



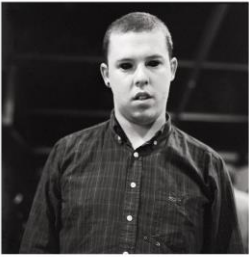
big smile publishing



-----PRESS RELEASE-----

McQueen - Backstage - The Early Shows
by Gary Wallis

archive:
by Gary Wallis



McQueen
backstage - the early shows

The first book from **Big Smile Publishing**, 'Archive: McQueen: Backstage — The Early Shows', will be launched on 3rd March 2015 at Proud Chelsea, marking the fifth anniversary of McQueen's untimely death. Big Smile is thrilled to be publishing this debut book from Gary Wallis, renowned British photographer and Big Smile founder, with an exhibition of select and never before seen images.

-----The Images-----

Photographer **Gary Wallis** first met Lee McQueen, later known as **Alexander McQueen**, while they were both studying at Central Saint Martins. Their long-term collaboration began when Lee asked Gary to shoot his MA graduation collection 'Jack the Ripper Stalks His Victims'. The images of this legendary show may now be lost forever.

The pair did not see each other again until shortly before McQueen's 'Banshee' collection at Café de Paris. Lee requested he make a short 'home movie' including the show backstage plus take pictures. For McQueen's next four shows 'The Birds', 'Highland Rape', 'The Hunger' and 'Dante', Wallis was given backstage access to take pictures. This mainly unseen library has been hidden away in filing cabinets for 20 years until now, being published as the first in an 'archive' series by Big Smile Publishing. Wallis' images provide a true insider's view into a rare moment in time, as McQueen pushed the boundaries of convention and rose up to be the rebel king of British fashion. This intimate collection, published as a beautiful litho printed hardback, is a must have for any discerning lover of McQueen and fashion alike.

Proud Galleries have been a stalwart of British photography since its launch in 1998, so there is no better place to display the genius and talent of two British boys at the onset of their careers. Thanks to our friends at Proud Galleries, you will not only have access to an exclusive preview copy of the book at a discounted price, but you will be able to view and purchase limited edition prints.

Launch Tuesday 3rd March 2015
Dates 4th March – 5th April
Times Monday to Sunday: 10am till 7pm
Entry Free

Address 161 King's Road, London, SW3 5XP
Website www.bigsmilepublishing.com
www.proud.co.uk
Interviews Details upon request



-----The Company & Book-----

Big Smile Publishing was founded by Nicholas Pinnock, Gary Wallis and Elliot Robinson in 2014, with the aim of producing interesting and beautiful books across all areas of the arts.

The company is being launched with 'archive: McQueen – backstage the early shows' by photographer Gary Wallis in March 2015, a 224 page litho printed hardback, sewn bound with embossed and gold leaf cover, containing 107 images. A small number of images from the book were featured in issue 12 of Love Magazine - The Remix edition, and a small selection will be included in the V&A catalogue for the 'Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty exhibition' held at the V&A March – August 2015.

The 'archive' editions will aim to produce photographic books of hidden away gems, which deserve to be seen, by photographers who deserve to be acknowledged. Big Smile Publishing's forthcoming books will include a poetry book illustrated by artists and creatives from a cross section of disciplines including graffiti, graphic design, print making and fine art.

-----Gary Wallis-----

British born Gary Wallis had been a freelance photographer for 20 years, working mainly in fashion and portraiture. He has shot for magazines around the world including Japanese Vogue, Dutch Elle, British Marie Claire, The Independent Magazine, The Evening Standard, Dazed and Confused, Swedish Slitz Magazine and lots more. His commercial clients have included Topman, Motorola, Lloyds, Harper Collins. Gary has taught photography part time at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design for 20 years, and is now Subject Leader in Photography for the Visual Communication Design Program.

-----Nicholas Pinnock-----

Nicholas Pinnock is a stage and screen actor, known best for his role in the award winning Channel 4 drama 'Top Boy' and ITV's critically acclaimed 'The Ice Cream Girls'. Nicholas can currently be seen starring alongside Stanley Tucci, Michael Gambon, Christopher Eccleston and Sofie Grabol in Sky Atlantic's huge new thriller, 'Fortitude'. He will be seen on the big screen this year in 'Monsters: Dark Continent' and 'The Keeping Room', both of which premiered at the BFI London Film Festival, 2014. Nicholas is currently rehearsing for a play at the Bush theatre in which he takes the lead role of Jay Jackson in 'The Royale'.

-----Elliot Robinson-----

Elliot Robinson is the founder and director of Playdead Press, an independent publishing company that specialises in new writing. With a focus on drama and poetry, Playdead Press has played a part in developing the career of a number of writers including Evening Standard Award nominated playwright Barney Norris. Elliot is also a writer and producer and secretly has a desire to be a stand-up comedian.

-----Proud Galleries-----

Proud Galleries was launched in Autumn 1998. It's ethos? To bring the very best in high quality photography to the mainstream market. Proud instantly took the photography world by storm and quickly grew into Europe's most popular private photography gallery. Today the Proud brand runs one of the most visited destinations in London. With three galleries, two live music venues and three Cabaret clubs across central London, Proud has cemented its success and continues to expand.

Never failing to exhibit the work of the world's best photographers, Proud has hosted shows by everyone from Terry O'Neil to Jerry Schatzberg, Gered Mankowitz to Ken Russell. With star-studded launch parties and some of the best press coverage in the country, the unique Proud formula has situated the company at the very top of its game.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE BOOK OR EXHIBITION / USE OF PICTURES / INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

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