamber of Treasures

Academy Awards aside, at what event can you find the greatest concentration of Rolls' and limos lined up for miles? Check out the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce Ball, where Rodeo Drive success meets celeb excess for a designer Chamber gala bar none.

Gene Barry received the Will Rogers Humanitarian Award from Jimmy Rogers (Will's son). Charlton Heston reminisced—Barry's first leading lady was Lydia (Mrs. Charlton) Heston in an Aaron Spelling production. Among the 600 gala guests were residents Martin Landau, Danny Thomas, Jimmy Stewart; merchants Fred Hayman, Frances Klein, Robert Lamont; awardees Sooky Goldman, George Fenimore, Jerry Magnin. Chamber Pres. Charles Reilly said that next to Disneyland, Bev Hills is California's most popular tourist attraction. Undoubtedly, the most expensive cars capital.

Theatre West: Workshop of the Stars

Where did Richard Dreyfuss flop in a musical ("I was awful but I had a great time.")? Where did Beau Bridges bomb while singing and doing stand-up ("My father dreamed that one of us would be a singer—no chance.")? Where did the idea for "Spoon River Anthology" begin as a class exercise and grow into a long-running musical hit? Theatre West (TW), where many of the finest actors, writers, directors and singers received their early professional training and honed their craft before their peers, is L.A.'s oldest stage workshop and professional theater. Dreyfuss joined in 1965 out of high school and still calls TW "the best acting group in L.A." The Monte Carlo night buffet and gaming fundraiser for TW held at the Mulholland Tennis Club was a warm, intimate event hosted by Beau Bridges and attended by 300 friends and alumni such as Gogi Grant, Lee Meriwether, Dick and Pat Van Patten, Betty Garrett, Geena Davis, David Doyle and Louis Nye.

Uncle Miltie, How Could You?

What Andrew Dice Clay does in public, Friars Club members get away with in private. But next to the Friars, Clay is kindergarten. Following the dinner portion of FC's celebrity roast—slabs of rare roast meat, potatoes, dessert and cigars—President/Toastmaster Milton Berle requested all waiters to leave the Bev Hilton ballroom. He then announced to the audience of 1000 men and 40 women, "Welcome to lifestyles of the bitch and famous." A two-hour tirade of profanity followed, bashing honoree Zsa Zsa Gabor ("the Stone Age Madonna"), denigrating women in general and praising Berle's apparently prodigious private part in particular. (Just how do roasters know this?)

Gloria Allred, first female Friar member, characterized the jokes as "sexist, ageist, racist and homophobic." She said she was admitted "because they wanted to lower the average age—the average age is dead. In the not so distant future, these clubs will be obsolete... the humor is damaging." Here's the cleanest from Friar roasters skewing themselves. Berle: "The three Gabor

PHOTOS: TRAUDE WINK

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