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The Gordon Parks Foundation held a gala at Cipriani 42nd Street on June 4. Some 20 rappers gathered to recreate "Greatest Day in Hip-Hop," the 1998 photo by Parks.

Cipriani 42nd Street, an Italianate former bank turned banquet hall, became an unlikely temple of old-school hip-hop on Tuesday night, at the Gordon Parks Foundation's annual gala.

Twenty of the 177 rappers who participated in an iconic group photograph taken in Harlem by Parks in 1998 gathered for an awards dinner. They included Fab 5 Freddy, Slick Rick, Rah Digga, Kid Capri and Grandmaster Caz.

Also honored were Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the athlete; Raf Simons, the designer; Carol Sutton Lewis and William M. Lewis Jr., the philanthropists; Kehinde Wiley, the artist; and Chelsea Clinton.

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They mingled with musicians and other cultural figures like Alicia Keys, Kaseem Dean, Deborah Harry, Kerby Jean-Raymond and David Chang; Peter W. Kunhardt Jr., the foundation's executive director; as well as money types like Douglas Durst, Sarah Arison, Sandra Brant, Judy and Leonard Lauder, and Alexander Soros.

Parks, who died in 2006 at 93, was a renaissance figure in African-American culture, said Mr. Wiley, who painted President Barack Obama's White House portrait. "He created a type of black aesthetic, of empathy and being able to find race in dark places, and to be able to see America for who she truly is," he said. "He was able to be both the sincere auteur and the trickster at once."

Parks was also a noted Casanova, having divorced three times before dating Gloria Vanderbilt and Candace Bushnell (at least, according to her).

"I wanted to be wife No. 4," said Carol Jenkins, the co-president of the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, referring to when she was a TV reporter for WNBC in the 1980s. "I had a huge crush on him, so I called him up and asked him to be my date for an event I was M.C.-ing at the Plaza Hotel."

It was the perfect night, until she broke a heel. "Gentleman that he was, he tries to hammer the heel, with the knife from the table, back on," Ms. Jenkins said, laughing. "Eventually the manager found me another pair of shoes. I think he took them from one of the workers."

Unfortunately, there was no second date.