



A Snapshot of a F

Secretia met up with David Hindley, a well established alternative and fetish photographer, to find out more about the man who captures the individual beyond the image.

Photography wasn't David's first choice as a career but being dyslexic he had grown up viewing the world as a series of images and it was a natural progression to move onto capturing those images physically and sharing them. "Learning to use a camera is not difficult but it can be difficult to find an eye or a style," says David.

Having learnt the tools of the trade he became an assistant photographer initially working in Manchester in advertising. "This job led me to London where I continued to assist for about 8 years and then decided to go freelance in music and PR, working with the likes of Lenny Kravitz and David Bowie."

David dabbled with the club scene in London initially but his work involved travelling internationally too often to become a regular club goer. When he did get back into the club scene he was awed by the inspiration he found there. "A good friend of mine was head of security at an alternative club, and I couldn't tear my eyes away from the clubbers. There was no need for extravagant club décor as the clubbers themselves were a moving backdrop."

"I began taking pictures of them with a view to producing a book, and ten years later, it is still in the making. The really fascinating thing is I've now got pictures of those same people ten years on." The idea for the book came from the strong individual images people presented at Slimelight and Torture Garden. Work opportunities in the States have added a new slant to the book including coverage of the New York Slimelight and the Black and Blue Ball.

In David's view, it is rare that the mainstream gives the alternative and fetish scene any credit for the talent and imagination it has shown in developing and progressing the scene – he views it as a creative arena and an outlet for self-expression." I try and create a comfortable environment to bring out the best in people whether that's my friends or models. Often, the more interesting models are the ones that stand at the edges initially." So how close is the book to completion? "We currently have 240 pages for a 200-page book and we've edited it back twice. Because it is a passion of mine, I could probably keep going forever. It is hard to close the lid finally on creative projects, as there is always more to include, but the point of the book is to illustrate the evolution of a subculture and a decade's work seems an appropriate length of time to now be able to put the book to bed."

David has gained international renown as a fetish photographer but he sees this as a broadbrush statement, "I'm just a people photographer working on that side of things". Just by talking with him, it is clear that he is totally fascinated by people, and has a natural ability for setting people at ease and finding what makes them tick. "Most photographers take photos that reflect themselves. They have huge egos. I prefer to encourage the subjects to show themselves and, in general, they are much happier with the results."

One of the hardest things for David to master was timing. He honed this technique while working with Lenny Kravitz. "At a show, you can hear what the photographers are taking pictures of, namely - the action shots when Lenny tosses his hair back - I learned to take the off peak shots where people were not quite ready."

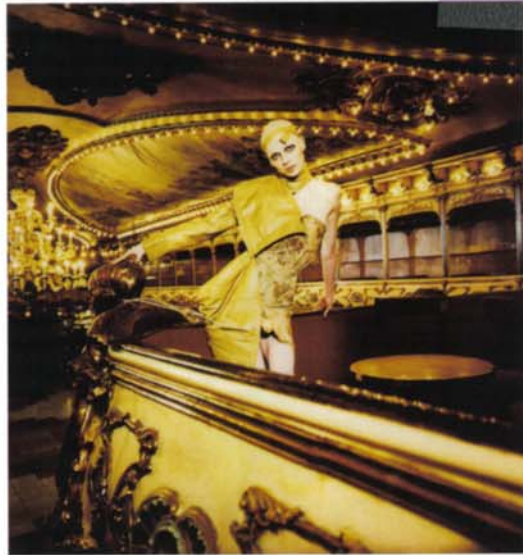
So what does David have in store for the future? "I want to get into advertising but international events have slowed the whole photographic industry severely. I know photographers

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who are down to one client or have had to reduce their fees by half just to keep work coming their way.

Challenges such as these haven't stopped David in his pursuit of further arenas to work in. He is currently working on the photos for a website for Lucifire, the world famous female pyrotechnic performer. The website is called Scarlet Mews and it is David's first project using digital work.



"I've been experimenting with digital technology for some months and it has some great features. For a start, I can take more shots, I can easily fill up a 1GB card, the equivalent of 450 shots without having to think of the cost."

For digital retouching, David has developed a successful partnership with Roderick W Ramage whose understanding of the industry combined with a fantastic knowledge of photo manipulation complements his work beautifully. However, David is proud that none of the images in his portfolio have been retouched. "None of them have been altered. This means that they may be a little dated in technique, but I feel that it is necessary to keep them unadulterated for the sake of the art and the spirit in which they were taken."



To contact David or to view more of his stunning collection of pictures visit: <http://www.davidhindley.com>

To see the work that he has produced for Lucifire visit: <http://www.scarletmews.com>

