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Stephen Shames *A Lifetime in Photography*

Texts by Jeffrey Henson Scales, Stephen Shames

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The life's work of one of the most important photojournalists of our time

For over five decades, Stephen Shames has documented the world as an award-winning photojournalist. Through his photography, he uncovers the raw emotions and deeper truths behind both global, political issues and private, personal ones. From chronicling the Black Panther movement in *Power to the People: The World of the Black Panthers*, to exposing the silent crisis of child poverty in *Outside the Dream: Child Poverty in America*, Shames' work consistently highlights the humanity at the heart of struggle and survival.

In *Stephen Shames: A Lifetime in Photography*, Kehrer Verlag presents a comprehensive collection of Shames' life's work, featuring iconic images as well as many previously unpublished. While Shames has photographed a vast array of subjects—from political leaders to ordinary people across diverse cultures—a unifying thread runs through his photos: an exploration of what divides and unites us. His images of children and families reveal stories of violence, abuse, love, hope, and transcendence, offering a window into the complexities of the human experience.

In this stunning volume spanning nearly 60 years of photography, Shames invites the reader to embark on an emotional journey through his photography, where the power of his images continue to inspire reflection and empathy.

From the introduction by **Stephen Shames**:

The great thing about being a photojournalist is your camera is a ticket to go anywhere. Whether photographing the mundane or the dangerous, I try to convey pure emotion in my pictures, to get behind the scenes, to find a different angle so my pictures reveal what is beneath the surface. Having a distinct vision allows a photographer to be more poetic. While my work fits into the documentary tradition, it is also about the edges of experience, where

things are more ambiguous and nonrational: the inner moments, where public events meet our private fears and hopes. This, in my opinion, is where the action is, the place of art.

From the essay *Stephen Shames - A Retrospective* by **Jeffrey Henson Scales**:

This book is not a survey nor is it structured with a narrative arc. It is more a collage of Shames's life as photographer, a mashup of his life's work. Documentary photography by its very nature is constructed of people, places, and things the artist finds in their camera's viewfinder. Like the many artists throughout the history of modern art who have created assemblages of found objects, this book similarly takes the images Shames has created over decades and remixes them here to present a nonlinear view of his own life in photography. (...) The result is a visual journey that, like a billiards break shot, sends us scattering across the globe.

Stephen Shames (b. 1947, in Cambridge, Massachusetts) is an American photojournalist who for nearly 60 years has used his photography to raise awareness of social issues, with a particular focus on child poverty, solutions to child poverty, and racism. Shames was named a Purpose Prize Fellow in 2010 by Encore.org for his work helping AIDS orphans and former child soldiers in Africa. His photographs have been published and exhibited widely, and are included in numerous permanent collections of renowned institutions, such as the MoMA, New York, the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the George Eastman Museum, Smithsonian, National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C., and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, to name a few.

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Press images



01_ 1993. Bucharest, Romania: Street kid Dadi, a twelve-year-old girl, kisses thirteen-year-old Gypsy boy Bebe. Two brothers, twelve-year-old Dan and thirteen-year-old Stan, watch. © Stephen Shames



02_ 2002. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: A boy with eyes that are much too old for his age at São Martinho, a program run by the Catholic Church for street children. © Stephen Shames



03_ 1968. Oakland, California, USA: Black Panthers stand just off stage at a Free Huey rally in DeFremery Park. © Stephen Shames



04_ May 5, 1970. Berkeley, California, USA: A protester wearing a gas mask throws tear gas back at the police during a protest at the University of California against Nixon's Cambodian incursion during the Vietnam War. © Stephen Shames



05_ 1984. Worland, Wyoming, USA: A teenage boy stares out the door of a solitary detention cell at Worland's Juvenile Facility. © Stephen Shames



06_ May 1, 1970. New Haven, Connecticut, USA: A boy gives a raised-fist salute as he and a friend sit on a statue in front of the New Haven County Courthouse during a demonstration of fifteen thousand people during the trial of Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins. © Stephen Shames



07_ Summer, 1995. Portland, Oregon, USA: Derrell (TR) hangs onto Zach Harris as they play basketball. © Stephen Shames



08_ 1972. Oakland, California, USA: Teenage couple Candy and Anthony. © Stephen Shames



09_ November 12, 1969. Oakland, California, USA: Angela Davis, who was a Black Panther for six months, speaks at a Free Huey rally in DeFremery Park. © Stephen Shames



10_ 1985. Cincinnati, Ohio, USA: A teenager jumps his bike over friends in Lower Price Hill, a community of southern whites. © Stephen Shames



11_ 1987. Cambridge, UK: Stephen Hawking, world famous cosmologist, plays tag with his eight-year-old son Timmy in the parking lot next to their house. © Stephen Shames



12_ 1971. Belfast, Northern Ireland: Four boys in a Catholic neighborhood. © Stephen Shames



13_1985. Cincinnati, Ohio, USA: A girl gives a younger boy a cigarette in Lower Price Hill, a neighborhood of poor whites from Kentucky and West Virginia.
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o8_1976. New York, New York, USA: A teenage boy and girl kiss in the 26th Street Pool. © Stephen Shames