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GLAMOUR
EDITION
SPECIAL

Collector's
Limited
Edition

Richard Franklin
THEN AND NOW SPECIAL PICTORIAL



Questions & Answers With
Richard Franklin

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When did you begin your photography career

About twenty years ago. The results of years of my glamour photography can be seen on my site www.rfmodelphotography.com

Before then what were you doing

I had tried my hand at many things. Worked in an investment bank and then a movie studio, produced plays, created educational programs, managed talent and a whole lot more. I got into photography as a way to simply have a hobby that would involve doing something for me instead of fighting for causes or trying to make other people successful. The hobby became an interest, then a passion, an obsession and perhaps even an addiction. I finally found myself to be an artist much to my surprise.

Your first known celebrity that you photographed

I have not sought to shoot celebrities as other's can do that better. As a glamour photographer I only wanted to shoot girls that had a look that appealed to me. I never was interested in whether or not they were famous. If you're not interested in that aspect then you're unlikely to be good at it and I therefore felt uncomfortable and avoided that type of work. There are a few exceptions and I shot Kim Kardashian early in her career and Birdman the Rapper. Quite a few of my models have gone out to successful careers on TV and the movies but I don't watch TV so I really don't pay any attention.

How was that experience

In shooting Kim I realized that whilst she was very pleasant I hated having a large group turning up to my studio effectively telling me what they wanted me to do. I realized that my joy in photography came from total freedom to create whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted and without anyone around. I never use assistants and just feel comfortable with just me and the model.

A simple question ... "Why Glamour"

Simple answer, sexy girls! I am a straight adult male and love shooting gorgeous girls. They give me the opportunity to create colorful images out of nothing but that last forever. There is something very powerful and liberating about the process of artistic creation. I could have chosen men, children, pets, landscapes but I found I most enjoyed shooting female models. It's very sociable, always challenging and is a skill that can be transferred throughout the world which is a wonderful freedom.

With the countless number of models that you have worked with ... a word for the new models to follow in working with the photographer to achieve an exciting and dynamite image

Well I am not a fashion shooter and I guess my style of glamour photography is sort of Playboy without the nudity. I only work with models aged between 18-24 as I feel that is when a model has the best body, best attitude and most energy. I look for girls who are very fit, and who are exhibitionists such as dancers. My shoots are generally pretty dynamic with a lot of music and special effects like wind machines, bubbles, fog etc. so I don't have the patience to tell a model how to pose. I tend to favor Black or Hispanic models as dance is very much part of their culture. Eastern European models I tend to turn down as they are more inhibited and need more direction.

Right now the world of glamour photography has gone through a huge change with the disappearance of printed magazines. However the value of a hot image is still very powerful and those models who know how to aggressively promote themselves through social media can still do very well.

Going back to your earlier years of working in glamour ... What do you know now that you would have like to have known then

It took me a great many years to find a career that brought joy to my life. Before photography I had a sense that I was meant to be in the Arts but I grew up in a family with a long tradition in banking and for years I felt that I was supposed to be a businessman. I think we all need a philosophy of life to guide us and we also need to find passions that stimulate our interest and creativity. I found that through photography unexpectedly and I just wish I had found it at a much earlier stage in my life. However as my wise brother says, "If you keep looking behind you will only get a stiff neck"

Is there any particular celebrity you would like to work with

I suppose Rihanna or Beyoncé but then again I think the pressure would be greater than I would want and instead of a joy it would be stressful. Now if it was just them alone and no one else around then it would be fun and I would be down for it. In your dreams Richard!

Glamour is in the eye of the photographer and how would you say you see glamour

Well glamour for me is a model that I see as photogenic with a body that I find hot. But it is very much also dependent on other elements such as lighting, styling, attitude, concept, make up, etc. In my shoots I particularly empathize color, sexuality without crossing into vulgarity, and a model that comes across as bold and dominating.

Your thoughts on the new models that you are working with

No particular thoughts here but a constant pleasant realization that everywhere I travel I have a skill and reputation that enables me to get to shoot beautiful girls in any location I choose.

How do you find such beautiful young ladies

These days I find models through social media, recommendations from other photographers and large group glamour shoots such as Paradise Challenge or International Bikini Models.

Can you tell us about some of your other projects

I have recently come out with two beautiful books that cover two other types of photography that interested me. One is my very serious artistic work with models that can be seen on my website www.rfphotoarts.com. I have developed a body of work that is very original in this area and I am very proud of that. It's very easy to shoot and extremely difficult to be original. In this body of work I have tended to frequently reinterpret iconic imagery such as Geisha's, ballet dancers, Greek and Roman art, and models with musical instruments. All very colorful and most of my images don't look like photographs but like paintings. I am very proud of the fact that I don't use Photoshop and the images are very complex. People have a hard time understanding how my effects were achieved only in the camera and frankly their confusion makes me happy!

I am also very proud of my new site www.richardfranklinphotography.com. Much to my surprise I think I am now the leading photographic artist when it comes to "visions of outer space" or what I call Cosmic Photography. This site shows an enormous body of work and I have high hopes that it will make a great deal of money over the years around the world both as art and as products that can be made from the images. Again all of the work was done alone and without Photoshop. This site shows the amazing versatility of a camera and lighting.

Our last question ... "Now that you are back into Glamour photography any secrets you would like to share with us

Well I have never left glamour photography but I have switched between three different styles of photography so that I could return to each area after a break and not get stale. If I were to give advice when it comes to "secrets" I would say this. To be happy you need outside interests that raise your self esteem. To some extent you are what you spend your time doing. America has a lot of unhappy people who waste a lot of their lives out of balance watching too much sports and too much TV. Music videos, reality shows, movies are all fine but not if watched to excess because that does not raise your self esteem. They are just distractions to pass the time and we call that fun. Well fun does not really lead to happiness. That comes from finding your own creative outlet and not from being a bystander to other people's lives. Our phones, tablets and computers for the first time in history give us instant access to any subject that we might find interesting. My belief is that through hobbies like photography we get to unleash a very important part of our emotional self and that is our creativity. I personally found enormous meaning through photography and our biggest need in life is not fun or even happiness but meaning. So the big secret is that happiness comes through acts such as finding a creative outlet that starts off as an interest, becomes a passion and in that process raises our self esteem thereby giving our lives more meaning.