

#58 February 2021
Cameraderie
Annie Leibovitz (1949-)



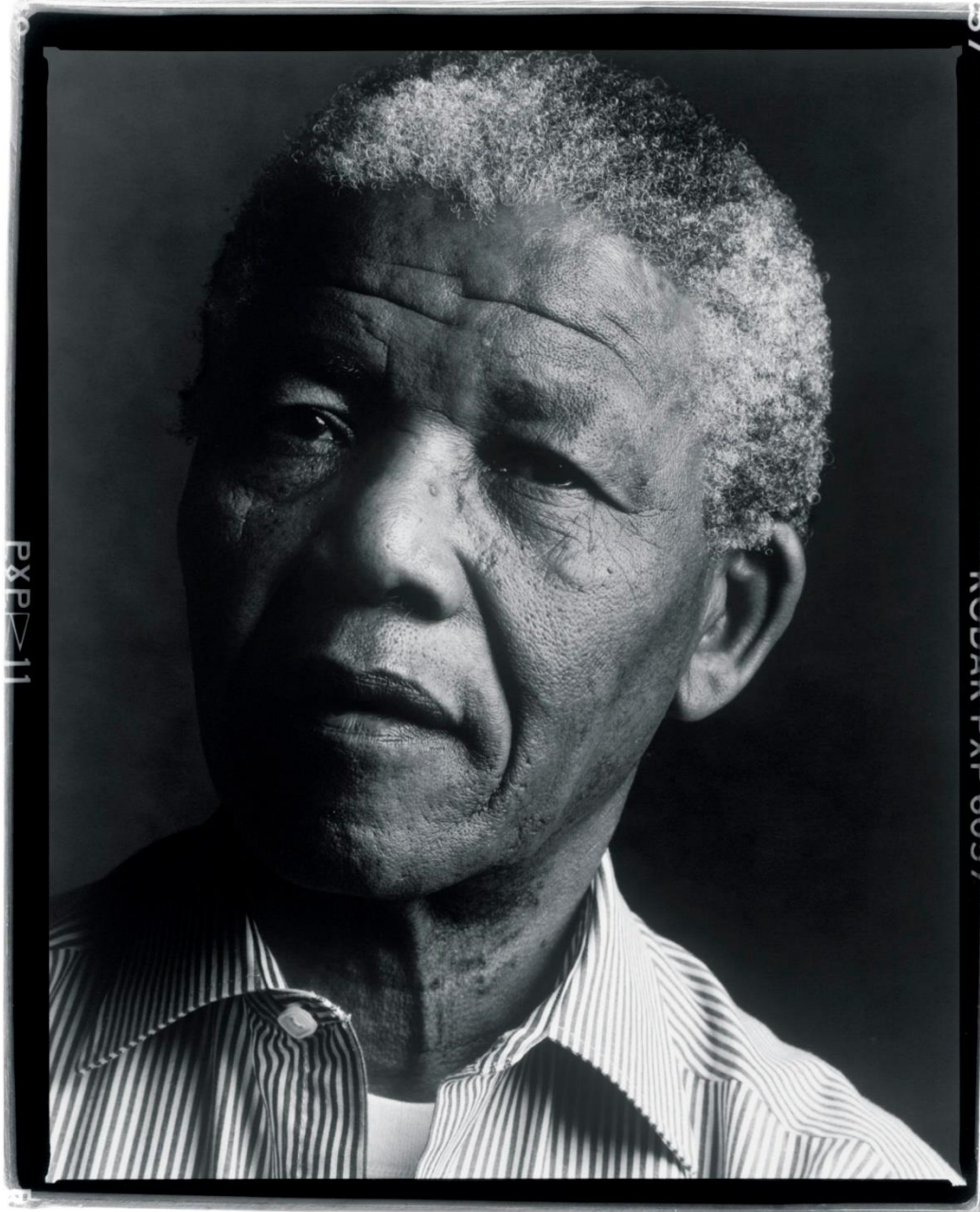
Anna-Lou “Annie” Leibovitz, according to the Wikipedia article, “is best known for her engaging portraits, particularly of celebrities, which often feature subjects in intimate settings and poses. Leibovitz's polaroid of John Lennon and Yoko Ono, taken five hours before Lennon's murder, is considered Rolling Stone magazine’s most famous cover photograph. The Library of Congress declared her a Living Legend, and she is the first woman to have a feature exhibition at Washington's National Portrait Gallery.”

See the Wikipedia article here:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Leibovitz

As always, Google Leibovitz’s name and select “images” to see more of her work.

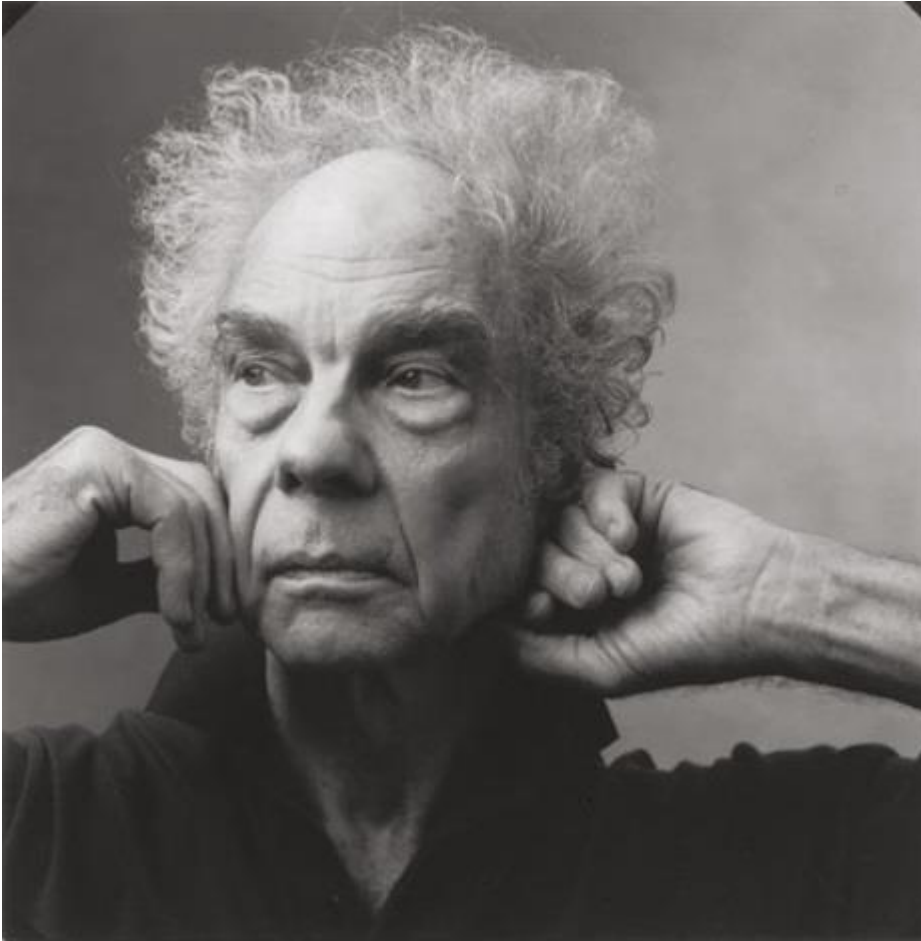
Below, I will show some of Leibovitz’s most famous celebrity shots. You have probably seen a number of them before.

Nelson Mandela, photographed in Soweto by Annie Leibovitz, in June 1990.



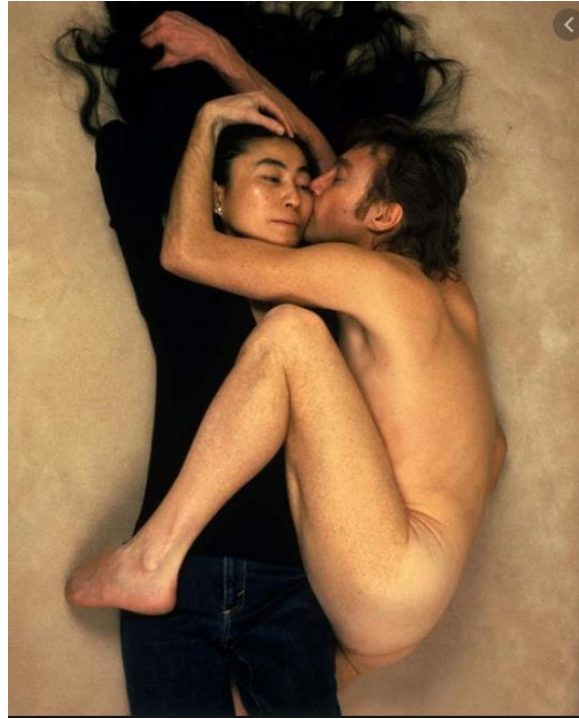
This image appeared in The New Yorker, December 9, 2013. According to The New Yorker article, “Until two days before his release from prison, that February, the world at large had not seen an up-to-date photograph of Mandela since the nineteen-sixties.” Notice the side lighting. Also, interestingly, the light side eye is dark, but the dark side eye is light and has a catch light.

Merce Cunningham, 1999



What a pose! What a personality, well-expressed in this image.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono



This pair of images shows the shooting session's progress towards the image on the right, which became the cover photo of *Rolling Stone* magazine January 22, 1981, and perhaps their most famous cover ever. John Lennon was shot and killed five hours after this photo session.

Demi Moore, seven months pregnant with her second child.



This image appeared on the cover of the August 1991 *Vanity Fair*. It popularized nude photos of advanced pregnancy.

Arnold Schwarzenegger



Mikhail Baryshnikov



I like the contrast between these two images of conditioned power and graceful balance. Schwarzenegger won the Mr. Olympia body building title seven times. An interesting detail is Schwarzenegger's exaggerated finger pose, typical of body builders, vs. Baryshnikov's gentle and relaxed fingers.

Baryshnikov was the pre-eminent male ballet dancer in the world in the 1970s and 80s. I saw him perform several times. To me, he could do the impossible, especially in Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove*, choreographed expressly for him. Watch minutes 3 through 8 of this video to see Baryshnikov at his best: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_aEbEgpLdc

Queen Elizabeth II, Appearing in Vanity Fair, Summer 2016, with the following captions, which I have placed at the top of each image:

“Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, in the Oak Sitting Room at Windsor in April; they have been married for nearly 69 years.”



Compare this with Thomas Struth’s portrait of the Queen and Prince. See my article # 36, Jan. 2019.

As did Struth, Liebovitz placed the petite Queen closer to the camera.

Look at how much light management was required here: the indoor room, the subjects’ faces (haha, they are not “subjects”), the fireplace, and the outdoor scene.

“The Queen, surrounded by two of her eight grandchildren (James, Viscount Severn, 8, and Lady Louise, 12) and her five great-grandchildren (Mia Tindall, 2; Princess Charlotte, 1; Savannah Phillips, 5; Prince George, 2; and Isla Phillips, 4), in the Green Drawing Room at Windsor in April.”



Quite charming, actually.

“The Queen at Buckingham Palace in 2007.”



Jane Eyre, perhaps?

“The Queen in the White Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace in 2007.”



Strikingly unconventional composition. Is there perhaps only one source of light, the window?