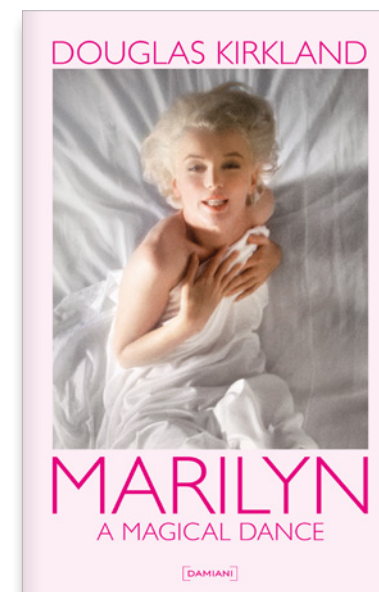




Edited by Françoise Kirkland
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Douglas Kirkland Marilyn. A Magical Dance

Marilyn Monroe would have been 100 years old on June 1, 2026. She remains, to this day, the most alluring, charismatic, and idolized movie star of all time. Her ethereal beauty and irrepressible charm were captured by Douglas Kirkland in an iconic sequence of sensual portraits taken over the course of an extraordinary evening on November 17, 1961. In the intimate confines of an unmade bed—she was 35, Douglas 27—*Marilyn. A Magical Dance* presents a series of some of the most spontaneous and enchanting photographs ever taken of her on silk sheets. Douglas always felt that every photo session was a dance—an intoxicating, fleeting moment of seduction. Marilyn Monroe was an enchantress, and theirs was one of the most dizzying and intense waltzes, one that remained in his heart forever. A year ago, while walking into a gallery in Paris, Françoise Kirkland came across a beautiful small leporello by Dora Maar, featuring her drawings of Picasso, displayed in a glass case. This prompted her to revisit a similar diary she had created during the summer of 2001, with images of Marilyn Monroe accompanied by handwritten words by Douglas. The leporello format transforms the experience of this reading into an exploratory, visual journey, unfolding seamlessly the story of a brief and seductive encounter between a handsome young photographer and the sexiest woman in Hollywood history.

Award-winning photographer Douglas Kirkland's career (1934-2022) started during the golden age of photojournalism in the early '60s. His work was on the cutting edge of fashion, film, and celebrity portraiture, working for the world's most reputable magazines for more than 60 years. His images are part of the permanent collections of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the Smithsonian, and the National Portrait Gallery.

Françoise and Douglas Kirkland met at the Studio de Boulogne on the set of *How to Steal a Million* (1965). They got married soon after and she became known as Douglas's "secret weapon" for the key role she played in his career. She lives in Los Angeles and continues to look after Douglas's vast archive and legacy.