



# Secrets of Great Portrait Photography: Photographs of the Famous and Infamous (Voices That Matter)

By Brian Smith

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## Secrets of Great Portrait Photography: Photographs of the Famous and Infamous (Voices That Matter) By Brian Smith

In this sexy, bold, beautiful book, photographer Brian Smith tells the stories behind the photos and lessons learned in 30 years of photographing celebrities and people in all walks of life. A Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer, Smith is the luckiest guy on the planet. He's told Bill Gates exactly what to do for an entire hour, exhibited at the Library of Congress, appeared on The X Factor, dined with the President and 3,000 of his closest friends, shared cupcakes with Anne Hathaway, and gotten drunk with George Clooney . . . all in the service of getting the perfect portrait.

In this juicy guide to shooting professional portraits, Smith shares his insider tips on connecting with people, finding the perfect location, telling a great story through portraiture, getting just the right pose, capturing emotion and gestures, arranging unique group shots, and getting just the right light. Throughout, you'll stay inspired by the breathtaking images included of the famous and infamous—Venus and Serena Williams, Gene Hackman, Cindy Crawford, Donald Trump, Bill Gates, The Bee Gees, Antonio Banderas, Shaquille O'Neal, Anne Hathaway, Ben Stiller, Sylvester Stallone, and others.

You might not be shooting the rich and famous yourself, but after reading Smith's tell-all guide, you'll know how to make every person who makes their way in front of your camera look and feel like a celebrity.

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## **Secrets of Great Portrait Photography: Photographs of the Famous and Infamous (Voices That Matter) By Brian Smith Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The same humor and enthusiasm that have made Brian Smith a popular speaker can be found here in his insider anecdotes about photographing celebrities on assignment. Brian gives clear, step-by-step explanations of all the techniques, from the elegantly simple to the technically sophisticated."

— Holly Stuart Hughes / Editor-in-Chief / Photo District News

"Brian Smith demonstrates on every page of this terrific book that the real secrets of great portrait photography are the warmth, wit, and skill that he brings to every shot. He laces the stories behind his vibrant portraits with loads of useful tips and easy-to-understand techniques. And he shows you how to create a visible connection with anyone in front of your lens, from movie stars to strangers on the street."

— Miriam Leuchter / Editor-in-Chief / Popular Photography

"For Smith, pictures don't just tell stories; they are stories...go behind the lens to show how a nimble and versatile photographer creates memorable portraits — by trusting in the power of faces, light, story, and relationships."

— David Schonauer / Pro Photo Daily

"Smith's approach is rather like a cookbook in that it will spur many ideas of your own. His unselfish approach makes this book a core choice for any location portrait photographer's bookshelf."

— David Hobby / Strobist

"I love the fresh, bold style of the book. The photographs are big and plentiful. The writing is conversational and engaging. You won't have to read across pages and pages to understand what Brian is sharing. Every two-page spread presents another shoot—each with its own concise insights and tips."

— Syl Arena / Pixsylated

"Secrets of Great Portrait Photography, filled with all of Brian's tips and tricks to make every person who comes in front of your camera feel like a celebrity. It's a sexy, inspiring book that's a must-have for any portrait photographer or fan of Brian Smith."

— Lauren Margolis / Photoshelter

#### From the Author

"Drawing upon the best lessons I've learned over the last three decades photographing portraits of the rich and famous, 'Secrets of Great Portrait Photography' blends lavish celebrity portraits of a coffee table book with technical how-to insights with a side dish of behind-the-scenes celebrity stories." --Brian Smith

#### From the Back Cover

In this sexy, bold book, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Brian Smith tells the stories behind the photos and lessons learned in 30 years of photographing celebrities and people from all walks of life. Smith's long list of famous and infamous subjects includes pro basketball players Dwyane Wade and Shaquille O'Neal; billionaires Bill Gates, Richard Branson, and Donald Trump; tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams; actors Anne Hathaway, Antonio Banderas, Christopher Walken, Taye Diggs, Jane Krakowski, and William H. Macy; and many more.

You'll get the inside scoop on what goes on at a celebrity photo shoot in this gorgeous guide to making professional portraits. Smith has mastered how to make a meaningful portrait on a magazine's budget and on a celebrity's schedule, which can sometimes be 15 minutes or less. Smith reveals his tips on connecting with people, finding the perfect location, telling a great story through portraiture, getting the ideal pose, capturing emotion and gestures, arranging unique group shots, and lighting the scene just right. You might not be photographing the rich and famous, but after reading Smith's tell-all guide, you'll know how to give everyone who makes their way in front of your camera the star treatment.

*"Brian Smith takes us through the subtleties and on past the hard-core practicalities of portrait photography of the famous and infamous. His observations and instructions in this fine book define and serve the art of the photo portrait."*

-- **Elliott Erwitt, Magnum Photographer and Legend**

*"The same humor and enthusiasm that have made Brian Smith a popular speaker can be found here in his insider anecdotes about photographing celebrities on assignment. Brian gives clear explanations of all the techniques, from the elegantly simple to the technically sophisticated, that have helped him solve the problems every pro encounters."*

-- **Holly Stuart Hughes, Editor-in-Chief, Photo District News**

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