

NSU ART MUSEUM

FORT LAUDERDALE

MY ELIZABETH **HOLLYWOOD LEGEND ELIZABETH TAYLOR BEHIND THE GLAMOUR**

**TALK AND BOOK SIGNING WITH PHOTOGRAPHER FIROOZ ZAHEDI
AT NSU ART MUSEUM FORT LAUDERDALE
THURSDAY, MARCH 31**



photos from *My Elizabeth* by Firooz Zahedi copyright © 2016. Published by Glitterati Incorporated

“Firooz, in his essays, captures the private woman whom I glimpsed from time to time, when she wasn’t playing the movie queen.” – Liz Smith

Fort Lauderdale, FL - Hollywood legend **Elizabeth Taylor** was beloved the world over, yet very few people had access into her private world. When acclaimed photographer **Firooz Zahedi** first met Taylor as a budding photographer at age 27, he had no idea the famed actress would become one of his dearest friends and biggest professional supporters.

On Thursday, March 31, NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale will feature a talk (6:30 pm) and book signing (7:30 pm) with Firooz Zahedi, who will discuss his 35-year friendship with the legendary star and his new book, ***My Elizabeth***, which, in words, and images offers a unique look into the actress’s private life outside of the Hollywood limelight. The event is presented in conjunction with NSU Art Museum’s current exhibition *Bellissima: Italy and High Fashion 1945 – 1968*. Elizabeth Taylor played an important role in the rise of Italian fashion during the decades of the exhibition, as one of Hollywood’s ambassadors whose fame brought the creations of Italian designers essential international attention.

Admission to the talk is \$12 (free for museum members.) Reservations are suggested. RSVP: moareservations@moafl.org or 954-262-0258. Book purchase from the Museum Store is required in order to enter the signing line. To pre-purchase, call 954-262-0255. Firooz Zahedi has donated all royalties from *My Elizabeth* to the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

Documenting a little-known era of the star's life from age 44 to the end of her life, Zahedi's photographs in *My Elizabeth*, many never-before-published, reveal a playful and down-to-earth side of Elizabeth Taylor, not otherwise captured by celebrity photographers. Diving deeper than jewels, gossip and husbands, the book explores who Taylor is at her core. Beginning in Washington, DC and traveling to New York, Los Angeles, Europe and Iran, the book reveals who Taylor was at her core, and the duo's collaboration underscores an evolution in their friendship.

The book's behind-the-scenes images show Elizabeth Taylor at the ancient ruins of Persepolis in Iran; swathed in jewel-toned Persian fabrics selected from local bazaars; playing softball in Montauk with friends; on the set of *A Little Night Music* in Vienna; strolling the National Mall in Washington, DC; making lunch on John Warner's Virginia farm; applying makeup for *The Little Foxes* on Broadway; napping on a yacht in Cannes; posing with her beloved shih tzu, Sugar, at home in Bel Air; holding a condom to promote safe sex in the age of AIDS on the cover of *Vanity Fair*; and photographs of her Bel Air home taken after her death.

About the Authors:

Firooz Zahedi was born in Tehran, Iran and attended secondary school in England before moving to the United States in 1969 to study at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He studied at the Corcoran School of Art. After working as a photographer for Andy Warhol's *Interview* magazine he moved to Los Angeles in 1978 with Elizabeth Taylor, as her personal photographer on the film, *A Little Night Music*. He later became a contract photographer for *Vanity Fair*. His editorial work has also appeared in *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Town & Country*, *Architectural Digest* and *Entertainment Weekly*. His portraits, fine art photographs, and collages have been shown in prominent galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Basel, London and Dubai as well as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Norton Museum in West Palm Beach. He lives in Los Angeles, New York and Palm Beach.

My Elizabeth features an essay by **Bob Colacello**, longtime special correspondent for *Interview* and *Vanity Fair*, and the author of biographies of Andy Warhol and Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

The book's foreword is by New York celebrity journalist **Liz Smith**, whose work has appeared in over 70 newspapers over a 50-year career.

Upcoming at NSU Art Museum (2017) – Catherine Opie: 200 Nimes Road
NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale will present *Catherine Opie: 200 Nimes Road*,

featuring work by the Los Angeles–based conceptual photographer Catherine Opie. Taken over the course of six months at Elizabeth Taylor’s Bel Air residence following her death, Opie creates a portrait of Taylor from her personal space and mementos that explores the relationship to what is human. The exhibition, which is currently on view at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, will be on view at NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale from February through June, 2017.

NSU Art Museum Fort Lauderdale is located at One East Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, FL. For additional information, please visit nsuartmuseum.org or call 954-525-5500.

Museum hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 11 am–5 pm with extended hours on Thursdays until 8 PM; Sunday 12–5 pm; Closed Monday. Free Docent tours Thursday 2 pm and Saturday at 3:30 pm.

Admission is free for members, NSU students, faculty and staff and children under 12; \$12 adults; \$8 seniors and military; \$5 Students (13-17) and non-NSU college students. Admission is free on the first Thursday of each month from 5 – 8 pm as part of Free First Thursday Starry Nights presented by PNC Bank.

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