

JACK MITCHELL: MY LIFE IS BLACK AND WHITE

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a documentary by award-winning
producer/director Craig B. Highberger

with appearances by:

Edward Albee
Clive Barnes
Merce Cunningham
Judith Jamison
Patti LuPone
Kevin McKenzie
Madeleine Nichols
Robert Pavlik
Ned Rorem
Cyma Rubin
Lonnie Schlein
John W. Smith

Photo © Jack Mitchell



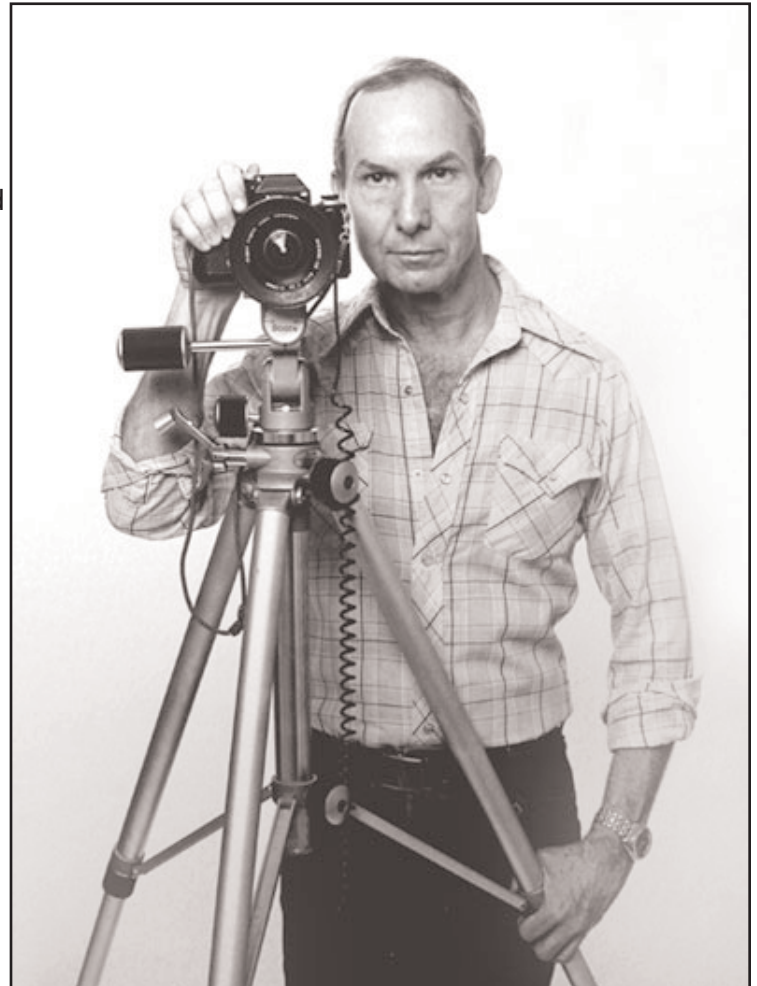
About Jack Mitchell

by Craig B. Highberger

I first became aware of Jack Mitchell's extraordinary photographs in 1969 when I was in high school in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I purchased a copy of After Dark magazine with one of Jack's lush images on the cover. There were more inside. I began to anticipate each issue and look for his photographs. I saved all of those issues, too. Little did I know that more than 30 years later I would make a feature-length documentary about Jack's life and work.

Jack Mitchell was born in Florida in 1925. His father taught him basic photography and he became an avid reader of photography magazines. He was first published in a national photography magazine when he was 15 years old. The photograph was a carefully composed portrait in profile of his art teacher using Rembrandt lighting. Jack got his first press card in 1942 at the age of 16, from the Daytona Beach and New Smyrna Beach Observer for which he photographed movie star Veronica Lake who was on a War Bond tour and Victor Mature who was appearing in the U.S. Coast Guard show "Tars and Spars".

After high school Jack was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in the Infantry. He later became a U.S. Army Public Relations Photographer. He was stationed in Florence and Venice, Italy. In 1950, several years after returning to the U.S., he moved to New York City. At the suggestion of modern dance pioneer Ted Shawn, he at first concentrated on photographing dance and dancers. William Como, editor of Dance Magazine (and later editor and publisher of After Dark magazine) began assigning Jack to shoot photographs. The July, 2003 issue of Dance Magazine featured his 168th cover photograph for that publication.



Jack Mitchell self-portrait, NYC, 1977

In 1957 Jack met Bob Pavlik. Within a few weeks they moved together into a large apartment at East 74th Street and York Avenue with adequate space for a studio, a darkroom, and living. Bob became Jack's business and life partner.

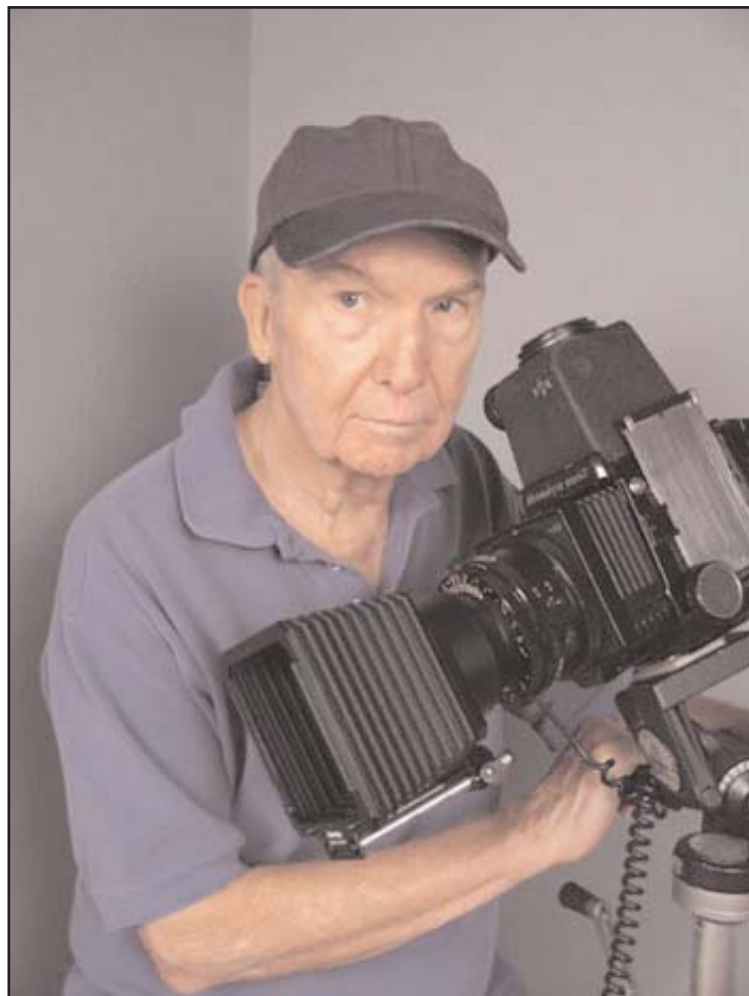
In the 1960's The New York Times Arts and Leisure section editor Seymour Peck became aware of Jack Mitchell's work and began assigning him to photograph major creative and performing artists of all disciplines. Mitchell's photographs have also appeared on the covers of and in The New York Times Magazine, Rolling Stone, People Magazine, Newsweek, Time, Life, After Dark, Vogue, Elle, Harpers Bazaar, Vanity Fair, Madam Figaro, Stern, and virtually every domestic and international publication featuring photographs of arts personalities.

After a forty-five year career in New York City Jack Mitchell and his partner Bob Pavlik now reside, in semi-retirement, in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Jack works nearly every day producing black and white exhibition prints from his vast negative files and working on the concept and content for a book of his fifty-five years of Dance photography.

I was privileged to have had access to Jack Mitchell's enormous archives and was truly astonished and thrilled by what I saw. In my documentary you will see hundreds of Jack Mitchell photographs, many of which have never before been published or exhibited.

As many of the interviewees in the film echo, Jack's body of work is an amazing chronicle of the arts covering a four-decade period. As longtime friend and subject Edward Albee says, "He's a rather extraordinary historian. I guess you could call him a photographer, but he transcends that."

- Craig B. Highberger



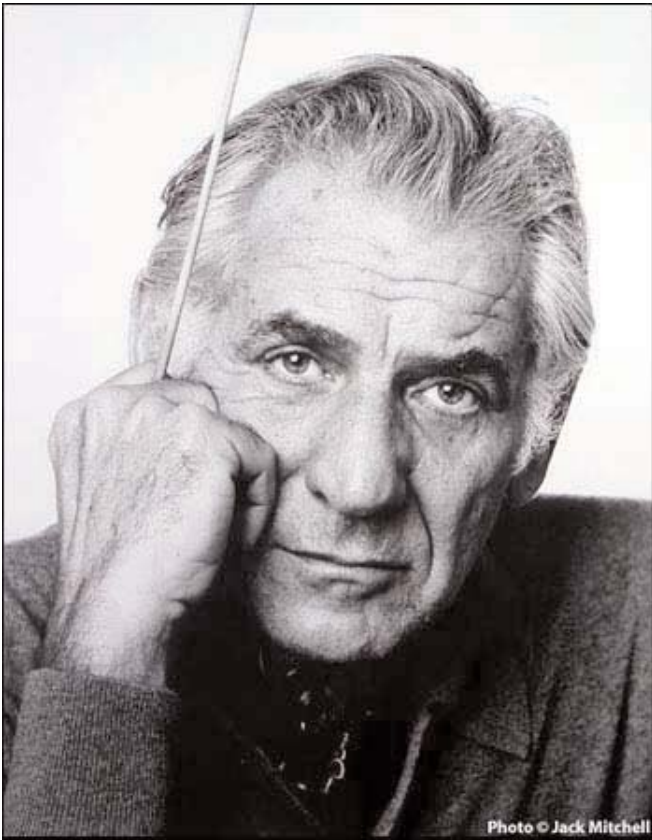
Jack Mitchell in his studio, 2005
Photograph by Craig B. Highberger

View the two minute trailer on the film website:

www.jackmitchellmovie.com

Gallery

A sample of photographs from the documentary, courtesy of Jack Mitchell, with notations by filmmaker Craig B. Highberger. All photographs © Jack Mitchell and may not be used for publication without express written permission.



Composer / Conductor Leonard Bernstein, 1977

Jack Mitchell photographed Leonard Bernstein for The New York Times on December 1, 1977 and also learned a valuable lesson from him. Making small talk, Mitchell asked him what his favorite music was to conduct. Bernstein's answer was "Whatever I am conducting at that moment." After that session, whenever anyone asked Mitchell who his favorite subject was, he answered "Whomever I am photographing at that moment!"

Actress Angela Lansbury as "Mame", 1966

Jack Mitchell photographed Angela Lansbury in his New York studio in 1966 when she was starring in the Broadway musical comedy "Mame". Everyone photographed Mame Dennis drinking and whooping it up, so Mitchell asked Lansbury to recreate the emotional moment in the musical where she sings "Did I give enough? Did I give too much?" but by facial expression alone. He had created a loop of the song ('If He Walked Into My Life') and played it as he photographed her. Afterwards, Lansbury thanked him for treating her like an actress.





Truman Capote, 1980

Jack Mitchell photographed Truman Capote in his United Nations Plaza apartment in color and black and white for the Chicago Tribune Magazine. When Mitchell asked Capote why there was water in a vase containing artificial calla lilies, Capote replied "To make them look real, of course!"

Judith Jamison - "Sophisticated Ladies", 1981

Jack Mitchell photographed Judith Jamison, the most famous dancer of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater many times over three decades. The photograph above was taken for Dance Magazine when she was starring in the Broadway musical "Sophisticated Ladies" singing and dancing to the music of Duke Ellington. Judith Jamison was appointed Artistic Director of the company after Alvin Ailey's death in 1989. She is one of the interviewees in "Jack Mitchell: My Life is Black and White".



Composer Philip Glass, 1984

On assignment Mitchell was asked specifically for a "happy" photograph of the Philip Glass Ensemble. He agreed on condition that the client arrange for him to do some solo portraits of Glass.

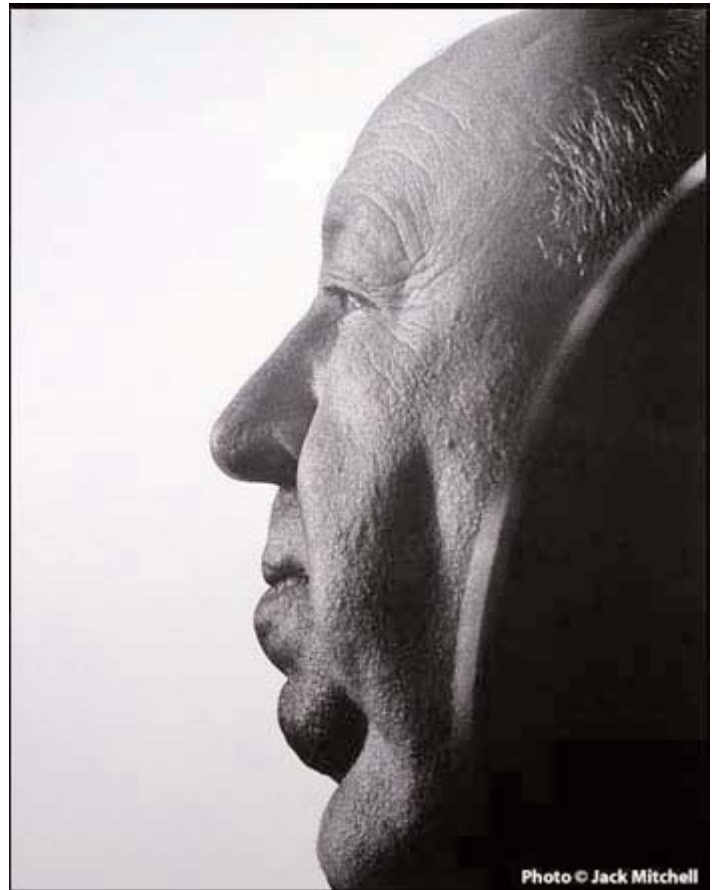


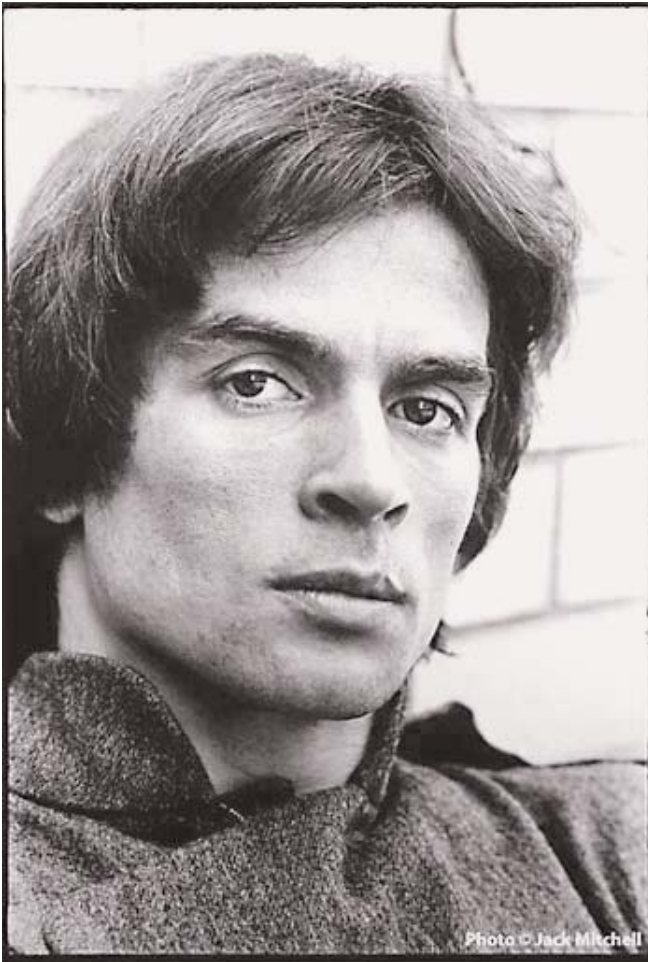
Graffiti Artist Keith Haring, 1984

Mitchell photographed graffiti artist Keith Haring in his studio just after he completed a huge ink drawing on Mitchell's seamless backdrop - a background for a Dance Magazine cover photograph of dancers Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane.

Director Alfred Hitchcock, 1972

Jack Mitchell photographed Alfred Hitchcock in his St. Regis Hotel suite while he was being interviewed by Guy Flatley of The New York Times. Afterwards, when Mitchell told Hitchcock he was a great admirer of his films and particularly his directoral style, Hitchcock replied, "My dear boy, style is nothing more than self-plagarism!"





Rudolph Nureyev, 1970

Jack Mitchell photographed Rudolph Nureyev many times, beginning in 1959 just after the ballet dancer's defection from Russia. The photograph to the left was taken on the outdoor porch of Monique Van Vooren's Manhattan apartment. In the film Mitchell tells the amusing story of the 1975 Christmas Day session in his studio for After Dark magazine - the only session where he got Nureyev to smile. A lasting personality conflict between Mitchell and Nureyev resulted in wonderfully arrogant or angry expressions that only add to the power of the photographs.

Actress Meryl Streep, 1979

Jack Mitchell first photographed Meryl Streep, for After Dark Magazine, in his studio on August 12, 1976 when she was appearing in a Joseph Papp "Shakespeare in the Park" production. He next photographed her in the 1977 Shakespeare Festival production of Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" at the Vivian Beaumont Theater starring Irene Worth and Raul Julia. The photograph above is from a portrait session for The New York Times Magazine article about Meryl Streep's rise to stardom in the film, "The Deer Hunter", and the tv miniseries, "The Holocaust".



Mime Marcel Marceau, 1973



Marcel Marceau arrived at Jack Mitchell's studio on March 26, 1973 exhausted after a plane trip. He perked up when Mitchell told him his ideas for the session. Mitchell shot a series of photographs, both portraits and full figure shots of Marceau against dark backgrounds - taking multiple exposures on single negatives. His idea, which excited Marceau, was that in each shot he would be reacting to his other selves. Mitchell directed each individual exposure, moved the camera slightly and took a succession of shots. The session lasted two hours and resulted in a wonderfully creative series of photographs. Mitchell used the technique many times during the course of his career and with a variety of artists, dancers, musicians and performers. He loved it because the end result was not completely predictable and always had interesting confluence of highlights.

Actress Gloria Swanson, 1960

Jack Mitchell met film legend Gloria Swanson (Norma Desmond in Billy Wilder's 1950 masterpiece 'Sunset Boulevard') in 1960. He told her he wanted to take a series of photographs of her in her Fifth Avenue apartment and her response was "When?". The two became friends. Swanson loved being photographed and over the next twelve years he took hundreds of photographs of her everyday life; applying makeup, bathing, cooking, walking on Fifth Avenue, shopping, doing radio interviews, and working at her Forever Young office. Dozens of these photographs are seen for the first time in "Jack Mitchell: My Life is Black and White".



Edward Albee - Pulitzer Prize-Winning Playwright

Edward Albee was born on March 12, 1928, and began writing plays 30 years later. His plays include *The Zoo Story* (1958); *The Death of Bessie Smith* (1958); *The Sandbox* (1959); *The American Dream* (1960); *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1961-62, Tony Award); *Tiny Alice* (1964); *A Delicate Balance* (1966, Pulitzer Prize; 1996, Tony Award); *Seascape* (1974, Pulitzer Prize); *Three Tall Women* (1991, Pulitzer Prize); and *The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?* (2000, 2002 Tony Award).



Mr. Albee is a member of the Dramatists Guild Council and president of the Edward F. Albee Foundation. He was awarded the Gold Medal in Drama from the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters in 1980. In 1996 he received the Kennedy Center Honors and the National Medal of Arts. In 2005 he was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Tony Award.



Clive Barnes - Dance / Drama Critic

Clive Barnes is the dance and senior theater critic for the New York Post and Senior Consulting Editor of *Dance Magazine*. A contributor to *Dance Magazine* since 1956, he is a reviewer and author of the monthly column "Attitudes." Born in London and educated at Oxford University, Mr. Barnes began his career in the United States as a dance (1965-77) and chief theater critic (1967-77) for the New York Times. He joined the New York Post in 1977.

A noted writer, journalist, television producer, commentator, and lecturer, Mr. Barnes has been writing about dance and theater in the

United States and Great Britain for more than 50 years. Queen Elizabeth II made him a Commander of the British Empire in 1975, and he was appointed a knight of the Order of Dannebrog in 1972. Mr. Barnes is the author of *Inside American Ballet Theatre* (1993), *Best American Plays* (1993), *Nureyev* (1983), and *New York Times Directory of the Theatre* (1973). He also wrote the commentary for Jack Mitchell's *Dance Scene USA* (1967).

Merce Cunningham - Director, Merce Cunningham Dance Foundation

Merce Cunningham, born in Centralia, Washington, received his first formal dance and theater training at the Cornish School (now Cornish College of the Arts) in Seattle. From 1939 to 1945, he was a soloist in the company of Martha Graham. He presented his first New York solo concert with John Cage in April 1944. Merce Cunningham Dance Company was formed at Black Mountain College in the summer of 1953. Since that time Cunningham has choreographed nearly 200 works.

In October 2000 Merce Cunningham received the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize. Other honors and awards include: The Handel Medallion from the Mayor of New York City (1999), the Bagley Wright Fund Established Artists Award, Seattle (1998), the Nellie Cornish Arts Achievement Award from his alma mater, Cornish College of the Arts, Seattle (1996), the Golden Lion of the Venice Biennale (1995), and the Wexner Prize of the Wexner Center for the Arts at Ohio State University, Columbus (with John Cage, posthumously, 1993). Cunningham was also a recipient of the National Medal of Arts in 1990 and the Kennedy Center Honors in 1985, in which year he also received a Laurence Olivier Award in London and a MacArthur Fellowship.



More information on the Merce Cunningham Dance Company website, <http://www.merce.org>



Judith Jamison - Artistic Director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Judith Jamison was appointed Artistic Director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in December 1989 at the request of her mentor, Alvin Ailey. A native of Philadelphia, she studied with Marion Cuyjet, was discovered by Agnes de Mille and made her New York debut with American Ballet Theatre in 1964. She became a member of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965 and danced with the company for 15 years to great acclaim. Recognizing her extraordinary talent, Mr. Ailey created some of his most enduring roles for her, most notably the tour de force solo, *Cry*.

Ms. Jamison is a master teacher, lecturer and author. Her autobiography, *Dancing Spirit*, was edited by Jacqueline Kennedy

Onassis and published by Doubleday in 1993. She is the recipient of many awards and honorary degrees, including a prime time Emmy Award and an American Choreography Award for Outstanding Choreography in the PBS "Great Performances: Dance In America" special, *A Hymn for Alvin Ailey*, and an honorary doctorate from Howard University. In December 1999, Ms. Jamison was presented with the Kennedy Center Honor, recognizing her lifetime contributions to American culture through the performing arts.

More information on the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater website <http://www.alvinailey.org>



Patti Lupone - Broadway Star

After completing her training with the first class of the Drama Division of New York's Juilliard School, Patti Lupone began her career as a founding member of John Houseman's The Acting Company playing a variety of leading roles, both on and off-Broadway and on tour throughout the United States.

Miss LuPone's memorable performances on the New York musical stage include Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*, (1988 Drama Desk Award, Tony nomination, Best Actress in a Musical), *The Cradle Will Rock*, Nancy in *Oliver!*, *Evita* (1980 Tony and Drama Desk Awards- Best Actress in a Musical), *Working* and *Rosamund* in *The Robber Bridegroom* (1976 Tony and Drama Desk Award nom-

inations, Best Featured Actress in a Musical).

Patti LuPone's most recent New York stage appearances include critically acclaimed performances in the smash hit Broadway revival of Michael Frayn's *Noises Off*, as Mrs. Lovett in the concert version of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, (which she subsequently performed at the Ravinia Festival and with the San Francisco Symphony, where it was filmed for its Emmy Award winning *Great Performances* telecast on PBS), in David Mamet's *The Old Neighborhood*, Terrence McNally's Tony Award-winning play *Master Class* and in her own concert *Patti LuPone On Broadway*, for which she won an Outer Critics Circle Award.

More information on Patti LuPone's website <http://www.pattilupone.net>

Kevin McKenzie - Artistic Director, American Ballet Theatre

Kevin McKenzie was a leading dancer with both the National Ballet of Washington and The Joffrey Ballet before joining American Ballet Theatre as a Soloist in March, 1979. He was appointed a Principal Dancer the following December and danced with the Company until 1991. A native of Vermont, Mr. McKenzie received his ballet training at the Washington School of Ballet. In 1972, Mr. McKenzie was awarded a silver medal at the Sixth International Ballet Competition in Varna, Bulgaria.

During his performing career, Mr. McKenzie has appeared as a guest artist throughout the world. In September, 1989, Mr. McKenzie was appointed a permanent guest artist with The Washington Ballet, and, in 1991, assumed the position of Artistic Associate. He has also acted as Associate Artistic Director of, and, a choreographer with Martine van Hamel's New Amsterdam Ballet. Mr. McKenzie was appointed Artistic Director of American Ballet Theatre in October, 1992.



For more information see the American Ballet Theatre website <http://www.abt.org/>

Madeleine Nichols - Curator, New York Public Library for the Performing Arts

Madeleine Nichols is curator of the Dance Division, The New York Public Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center, a position she has held since 1988. She is also an attorney, and is active in professional organizations in both the library and law fields. She presently serves on the Editorial Board of the Society for Dance History Scholars, the board of directors of the National Museum of Dance, and the National Advisory Board of the Atlantic Center for the Arts. She has served as Chair of the Arts Section for the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association, member of the Dance Panel of the New York State Council on the Arts and member of the National Leadership Group for the UCLA Dance/Media Project.



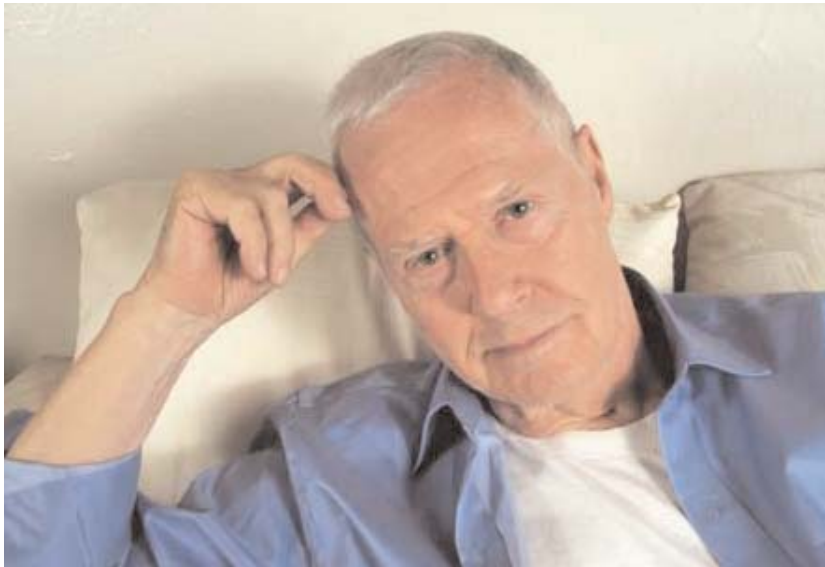
Ms. Nichols is a founding member of the Dance Heritage Coalition, dedicated to the development and exchange of information and materials related to the history, documentation, and preservation of dance. She has curated exhibitions on Bronislava Nijinska, American Ballet Theatre, George Balanchine, and Isamu Noguchi, among others.

Robert Pavlik - Life and Business Partner of Jack Mitchell



Robert Pavlik was born and raised in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. In 1957 he moved to New York City. Through a mutual acquaintance he met Jack Mitchell. Within weeks they were sharing a new double apartment on Manhattan's upper east side with sufficient space for a studio, dark-room and living.

Robert became Jack's business and life partner, handling all of the business and management aspects of Jack's career, freeing him to focus on his art. In late December of 1995 they moved to New Smyrna Beach, Florida, where they share, in semi-retirement, a beautiful 4 bedroom house.



Ned Rorem - Award-winning Composer / Writer

Words and music are inextricably linked for Ned Rorem. Time Magazine has called him "the world's best composer of art songs," yet his musical and literary ventures extend far beyond this specialized field. Rorem has composed three symphonies, four piano concertos and an array of other orchestral works, music for numerous combinations of chamber forces, six operas, choral works of every description, ballets and other music for the theater, and literally hundreds of songs and cycles. He is the author of fourteen books, including five volumes of diaries and collections of lectures and criticism.

Rorem was born in Richmond, Indiana on October 23, 1923, the son of Rufus Rorem, the medical economist whose work led to the creation of Blue Cross. At seventeen he entered the Music School of Northwestern University, two years later receiving a scholarship to the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia. He studied composition under Bernard Wagenaar at Juilliard, taking his B.A. in 1946 and his M.A. degree (along with the \$1,000 George Gershwin Memorial Prize in composition) in 1948. In New York he worked as Virgil Thomson's copyist in return for \$20 a week and orchestration lessons.

More information on Ned Rorem's website <http://www.nedrorem.com>

Cyma Rubin - Tony and Emmy-Award Winning Broadway Producer

After Cyma Rubin's first Broadway show "No, No, Nanette" won four Tony Awards, she produced other Tony nominated musicals (11 nominations) including "Doctor Jazz", "Oh, Kay!", and "Mike". Among her film productions, "Greaser's Palace" won the London Film Festival Award. In 1999 she produced and directed a 90 minute TV Special for Turner Network Television, "Moment of Impact: Stories of the Pulitzer Prize Photographs", which won the 1999 Emmy and Telly Awards for best documentary.

With the Houston Grand Opera, Ms. Rubin produced a new production of "Porgy and Bess" which toured Japan and Europe in 1996/97. Her other produced tours include the American Ballet Theatre, Ballet Argentino and the New York Boys Choir. For TV TOKYO 12, she wrote, produced and directed the documentary "Gershwin and Porgy and Bess" and was the New York producer for the documentary "Joseph Pulitzer". Her other visual arts credits as curator/producer include a Paul Klee Exhibition and a Sisley Retrospective at the Wildenstein Gallery, New York.



Ms. Rubin was the curator and designer of exhibition "The Pulitzer Prize Photographs: Capture the Moment" touring the United States through 2008. She also produced, wrote and co-edited the catalog, now published as a book by W.W. Norton & Co. She is president of BUSINESS OF ENTERTAINMENT INC., New York.

**Lonnie Schlein - New York Times
Photo Editor**

Lonnie Schlein is currently photo editor of The New York Times Travel section. He served as photo editor for the Arts & Leisure section and the Weekend section in the '70's and '80's and then went on to be the picture editor of the National and Metro reports, from 1992 through 2004.

Lonnie worked extensively with Jack Mitchell on assignments for the New York Times from the mid-seventies through the early 1990's.



**John W. Smith - Assistant Director,
Andy Warhol Museum**

John W. Smith is the Assistant Director for Collections, Exhibitions and Research at the Andy Warhol Museum, where he has worked since the Museum's opening in 1994. Previously, he worked at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Royal Opera House, London, England.

Recent exhibitions and publications include *Strange Messenger: The Work of Patti Smith* (2002), *Andy Warhol: His Work, Ideas, and Process* (2003), *The American Supermarket* (2003), *Flowers Observed, Flowers Transformed* (2004), *Andy Warhol's Time Capsules* (2004), a collaboration with the Museum for Modern Art, Frankfurt, Germany, *Seeing Double:*



Encounters with Warhol (2005), and *Andy Warhol: Artist of Modern Life*, the first major exhibition of Warhol's work to travel to three major museum's in Russia.

About the Filmmaker

Writer/Producer/Director Craig Highberger's first feature-length documentary "Superstar in a Housedress" the life and legend of Warhol Superstar Jackie Curtis was released theatrically in the United States and Canada in 2004-2005, garnering such praise as "Bright and entertaining" - Stephen Holden, New York Times and "Bitchy, Catty, Moving and Hilarious" - New York Magazine. The film, which is narrated by Lily Tomlin, was released on DVD in June 2005 in tandem with Highberger's book of the same name (published by Penguin imprint Chamberlain Bros.) MTV Logo began broadcasting it in fall 2005.

Highberger has more than 25 years experience in broadcast, industrial and corporate communications. He has written, produced and directed many programs marketed nationally to the corporate and scholastic markets. His client list includes: American Express, Avery Dennison, Delta Airlines, McDonald's, Procter & Gamble, Sears Roebuck & Company, United Airlines, U.S. Department of Energy and Upjohn.



Filmmaker Craig B. Highberger
Photograph by Jack Mitchell

Awards and honors include:

- 2004 Winner, Best Documentary, Toronto Inside Out Film Festival
- 2004 Smithsonian "Film As Art", Hirshhorn Washington, D.C.
- 1996 Bronze Cinema in Industry Award, International Assoc. of A.V. Communicators
- 1996 International Film & TV Festival of New York Certificate, Finalist Award.
- 1994 Listed Current Edition, Who's Who in Writers, Editors & Poets.
- 1990 President, Cincinnati Chapter, International Television Association.
- 1988 International Silver Screen Award, United States Industrial Film Festival.
- 1987 Gold Award, International Television Association Video Festival, Chicago.
- 1987 International Film & TV Festival of New York Certificate, Finalist Award.
- 1986 Chicago International Film Festival Certificate of Merit, INTERCOM '86.
- 1985 Chicago International Film Festival Certificate of Merit, INTERCOM '85.

Film Credits

Jack Mitchell: My Life is Black and White

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Written, produced and directed by Craig B. Highberger

Executive Producer – Andrew R. La Barbera

Music by Paul Serrato

“Snapshot of Jack” performed by and © Ned Rorem

Interviewees:

Edward Albee

Clive Barnes

Merce Cunningham

Judith Jamison

Patti LuPone

Kevin McKenzie

Madeleine Nichols

Robert Pavlik

Ned Rorem

Cyma Rubin

Lonnie Schlein

John W. Smith

Special Thanks to:

Jakob Holder

Jean & Mario

Tyrah M. Lindsey

Bob & Jeannie Vogel

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Legal – Cynthia M. Cleves

End Credits sequence subject Bryce Hammond

Painting of Jack Mitchell by Philip Pearlstein

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Opening sequence (B&W photos) by Craig B. Highberger

www.jackmitchellmovie.com

Contact Information:

The logo for Highberger Media, Inc. features the company name in a serif font, centered over a background of four overlapping colored rectangles: orange, light green, blue, and dark green.

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