



VPPA TIDEWATER

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Truths with a Camera

By Eric Green

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Next Meeting:

"Using Photography to Change Lives"

Presented By
Stephen Katz
The Virginian-Pilot
Monday, March 15, 2010

Hobbs Studio
857 S. Battlefield Blvd.
Chesapeake, VA
(757)482-7500

7:00 pm social
7:30 pm meeting

Limited seating—Bring your own chairs

This month we have the great fortune to hear award winning photojournalist Stephen Katz share his thoughts and experiences as a documentary photographer. I, for one, am eager to learn how a true photojournalist works. I want every photograph I take to be filled with narrative. I want to know how to strip everything away from my images that doesn't tell the story. I want to understand and embrace true photojournalism.

All of us who photograph weddings have probably described ourselves at one time or another as photojournalists. But, at the same time, we know that photojournalism is one of the most mis-used words in our profession. To gather from the images often seen on the sites of Wedding photojournalists all tuxedo rentals come with sunglasses and all bridal parties are universally and simultaneously struck with the desire to jump in the air on the wedding day. The term photojournalism seems to be used much and practiced little.

Please don't think I am berating the entire field of wedding photographers. There are many remarkable wedding photographers in our own district capturing breathtaking candid images. Earl Dashiell's recent merit print "Ever After" is a stunning example of a photojournalistic wedding image captured through patience and experience. No cheap tricks there....just masterful photography.

How can Mr. Katz help us become better photographers? Well.....Stephen travels to the far corners of the planet to tell complex and compelling stories with his camera. Perhaps he can show us how to better tell the simple narrative of a wedding day without resorting to clichés like sun-glass clad groomsmen or jumping wedding parties.

New Member Contest

Between January 1st and March 15th, 2010 the Tidewater VPPA will be holding a new member contest. Bring a potential new member to the January or March meetings and you will be entered into a drawing for a half-day mentoring session with Tidewater's own Jeannie Hobbs-Klink of Hobbs Studio...

To qualify, all guests must be fully eligible for one of the VPPA member classifications. Former members qualify as potential new members. For each guest you bring, you receive a chance in the drawing to be held at the March monthly meeting.

What do your guests receive? The opportunity to join our esteemed professional photography association, which offers networking and mentorship with Virginia's finest professional photographers, local monthly opportunities to learn new skills from master photographers, a free yearly seminar and a free yearly convention featuring many of the world's most renowned photographers.



About Our Speaker: Stephen Katz

Stephen M. Katz was named Newspaper Photographer of the Year (POY) by Pictures of the Year International in March of 2008. He is currently a staff photographer for The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk, VA where he has worked since March of 2004.

Katz's career as a photographer began at a small twice-weekly newspaper in Ashland, Virginia after graduating from Temple University with a Masters Degree in journalism. During the subsequent decade Katz worked for a chain of daily Media General newspapers in northern Virginia (where he was quickly promoted to Director of Photography), was Photo Editor of The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg, VA and later worked as Senior Photographer at the Bangor (Maine) Daily News.

Katz's work, shot throughout the United States and nearly 50 countries - including two war zones - has been published in several magazines and books and has been extensively exhibited. He has received numerous national and international photography awards, including top honors from the National Press Photographers Association's (NPPA) Northern Short Course (named POY 2008), Southern Short Course (named POY 2007), The Associated Press and Society of Newspaper Design. In 2008, Katz placed third overall in NPPA's international Best of Photojournalism competition.

Prior to focusing on photojournalism, Katz had a varied career - graduating from Dickinson College with a degree in Anthropology, taking a job as a social worker in Washington, DC and then working in public relations for several years. In addition to working for The Pilot, Katz and colleague Chris Tyree co-founded Weyo (weyo.org) in 2008 - a non-profit which caters specifically to communicating and further disseminating the stories of NGO's and non-profits with a concentration on global health issues. He is also the co-director of the Truth With A Camera workshop, which takes up-and-coming photographers to developing countries, pairs them with local NGO's and coaches them how to tell their stories. Katz has taught photojournalism at Tidewater Community College and regularly speaks to groups and at conferences about shooting for good - the role of photography in the non-profit world.

Upcoming Meetings:

MARCH

District Meeting
Date: Mar. 15, 2010
Place: Hobbs Studio

APRIL

District Meeting
Date: Apr. 19, 2010
Place: TBD

MAY

District Meeting
Date: May 17, 2010
Place: TBD

Directions

Hobbs Studio
857 S. Battlefield Blvd.
Chesapeake, VA
(757)482-7500

NOTE: Bring your own chairs; seating is limited.

From I-64 take exit onto I-464 South (MARTIN LUTHER KING JR MEMORIAL HWY) via EXIT 291B toward VA-104 S/ELIZABETH CITY/US-17 S/DOMINION BLVD/VA-168 S.

Take the US-168 S exit on the LEFT toward NAGS HEAD/MANTEO. Take the 1st exit for Hanbury Road West towards VA-168 Business.

Turn right at the first light onto Battlefield Blvd. Hobbs Studio is about a half mile down on the right.

SEE YOU THERE!!

Program: Using Photography to Change Lives

Photographing global health issues for NGO's and non-profit organizations, Stephen talks about the power photography has to make positive changes in the lives of those in need and how to work in far-flung barrios and slums where a common, spoken language is a luxury, but understanding one another is a must.