

Photojournalist Harry Benson honored by ICP

By [Emily Smith](#)

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Harry Benson at the ICP's Infinity Awards

Famed Scottish photojournalist Harry Benson was honored at the International Center of Photography's prestigious Infinity Awards.

Thanking ICP, Benson, 87 — who came to America with the Beatles, was next to Robert Kennedy when he was assassinated and has shot the last 12 presidents as well as Michael Jackson, Muhammad Ali and Queen Elizabeth II — said, "I wish they'd given this award to me when I was 23."

He talked about getting arrested in Poland in the eighties with Vanity Fair's David Friend when they worked at Life. Benson continued, "This is a lifetime achievement award and it wasn't all glamorous, there was a lot of wet street corners in Glasgow, Scotland and London, Fleet Street, I enjoyed that, I liked the competitiveness. I want to thank all the people that helped me, I also want to thank the people that didn't help me, they were all a piece of s-t."

He added, "My family said 'don't embarrass us.' I'm doing my best. I am basically some scruff from Glasgow."

Guests at the ICP gala at Pier 60 on Monday included Dan Rather, Tommy Lee Jones, Hearst's Michael Clinton and Judith Bookbinder, Harper's Bazaar editor Glenda Bailey, photographer Teju Cole, WABC journalist Sade Baderinwa and Esquire Editor Jay Fielden.

Others honored included artist Sophie Calle, Michael Christopher Brown for his book "Libyan Sugar," Edmund Clark and Crofton Black for "Negative Publicity," Vasantha Yoganathan as emerging photographer, and Aperture's Michael Famighetti and Sarah Lewis for critical writing and research. Artist-run super PAC For Freedoms was honored for online platform.