



Left: The launch party for David LaChapelle's *Artists and Prostitutes*. Right: Photographer David LaChapelle hams it up with Amanda Lepore. (Photos: Patrick McMullan)

I beat the mass exodus from the beach and dashed to the new, hyper-chic Setai Hotel, where Taschen was hosting a launch party for David LaChapelle's book *Artists and Prostitutes*. Caught in the inevitable crush at the door, I ran up against a burly bouncer growling at a pushy, black-leather-Yankees-cap-and-gold-chain-wearing youth to "stay back." "I'm David's personal assistant," the would-be entrant piped, "and if I'm going to leave I will be escorted off. I need to get in *right now* to deal with the slide show." I slipped through along with Isaac Julien, his boyfriend Mark Nash, his onscreen star

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Vanessa Myrie, and his assistant Kelly. Inside, we immediately spotted LaChapelle's muse, robosexual tranny Amanda Lepore, who was perched—nude of course—inside an illuminated plexiglass structure in the middle of the pool and leafing through a copy of LaChapelle's vapid tome. (Even Lepore couldn't be bothered to look through the volume, replete with her own image—she tossed her hair, crossed and uncrossed her legs that "cost as much as a house," and cast absent Botox stares at the guests.) Grinning, Julien appraised the spectacle: "Perfect."