



Charlie Scheips with two friends who are sadly missed, Christopher Scott and Will Harmon, in the East Village in the early 1990s. Christopher, who helped start Charles Ludlam's Ridiculous Theater Company, was a one-time partner of Henry Geldzahler. He also worked for me in the Conde Nast Archives before his untimely death at 56. Photograph by Bob Russell.

A couple days later, I got just about as far from bohemia as you can imagine. On Wednesday night Ambassador **Gérard Araud**, the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, threw a cocktail party at his residence in the historic 740 Park Avenue building. The occasion was a reception to celebrate the French Institute Alliance Française's (FIAF) annual Trophée des Arts Gala that will take place this year November 15.

FIAF's longtime charismatic director **Marie-Monique Steckel** explained that the Friday evening date was chosen so that everyone can have no excuse not to have a rollicking good time. What a good idea! Of course, "school nights" used to be the nights New Yorkers went out.



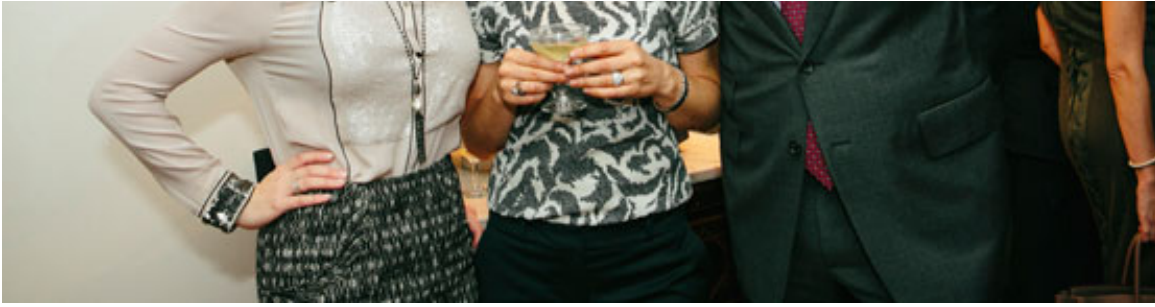


FIAF President Marie-Monique Steckel and French Ambassador to the U.N. Gérard Araud.

This year FIAF is honoring actor **François Cluzet** and **Carlos Ghosn**, the Chairman and CEO of Renault-Nissan. FIAF is one of New York's most lively places for the education and celebration of Francophone culture. Its building on 60th Street (between Madison and Park) is home to more than 6000 students studying French each year. The facility also has a first floor gallery for changing art exhibitions (I am on its gallery committee), the largest private French library in the United States, the 400 seat **Florence Gould** Hall which presents performing arts and film throughout the year as well as the Tinker Auditorium for literary programs and culinary events. FIAF's Le Skyroom on the roof is site to a variety of other special events and programs.

There must have been a couple hundred guests in the spacious apartment. I got a chance to chat with the charming Ambassador as well as well as with the great film director **Costa-Gavras** (his recent thriller *Capital* starring **Gabriel Byrne**, **Gad Elmaleh** and **Liya Kebede** premieres in New York this later this month). The Oscar winning filmmaker was chatting with **Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cohen** (Cohen's media company is distributing the film in the United States).





Marie-Noelle Pierce, Anne-Sophie Jaume, and John Pierce.

Others there were: Vranken Pommery champagne's **Stanislas Thierry** and his lovely wife **Mailys Vranken Thierry**, **Eric Mourlot**, **Ultra Violet** (who couldn't make it to Taylor's memorial), **Daniel Colón**, **Larry Kaiser**, (who actually grew up in the apartment we were in), **Christian Moretti** (who recently wed his wife **Kate Bouquard-Moretti** in Venice), **Florent Vaidie**, author **Nathalie Sann Regnault**, FIAF board member **Nabil Chartouni**, **Melanie Bouvard**, **Francois Chateau**, **Anne Sophie Jaume** of Doctors of the World, **Frederic Fekkai**; **Adrienne Halpern**, **John and Marie-Noelle Pierce**, **Nathalie Kaplan**, **Ketty Maisonrouge**, and **Beatrice Pei**.

For tickets to the FIAF Gala contact: Michele Klapper at 646.388.6632 or mklapper@fiaf.org [2].





Pommery America President Mailys Vranken Thierry, Stanislas Thierry, Dovile Drizyte, and Eric Mourlot.



Pascal Blondeau and Ultra Violet.



Melanie Bouvard and guests.





Karin Rispal and Beatrice Pei.



John Kochman, Charles Cohen and Clo Jacobs Cohen, and Costa Gavras.



Hall Witt and friend.



Eric Murlot, Marie-Monique Steckel, and Robert G. Wilmers.



Clemence von Mueffling and Marie-Noelle Pierce.



Christian Moretti and Kate Bouquard-Moretti.



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