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Who Shot Rock And Roll: A Photographic History, 1955-Present



Synopsis

More than two hundred spectacular photographs, sensual, luminous, frenzied, true, from 1955 to the present, that catch and define the energy, intoxication, rebellion, and magic of rock and roll; the first book to explore the photographs and the photographers who captured rock's message of freedom and personal reinvention—and to examine the effect of their pictures on the musicians, the fans, and the culture itself. The only music photographers whose names are well known are those who themselves have become celebrities. But many of the images that have shaped our consciousness and desire were made by photographers whose names are unfamiliar. Here are Elvis in 1956—not yet mythic but beautiful, tender, vulnerable, sexy, photographed by Alfred Wertheimer . . . Bob Dylan and his girlfriend on a snowy Greenwich Village street, by Don Hunstein . . . John Lennon in a sleeveless New York City T-shirt, by Bob Gruen . . . Jimi Hendrix, by Gered Mankowitz, a photograph that became a poster and was hung on the walls of millions of bedrooms and college dorms . . . For the first time, the work of these talented men and women is brought into the pantheon; we see the musicians they photographed and how the images gave rock and roll its visual identity. To bring together these images, Gail Buckland, acclaimed photographic editor, curator, and scholar, looked through the archives of one hundred photographers, selecting pictures not on the basis of the usual suspects, but on the power of the images themselves, often picking an image a photographer didn't even remember he or she had taken. Buckland writes about the photographers, their influences, their relationships with their subjects, how they took the images, how they saw what they saw and captured what they captured: the spirit and essence of rock. A revelation of an art form whose iconic images changed the world as we knew it.

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Customer Reviews

Buckland's visually hypnotic history of rock photography is as much a history of rock as subject as it is of photography. In fact, it is the inseparability of the two that lies at the heart of Buckland's argument. Here are nearly 300 iconic photographs by those photographers who understood the power of the image in the formation and sustenance of rock-and-roll culture from 1955 onward. The care with which Buckland selects representative photographers and their most significant images is matched by her interpretive prowess. In her comparison of photographs by Mick Rock and Masayoshi Sukita of David Bowie's 1973 tour, for example, Buckland demonstrates no discernible difference in affection for the pop star among teenagers on three continents. Such observations stand testament to the scope of Buckland's inquiry, which throughout the book directs us over and over toward the definitive visual responses of rock fans as well as the musicians, be it through the gestures of physical expression or choices in fashion. Buckland carefully but deliberately argues that the art of rock photography has been sacrificed to the paparazzi and corporate art departments. In light of this inclusive, heady and visceral collection of the genre's best, it would be hard to argue otherwise. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"I love this book, and not merely for the uniformly excellent and often unexpected photographs Ms. Buckland has chosen to illustrate this love letter to rock's finest photographers (and performers). I love it, too, for Ms. Buckland's witty, moving and sometimes acerbic prose. . . . Whatever Gail Buckland writes, I want to read." —Dwight Garner, *The New York Times*. Selected as one of the best gift books of the year "Visually hypnotic" [The care with which Buckland selects representative photographers and their most significant images is matched by her interpretive prowess.] —*Publishers Weekly* "A very appealing collection of photography. . . . impressive." —*Booklist*

This is a book to sit quietly and enjoy. The images are just incredible, many of them rare and quite unusual. The comments on each picture are more than interesting. Even I was not acquainted with its contents, it turned out to be a very pleasant surprise when I started browsing its pages from the

beginning to the end. Don't waste your time. Go now and buy it!

Great coffee table book, with some depth behind it. Wonderful photographs from many of the great rock photographers of that era, capturing some incredibly memorable moments. The photos are a wonderful mix of black and white, candid, posed, and stage shots. The essays that accompany the photographs in the book as interesting and important as the photographs themselves, all are matched well with their accompanying picture. Wonderful book for anyone who loves music, photography, or the culture of that era.

An amazing overview of the marvelous photographers who "shot" rock and roll images from the beginning of the rock era to the present. The author, Gail Buckland, an accomplished and well respected photographic historian, uncovered previously undiscovered images and combined them with a text that brings the rock and roll performers and their performances to life. What a fabulous visual feast and a wonderful read for anyone who appreciates photography and music!

I purchased this as a gift for my 20 year old grandson who is both a music lover and a lover of photography. It was passed around a great deal on Christmas Eve and the comments were virtually the same regardless of age. It is a fine publication. If you're interested in R & R or/and photography, you'll enjoy this one.

Awesome shots. Can't look through this book enough. Sits on my living room table and gets picked up by everyone who comes over.

Great book with classic rock photos that you have never seen. Wonderful stories beautifully presented. Must have in any rock or music collector's library

great book

This book was purchased because I was on a study group for the Rock and Roll Photography Exhibition at the Museum where I am a Docent. I found the images beautifully reproduced and the information well written.

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