
Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

Anjelica Huston

Elisa Leonelli · Tuesday, August 24th, 2021

When [Anjelica Huston](#) turned 70 (July 8), I remembered the day, in October 1982, when I photographed her for a magazine layout. The tall and striking former model graciously posed wearing various outfits in different places of her cozy hillside home. My colleague Silvia Bizio did the interview.



Anjelica Huston © Elisa Leonelli 1982

I subsequently interviewed Anjelica several times, most notably for *Prizzi's Honor* (1985) directed by her father [John Huston](#), co-starring Jack Nicholson, her partner from 1973 to 1990. For that supporting role she was nominated to a Golden Globe, then she won an Oscar, and I was there to photograph her.



Anjelica Huston © Elisa Leonelli 1986

I also spoke with her about *The Dead* (1987), the last film her father directed, and I took her portrait, about *The Grifters* (1990) by Stephen Frears, *The Addams Family* (1991) by Barry

Sonnenfeld with Raul Julia, *Bastards Out of Carolina* (1996) and *Agnes Brown* (1999), two movies that she directed, *The Royal Tenenbaums* (2001) by Wes Anderson with Gene Hackman.



Anjelica Huston © Elisa Leonelli 1987

I wrote numerous articles about this fascinating woman for the Italian publications *Ciak*, *Gioia*, *Marie Claire*, as well as for *Venice*, the Los Angeles Arts and Entertainment Magazine, when I was the Film Editor in the 1990s.



Elisa Leonelli with Anjelica Huston (c) HFPA 1999

I rejoiced when she married Mexican artist [Robert Graham](#) in 1992. I had photographed him in his Venice studio and in front of his Olympic Gateway sculpture at the Coliseum in 1984. [Click here to read my article](#) about my coverage of that momentous event in the history of Los Angeles and find more photos of [Robert Graham](#) archived in the [Elisa Leonelli, Photojournalist Collection](#) at Claremont Colleges. I was sad when her husband passed away in 2008.



Robert Graham © Elisa Leonelli 1984

I found her performance as Jeffrey Tambor's lover in *Transparent* (2015-2016) created by [Joey Soloway](#) very brave. I read her two volumes of memoirs, *A Story Lately Told* (2013) and *Watch Me* (2015), I interviewed her about the books, learning more about her amazing life. She never met her

grandfather, actor [Walter Huston](#), who died before she was born, she appreciates her mother's influence on her artistic spirit, Italian-American ballet dancer [Ricki Soma](#), and adores her half-brother [Danny Huston](#).



Anjelica Huston (c) Elisa Leonelli 1982

For a weekly column that I write for the Golden Globes website, I chose some [quotes about voting rights](#) from an exclusive interview Anjelica gave to the journalists of the Hollywood Foreign Press in 2004 about the TV movie *Iron Jawed Angels* where she played Carrie Chapman Catt, leader of the American women's suffrage movement.

Finally, from the extensive HFPA photo Archives that I curate, here's a portrait of her backstage at the 1992 Golden Globes, when she was nominated as Best Actress in a comedy for her performance as Morticia in *The Addams Family*.



Anjelica Huston © HFPA 1992

Best wishes to Anjelica Huston on starting the seventh decade of her amazing life.

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