

# SHOOTING THE STREETS

STEPHEN WARNER

# ESSENTIAL POINTS TO REMEMBER

- FIRST AND FOREMOST - STAY SAFE
- REMEMBER NO PICTURE IS WORTH RISKING INJURY FOR, PARTICULARLY IF YOU ARE SHOOTING AS AN AMATEUR
- THE USUAL 'RULES' ABOUT STREET SAFETY APPLY:
  - DON'T WANDER INTO UNLIT OR OBSCURED AREAS ALONE
  - IF YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE, MOVE ON
- IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ON THE STREET
  - MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES ARE FERTILE HUNTING GROUNDS AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS ARE GOOD TOO

# Why Street Photography?

- It is a chance to capture images that reflect what is happening in the here and now.
- It is dynamic and spontaneous
- It develops your 'eye' for images and you start to notice details in everyday life
- It is whatever you want it to be
  - Generally thought to be people shots but it can include the background and environmental shots that make the scene, interesting buildings and the plain quirky

# What is Street Photography?

- It has its roots in photojournalism
  - images often carry some kind of story, either within a single image or as part of a series
- It's about observation and spontaneity
- The photojournalistic approach - candid, observational style
- Decisive moment - sometimes spontaneous but often 'planned'
- Street portraits - can be candid or posed
- Environmental - markets, fairs, gatherings
- Street furniture - lamps, plaques, gates, walls
- Buildings - shop fronts, cafes, bars
- Light and shadow
- Artistic - low depth-of-field, slow shutter speed
  - the latter is particularly effective if there is a fixed element in the image

# Who's who - modern street photographers

- There are a plethora of modern exponents of the art, they represent many different styles and philosophies, some take a more observational approach, looking at details within a scene others such as Martin Parr and most notably Bruce Gilden are much more confrontational
- Parr for many years worked with a large or medium format camera and a flash gun, he produces brightly coloured, supersaturated, images of people in social situations
- Gilden approaches his subjects in the street and gains tacit consent to take the picture but does so close in with a wide angle lens, producing some strange images of people in the process - it should be added that he does this in New York

# Bruce Gilden

- From his series 'Face' which The Guardian described as: "Face remains a relentless – and relentlessly cruel – cataloguing of the kind of ugliness to which Gilden was drawn when he watched wrestling bouts as a child. Here, the blemishes, bad teeth, the stubble and the scrapes – as well as the-implies, wounds, wrinkles and bulbous veined noses – are rendered even more extreme by the closeness of the camera and the unremitting light of the flash."



# Martin Parr

- An image from his “Think of England.” series on The Dots Creator Network. Spectators at a race meeting.



## Something a little less “in your face”.

- There are many people currently shooting street photography who are a little less direct in their images.
- There are many active within the UK and their work shows a portrait of life in Britain, ‘warts and all’.
- The images they create are unified by a quirky, gentle style that respects their subject but shows them within their environment and a glimpse into their life
- These are much more candid shots, but with great skill in respect to framing, composition and lighting



## Some UK names to look for....

- Craig Whitehead - Six Street Under
- Shane Taylor - Heroes for Sale
- Max Gor - amateur street photographer - can be political
- Damien Demolder - see WPG 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Kevin Mullins - Wedding Photojournalism and Street Photography
- Mark Seymour - Documentary Wedding and Street Photography
- Paul Rogers - Wedding Photojournalism
- Philip Joyce - amateur street photographer - humorous style
- Lee Jeffries - Social commentary

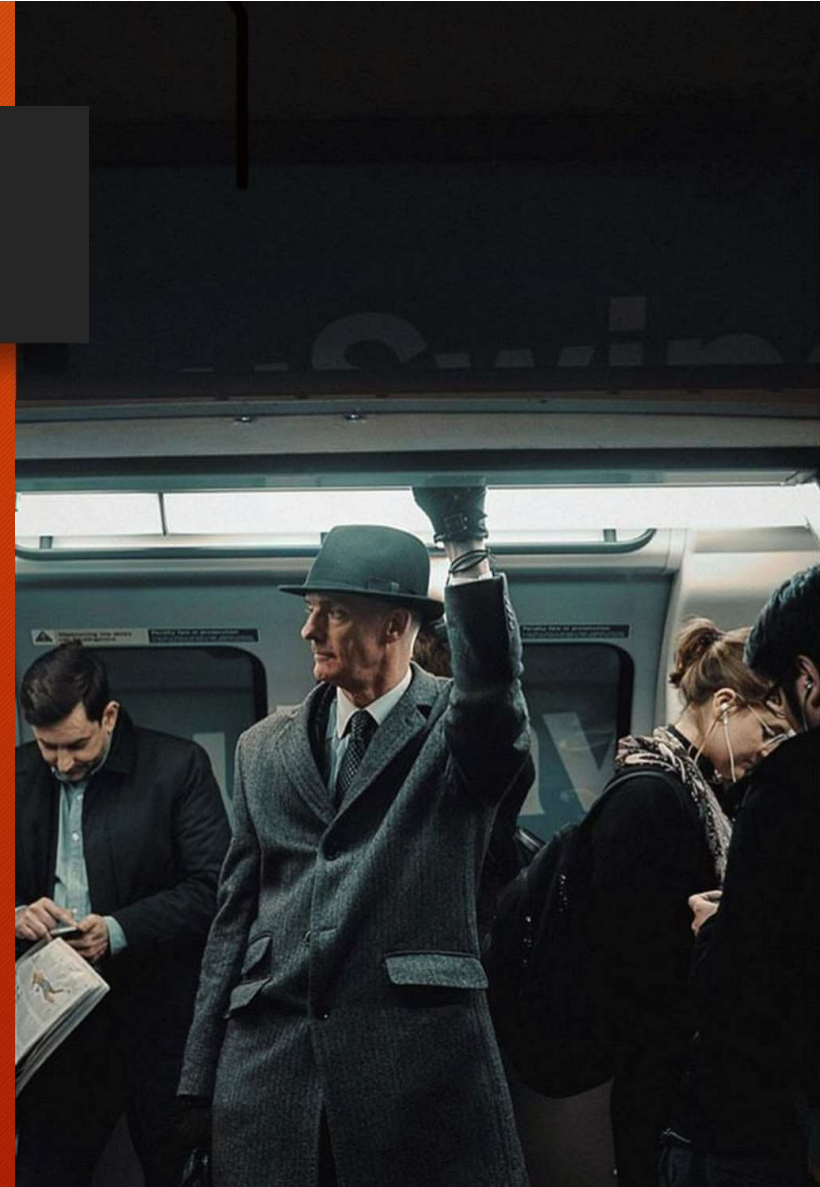
# Craig Whitehead

- Posting on Instagram as Six Street Under, Craig is based in Cambridge but shoots images globally, often with a slightly abstract feel.



# Shane Taylor

- Appears on Instagram as Heroes for Sale; Shane is originally from Ireland but is now based in London. His pictures are shot worldwide, often using a medium format film camera such as a Mamiya 645



# Max Gor

- Max is a strictly amateur, passionate photographer living in London which he describes as 'a fantastic city for street photography and meeting extraordinary people'.
- He often includes quite political images from rallies and protests.



# Mark Seymour

- Mark is a Documentary Wedding Photographer who also shoots street images around the world
- He has produced a portfolio of images from Speakers Corner where the interaction between orators and their audience makes for great pictures
- Mark also produced a photographic record of his father's decline with Alzheimer's disease



# Lee Jeffries

- Lee is more of a social commentary photographer, he builds a relationship with his subjects and brings this out in his images
- His book “Lost Angels” is a series of superb portraits of homeless people, all of whom he met on the street and became familiar with before creating the picture



# International names

- Joel Meyerowitz - USA
- Zack Arias - USA
- Dirty Harry - Charalampos Kydonakis - Greece
- Steve Sweatpants - Steven John Irby - Street Dreams Magazine - USA
- Paola Franqui - USA
- Rui Palha - Portugal
- Boogie - Vladimir Milivojevich - Serbia/USA
- Tatsuo Suzuki - Japan
- Eolo Perfido - Italy

# Joel Meyerowitz

- Photographing the streets and beaches of New York since 1962, Meyerowitz was an early advocate of colour photography
- He cites his influences as Robert Frank, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Eugene Atget





# Rui Palha

- Photography has been a hobby since 1967 for Rui, as he puts it ‘with great interruptions’ until 2001, since then he has devoted his time almost exclusively to street photography
- “Photography is a very important part of my space.. It is to discover, it is to capture giving flow to what the heart feels and sees in a certain moment, it is being in the street, experiencing, learning, and essentially practicing the freedom of being of living, of thinking..”



# Eolo Perfido

- Born in France, but now based mainly in Italy, Eolo produces some great observational images of the area around him
- He also creates some incredible, styled studio portraits



# Getting started

- Before becoming too immersed, start with a few scene setting shots, get used to being in the crowd with a camera



# Getting Started

Becoming accustomed to the environment in a non-threatening manner helps to 'get your eye in'.



# Getting Started

- Start with a simple theme; for example reflections (shop windows, cars, polished signs)



# Getting Started

- Pick a colour - aim to capture images with this colour included



# Getting Started

- Now do the same again but in black and white



# Getting Started

- Look for a contrasting area of light and dark, create images as people transit from one to the other
- Either as they step toward you into the light or as in this example where a strong silhouette is created





## Getting Started

- Find a place where people congregate for breaks, generally they are too busy eating and drinking to notice you



# Keep Looking

- The individual in a crowded place
- This more mature man was seated, alone with his thoughts and his sandwich in a London plaza, surrounded by hundreds of younger people all talking and texting



# Post Processing

Processing of images is largely a matter of personal taste

However be aware of the impact of the final image

Injudicious alteration can make the context

Whilst capturing an image of someone in a public place, where they can reasonably expect to be seen is perfectly legitimate, creating an image that shows them unfavourably could potentially result in a libel action

# Post Processing

Original Image



Edited Image



# Post Processing

Original Image



Edited image



# Streetwalking, parties and hanging around in bars...



And finally

Who remembers The Muppets?

