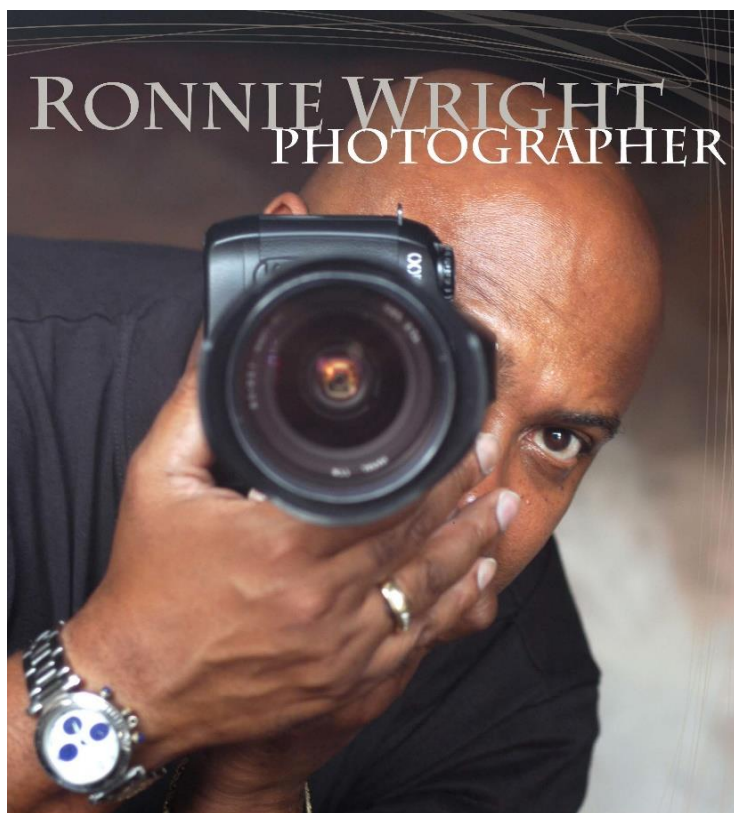


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Candid Conversation With Photographer To The Stars Ronnie Wright At Velvet Vibes' August Artist Showcase In East Village's WOW Café



NEW YORK, New York, July 24, 2019—Ronnie Wright, “Photographer to The Stars,” is how he is best known worldwide in the entertainment industry. Wright is a photographer extraordinaire whose work is so coveted that celebrities seek him out and insist on having him do all of their photography work. Quite an accomplishment for a self-taught young man, who more than twenty years ago was traveling as a signer with a musical group and opening up for recording artist Atlantic Star.

Wright will open up about his experience and work as the newest artist showcasing at *Velvet Vibes* on Thursday, August 15, 2019 (5PM-12AM). Velvet Toi, founder and CEO of 3rd I Enterprises LLC, in association with WOW Theater Café is pleased to present *Velvet Vibes* every third Thursday of the month. The live artistic showcase created and

taped for YouTube takes place at WOW Café Theater (59-61 EAST 4th Street, 4th Floor). WOW is the oldest women’s collectively run performance space in New York City’s East Village.

Velvet Vibes creator and producer Chandra “Velvet Toi” Rushmore will host an intimate one-on-one conversation with Wright in front of a live audience on August 15th. Wright’s client list includes some of the most famous names in the entertainment business: Beyoncé, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Mariah Carey, Prince, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Ray Charles, Sting, ZZ Top, Whitney Houston, Tony Bennett and many more. He also has covered major entertainment award shows such as the Grammy Awards, the Academy Awards, the American Music Awards, the Daytime Emmy’s and the Billboard Awards. Following the *Velvet Vibes* conversation series, Wright will present some of his work.

Each month, *Velvet Vibes* presents an artist who come from various genres (i.e., theater, dance, photography, film, spoken word, fashion design, etc.) who are veterans at their craft and possess a large body of work. The evening begins with an opportunity for intentional networking, which lasts 90 minutes, to allow entrepreneurs, artists and organizers to build relationships and spark deals.

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The featured artist showcase is broken into two segments. The first part is a 60-minute one-on-one conversation between Toi and the featured artist. Directly following the interview, the artist is given the opportunity to perform or present their artistry for the audience. In addition, there is a post-show reception for photo opts, a break for audience members to speak with the artist, purchase artist merchandise, and mingle.

Wright got his start as a photographer doing photo shoots while he was touring as a performer with artists like Keith Sweat and Atlantic Star. He made the full transition from singer to photographer in 1985. He began doing work for record companies and entertainment magazines. Today, Wright is the in-house photographer for the *106 and Park* program on BET.

Although Wright has worked with many stars over his 40-year career, he says the highlight thus far was photographing the legendary singer-actress Lena Horne, his childhood idol. "She was incredible. When I met her, I cried because I was just so ecstatic," he recalls. "I grew up watching her movies, and hearing about where she came from and who she was. Just being in her presence and for her to ask me what I wanted her to do as far as taking pictures, that was the epitome of my career right there." Wright adds that he has been most influenced in his work as a photographer by icons James Van Der Zee and Gordon Parks. "These are guys that shot for magazines like *Vogue* and *Life*."

Velvet Vibes is a show for and by artists that was created this year by Toi who says, "throughout my career I have come across so many great artists who are not necessarily household names, but they have made an indelible impression in their industries. I wanted to sit down and to really get to know who they are from the standpoint of their artistry and as a human being. I want people to know their journey."

Velvet Vibes kicked off in May featuring a conversation with Tina Thompson, a choreographer whose background includes full scholarships, professional training and performance experience at all four institutions of dance: Martha Graham, Alvin Ailey, Dance Theatre of Harlem and Juilliard. Other past showcases include visual artist-storyteller Aleathia Brown and screenwriter-playwright Omar Moore. Upcoming artists at *Velvet Vibes* include comedian-actress Nicky Sunshine. *Velvet Vibes* will run every third Thursday (excluding the month of September) with the final season ending December 19, 2019.

Toi says she hopes audience members will maximize the experience. "We want people to walk away feeling good about the evening and forming authentic relationships that can help them on their journey—artistic, professional, and personal. It also was important for me to give adults a different cultural experience."

FOR AUDIENCES 18 AND OLDER. DOORS OPEN AT 5:00 PM, DOORS CLOSE AND YOUTUBE TAPING STARTS AT 7:00 PM. FREE 5PM -6PM WITH RSVP AND \$5 WITHOUT RSVP. \$10 AFTER 6PM WITH RSVP AND \$15 WITHOUT RSVP. TWO ITEM BAR MIN. COMPLEMENTARY FOOD WITH \$10 BAR PURCHASE.

RSVP Required by contacting Abundanceofgreatness@Hotmail.Com Or calling 307-429-2326.

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FOR INQUIRIES

To obtain more information on the *Velvet Vibes* monthly live artist series and upcoming featured guests, contact Velvet Toi at 307-429-2326 or abundanceofgreatness@hotmail.com.

ABOUT CHANDRA “VELVET TOI” RUSHMORE

Chandra Rushmore is the Founder and CEO of 3rd I Enterprises, LLC which is an Eclectic Holistic Spiritual Company. Rushmore offers Holistic Motivational Speaking, Life Journey Coaching, Soft Skills Training, Workshop Development and Facilitation. In addition to her business background as an event planner, her extensive artistic experience as a former Pageant Queen, Model, Actress, Monologist and Spoken Word Artist lends to her offering Runway Coaching, Artist Development, Management and Bookings among her varied services. She tailors her lectures, workshops and training to meet the needs and desires of the group, organization or company as well as individuals.

ABOUT THE WOW CAFÉ THEATER

WOW Café Theatre is a women’s theater collective in New York City’s East Village that promotes the empowerment of women through the performing arts. WOW started as an international women’s theatre festival in 1980 before becoming a permanent performance space. Historically, WOW has been a majority lesbian woman’s space. Today, WOW welcomes the full participation of all women and trans people in solidarity. Those familiar with the *downtown* NYC theatre scene call the block of east 4th between 2nd Ave and the Bowery “theater row”, and WOW is proud to have among its neighbors: New York Theatre Workshop, the Rod Rodgers Dance Company, La Mama ETC, and 14 other arts groups, as collectively represented by Fourth Arts Block, at www.fabnyc.org.

CONNECT WITH VELVET VIBES AND WOW CAFÉ THEATER

Website: **www.wowcafe.org**

Twitter: **@wowcafe**

Facebook: **WOWCaféTheater, VelvetToi**

Hashtag: **#VELVETVIBES**