

[Jon-Adrian “JJ” Velazquez](#) was the star at the Martha’s Vineyard/Circuit Arts Film Festival.

Velazquez was wrongly convicted of murder and spent 23 years in prison. He was [exonerated in 2021 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo](#) after a decade-long investigation by NBC News producer Dan Slepian turned into a 4-part documentary for MSNBC.

Velazquez co-stars with Colman Domingo in [“Sing Sing,”](#) the A24 prison drama that follows a group of incarcerated men who find purpose in acting in theater productions.

Maria Cuomo Cole, Andrew Cuomo’s sister, and her husband, fashion designer Kenneth Cole, joined in the standing ovation. Cole showcased his own documentary, “A Man with Sole.”

Bernard Chiu, owner of Harborview Hotel in Edgartown, and author James Hester hosted a dinner where Dawn Porter — who directed a documentary on the case, “Sing Sing Chronicles” — told guests how fortunate she was to have footage of JJ during his incarceration.

“It made my job and the film so powerful to explain the injustice that JJ had to endure,” Porter said.



From left, James Hester, Bernard Chiu, supermodel/actress Carol Alt, JJ Velazquez, Dawn Porter and and Jean Wong attend a dinner at Bettini’s Harborview Hotel celebrating the screening of JJ Velazquez and Dawn Porter’s documentary, “The Sing Sing Chronicles,” hosted by Harborview Hotel owner Bernard Chiu and author James Hester. (Photo by Michelle Vivian-Jamison)