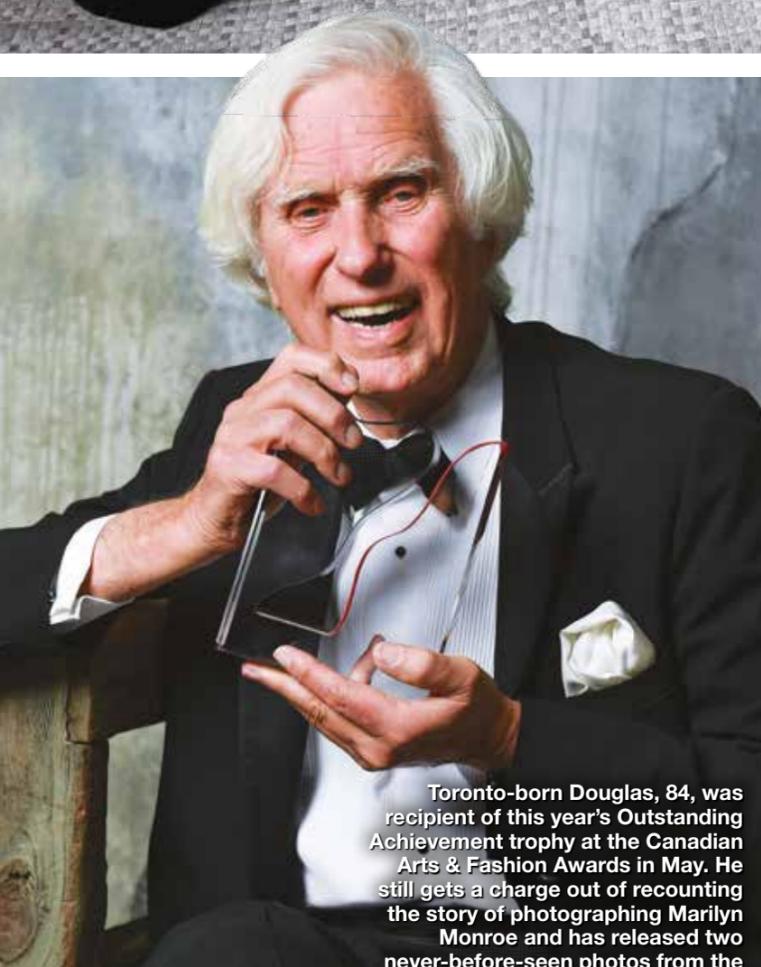




**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

**'I SEE THE WORLD BETTER THROUGH A CAMERA'**  
**DOUGLAS KIRKLAND**  
**HELLO! CELEBRATES THE LEGENDARY CANADIAN PHOTOGRAPHER**



Toronto-born Douglas, 84, was recipient of this year's Outstanding Achievement trophy at the Canadian Arts & Fashion Awards in May. He still gets a charge out of recounting the story of photographing Marilyn Monroe and has released two never-before-seen photos from the 1961 shoot (opposite).

Getting up close and personal with celebrities is no big deal for Douglas Kirkland. The legendary photographer has been globe-trotting for more than six decades to capture Hollywood's famous faces. Today, at almost 85, the process continues to bring him so much joy that he has no plans to retire.

"I see the world better through a camera," explains Douglas, who has Penélope Cruz, Lady Gaga and Michelle Obama on his bucket list. "That's my way of expression."

Still unassuming and delightfully charming despite a lifetime of enviable interactions, Douglas — who lives in California with his wife and creative partner, Françoise — was back in his native Toronto in May to receive the 2019 CAFA Outstanding Achievement Award. That same week, he also hosted an event at Izzy Gallery, where he unveiled two never-before-published black-and-white portraits of one of his famous subjects, Marilyn Monroe. The CAFA recognition is one of his most coveted

awards, he tells *Hello!* in an exclusive interview, because "it's back here where it all started."

Douglas was born in Toronto but raised in Fort Erie, Ont., where his salesman father would bring home now-defunct *Life* magazine every Friday and they'd marvel at the colourful photos. He snapped his first photo when he was 10 as the family gathered for Christmas and later worked as a newspaper photographer "shooting hockey games, weddings and babies." In 1960, *Look* magazine hired him and "I never looked back."

Douglas credits Elizabeth Taylor with giving him his first big break and counts Coco Chanel as a mentor who "changed my life." He has chronicled his adventures in several books. Next year, his equally talented filmmaker son, Mark Kirkland (director of *The Simpsons*), will release a documentary about his famous dad. Here, Douglas reminisces with *Hello!* about his most memorable models.

INTERVIEW: SUZANNE WINTROB

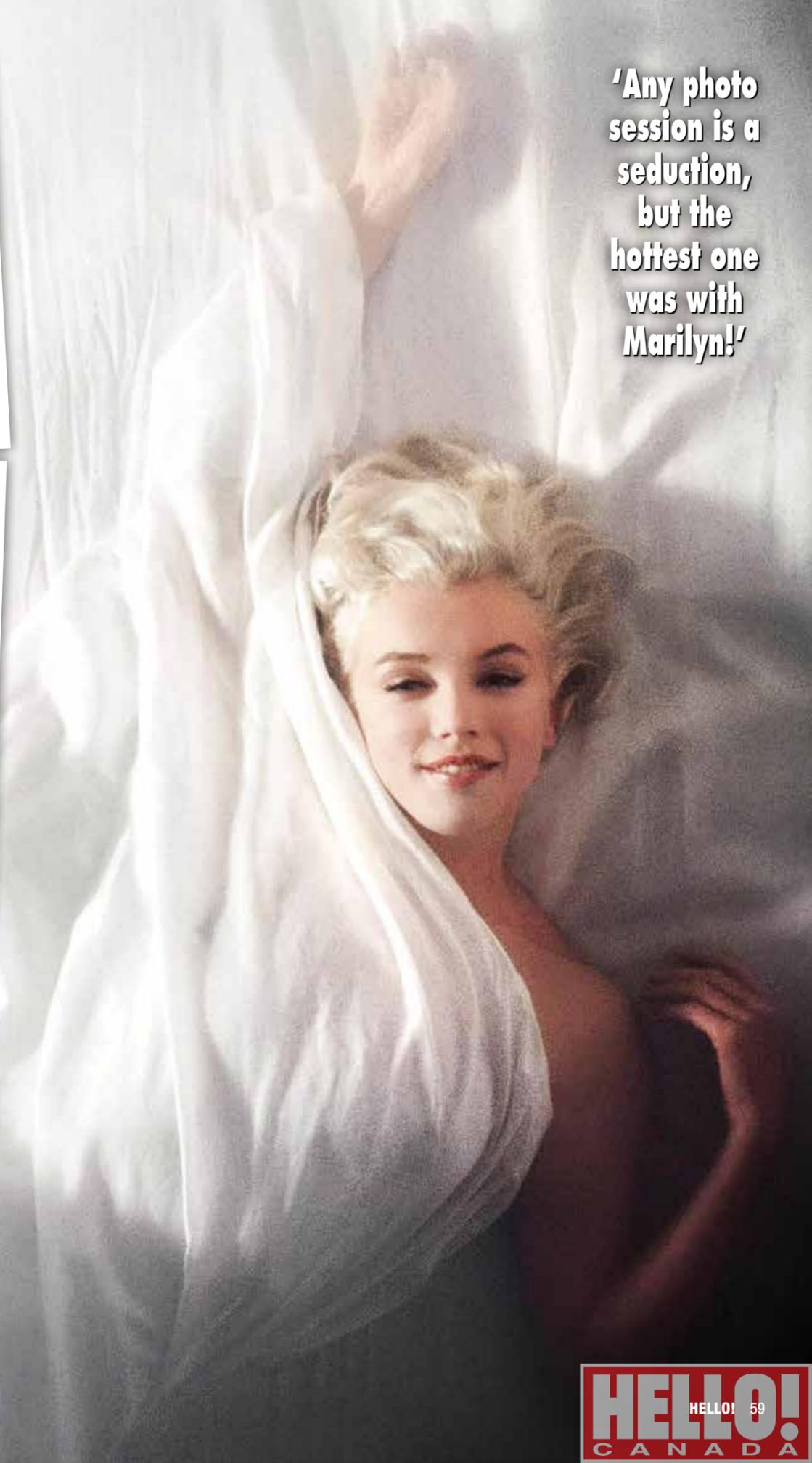


**MARILYN MONROE**  
**1961**

"Marilyn arrived for the shoot about two hours late. The publicist said, 'She's often late but always arrives!' I had everything ready. The bed had the white silk sheet that she wanted. She was going to be under that silk sheet with nothing on... We got started and it didn't seem to work at first. Then she said to her assistant, 'I want to be alone with this boy. I know we'll have the right chemistry.' So it was Marilyn and me. She told me a lot about her life. It hadn't always been easy. Her vulnerability surprised me. She was a real person. It became very sexual but I didn't take advantage of it. I wanted to put it in my Hasselblad camera. Any photo session is a seduction, but the hottest one was with Marilyn." ▶

DOUGLAS KIRKLAND/COURTESY OF IZZY GALLERY (2)

'Any photo session is a seduction, but the hottest one was with Marilyn!'





**'He's still a very  
pure human  
being. He  
doesn't believe  
in his own fame.  
He's very  
humble. It's a  
very attractive  
quality!'  
- WIFE FRANÇOISE**

**BRIGITTE BARDOT 1965**

"Brigitte was shooting [*Viva Maria!*] with Jean Moreau in Mexico. She was so playful. She went around with an entourage and had to be entertained all the time. She didn't want to work, really. She wanted to play! She would play cards or dance into the middle of the night, sometimes, looking for people to keep her company. I photographed her dancing on tables. You'd have to catch her when you could. She was like a little party girl." ►

DOUGLAS KIRKLAND/COURTESY OF IZZY GALLERY

## AUDREY HEPBURN 1965

While in Paris shooting *How to Steal a Million*, star and style icon Audrey (here, wearing French couturier André Courrèges's Space Age helmet), Douglas fell in love. "I'd heard there was a handsome photographer coming in and girls were calling," recalls his wife of 52 years, Françoise, whose mom was Audrey's publicist. "So I went to the studio. Douglas was asleep in a chair with his feet up on a table. French people don't do that! I had 20 minutes to look at him. It was nice for the eyes! He woke up, stretched, rubbed his eyes and said, 'Do you want to go to dinner?' I had just turned 22. The next morning, I called my boyfriend and said, 'C'est fini!'" Françoise, 75, shares her husband's passion, serving as his creative partner and Instagrammer.



## MICHAEL CAINE 1967

This pensive shot of Michael playing secret agent Harry Palmer in *Billion Dollar Brain* was one of dozens of *Look* magazine covers shot by Douglas during his exciting career. "I remember Michael as honest and likeable and a brilliant actor – a good English bloke!" he recalls. His go-to technique for capturing the moment? "I talk to them. I try to understand who they are. I watch. I see certain characteristics and then say, 'Let's put it in the camera.' I love people. I want everybody to be happy. That's the bottom line."

## Douglas captured Prince Charles and Diana's balcony kiss at their 1981 wedding

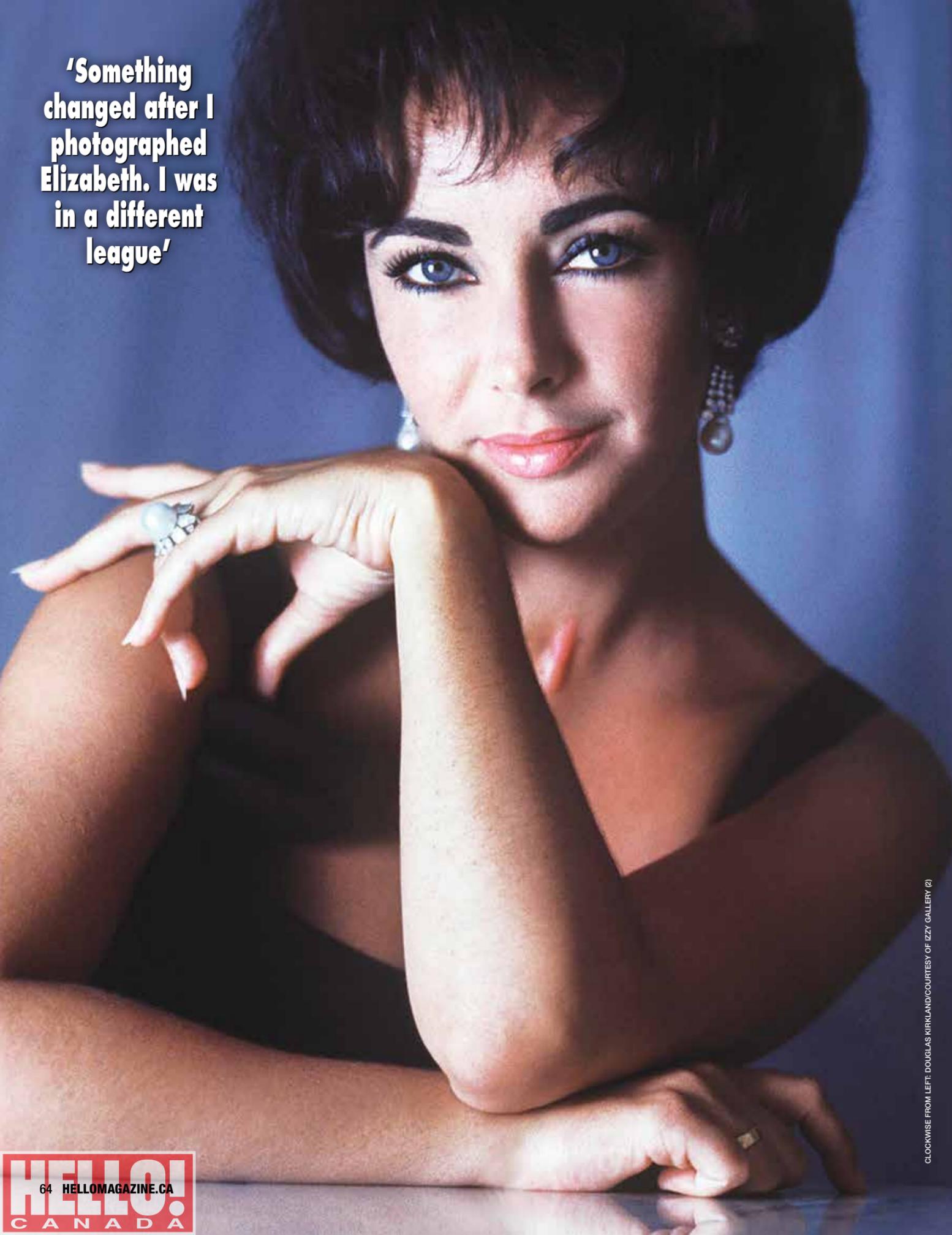


DOUGLAS KIRKLAND/COURTESY OF IZZY GALLERY ©

## NICOLE KIDMAN 2000

"This photo was taken when I was working on the *Moulin Rouge* set. Nicole liked to cook spaghetti for the crew at night. We were all together in Australia in the bush. You get close to movie stars when you're in the same place, you have dinner together because you're on location. But it's a working relationship... You kind of have these location romances – if you spend a day with them, you're lucky! In the old days you'd spend three weeks and you'd develop this story romance because you spend all your time with them. But [usually] when it's over, it's over. Sometimes you try to see people after but you don't have this work connection anymore. The stars live in a different realm." ►

'Something changed after I photographed Elizabeth. I was in a different league'



## ELIZABETH TAYLOR 1961

"Elizabeth was the first celebrity I ever photographed – she put me on the map! She had become ill while filming *Cleopatra*. She had caught double pneumonia and had an emergency tracheotomy. We were told she didn't want to be photographed. But I went along with my friend [journalist Jack Hamilton] anyway. When he was done, I took Elizabeth's hand, looked her in the eyes and said, 'I'm just starting at this magazine. Can you imagine what it would mean to me if you gave me the opportunity to photograph you?' She hesitated and then said, 'OK, come tomorrow night at 7:30.' After she gave me that chance, *Look* started sending me out."



## ANN-MARGRET 1971

"We were in the Las Vegas desert. Françoise was driving our convertible at 60 mph and I was in the trunk. I wanted to capture Ann's excitement. She had this custom-made chopper that was made for speed. The costume was from her Las Vegas show. She suggested the idea. I didn't finish all my frames in the camera but yelled, 'Ann-Margret, we've got it all!' and she threw her legs out and said, 'Wheee!' That's where pictures come from. It was dangerous driving like that, but it was a little more spontaneous in those days. Today you'd have to have a million permits!" **H**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: DOUGLAS KIRKLAND/COURTESY OF IZZY GALLERY (2)