

# FrontDesk

December 2009

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### 1 Cemile Kavountzis

Freelance food and travel writer Cemile Kavountzis covered the four New York restaurants awarded with Michelin stars this year in "Star Wars" (page 30). Make those reservations now, before the hordes beat you to it.

### 2 Lesley Savage

As an editor at *Entertainment Weekly*, Lesley Savage is always on the pulse of who is about to make it big—and who is about to make it big *again*. This issue, she interviewed New Yorker Anna Chlumsky (page 20), last seen in 1990's *My Girl* and now making a return to the screen and stage.

### 3 Rachel Wolff

A regular *New York Magazine* scribe, Rachel Wolff knows her way around town but hadn't yet been to all of the Midtown hotel bars that she wrote about in "Spend, Drink and Be Merry" (page 34), so we sent her out for a night of boozing. She still managed excellent reporting.

### 4 Evan Sung

Brooklyn-based photographer Evan Sung, who regularly shoots for *The New York Times* food and dining section, took on clothing stores this month, snapping designer goods for "The Souvenir, Redesigned," (page 22) and "How to Buy Happiness" (page 28).





## Well, Isn't That Special?

Barneys creative director Simon Doonan on the store's holiday window display celebrating *Saturday Night Live*'s 35th anniversary BY CEMILE KAVOUNTZIS/ PHOTOGRAPHY BY ROXANNE LOWIT

Like suburban neighbors sparring for the best yard lights, department stores along Fifth Avenue go all out for their holiday window displays. However, few can contend with the tableaux produced by Barney's Simon Doonan. This year, the hallowed department store celebrates another New York institution, *Saturday Night Live*, with a witty retrospective of the show's best-loved characters and sketches.

**WHICH HOLIDAY WINDOW DISPLAY DID YOU HAVE THE MOST FUN MAKING?** Three years ago we did the Warhol windows. It was great because I got to go through all of the incredible archives. If you don't like the party-boy Andy of the '70s, you can like the illustrator of the '50s—he reinvented himself many times.

**WHAT WAS THE MOST RIDICULOUSLY SPECIFIC THING YOU EVER DID FOR A HOLIDAY WINDOW?** When we collaborated with *Vanity Fair* in 1989, one window was an homage to Sophia Loren. Moschino had designed a gown for her and we created a Neapolitan kitchen that we covered in pasta—there were interns meticulously gluing pasta obsessively for weeks. I was inspired by her famous quote that she owed everything to spaghetti.



OPPOSITE: Mike Myers and Dana Carvey as Wayne and Garth, the goofy party-boy characters from the Wayne's World sketches in the early 1990s. ABOVE FROM LEFT: The original SNL crew (clockwise, from left) Chevy Chase, John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Garrett Morris, Dan Aykroyd, Jane Curtain and Laraine Newman; Barneys creative director, Simon Doonan.

**HOW DID THIS YEAR'S COLLABORATION BETWEEN BARNEYS AND SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE COME ABOUT?** I thought it was a great year to do a witty holiday window. I began exploring that theme and discovered it was the show's 35th anniversary. The show is very close to the Barneys brand—our anthem is taste, luxury and humor.

**WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE SNL CHARACTER?** The early days of the show are etched in my memory because I associate them with moving to America in the '70s. The show was such a huge phenomenon back then, and a great introduction to American culture. I remember Gilda Radner as Roseanne Roseannadanna with great fondness and Laraine Newman as Connie Conehead.

**ANY ISSUES WITH THIS DISPLAY?** We couldn't decide where to put Pat—in the girls or boys window. We decided on girls, since the character was played by a woman! ■

**BARNEYS** 660 MADISON AVE/ E. 60TH ST. 212.826.8900

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