

## GOOD NIGHT MR. LEWIS

### Doormen Never Die: Irv Johnson's New York Memories

By Steve Lewis July 30, 2010



There's a quote that goes, "Old doormen never die, they just fade away." Or something like that.

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Steve Rubell, Peter Gatién, and many of the most successful owners were constant fixtures at the door. They knew that the night depended on what happened there. Now, many clubs are abandoning this concept and using a forced RSVP, text messaging, and other technologies to control the entrance sequence. It seems to be working well at Provocateur, and other high-end venues. There may be a time where the doorman position will become a forsaken trade. I always thought it to be an art form, and I was privileged to work with some of the best there ever were: Kenny Kenny, King, Wass, Richard Alvarez, Howie, Ross, Irv, Andrea, Tom Starker, and others who have faded from this morning's memory. I caught up with Irv Johnson and asked him where he faded to.

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