



# Willie Christie

Curriculum Vitae\*

(\*or How it's all been going for Willie so far)

## Photographer, Writer and Director

**D**uring the 70s and early 80s WILLIE CHRISTIE worked extensively as a photographer with British Vogue, which included working closely with Grace Coddington (They also married) and the late Liz Tilberis. He went on to shoot 10 Vogue covers and many inside spreads with them. His portfolio includes award winning advertising campaigns (L'Oréal and Yves St Laurent), fashion and portrait work for international icons (Cary Grant, Grace Jones, Douglas Fairbanks Jr, Sir John Mills, Catherine Deneuve...) and Rock 'n' Roll album covers and portraits (Rolling Stones, Pink Floyd, David Bowie, Bryan Ferry, Lou Reed...)

Willie Christie's work has been showcased in Vision Gallery (Arizona), the Little Black Gallery in London, The Ivy, London and was chosen for the RA's Summer Exhibition 2011. His iconic Mick Jagger portrait of 1969 was selected for the international tour of Les Rencontres D'Arles 2010 exhibition.

His work is featured in a wide selection of books including; People in Vogue by Robin Derrick & Robin Muir, Wonderful Today by Pattie Boyd, Inside Out: A Personal History of Pink Floyd by Nick Mason, 'Vogue Photographic Covers' by Valerie Lloyd, 'A Memoir' by Grace Coddington, An Affectionate Punch by Justin de Villeneuve and 'The Rolling Stones' Taschen's definitive pictorial history of the band. Both images that appeared in this book also were exhibited in Taschen's Stones Exhibition in Los Angeles 2014.

Justin de Villeneuve also includes Willie in his top three photographers. Richard Avedon and Bert Stern to name the other two.

In 1968, whilst (vainly) trying to find a job in the film industry, Willie auditioned for Federico Fellini, only to be told by the great man that he was 'very beautiful but not experienced enough'. That would be none at all.

He worked briefly on Richard Burton & Elizabeth Taylor's yacht, Kalizma. Mostly cleaning up their Pekinese poo ...

He played (mimed) with Roxy Music on Top of The Pops, substituting for their bass player who had gone missing.

The late David Anthony gave him his first job in photography, which decided Willie to continue in that field. Then he spent a year working for Clive Arrowsmith, before turning pro in 1970

Having done a lot of photography in 1970/1 for the infamous Lady Clare Rendlesham - who had opened up Yves St Laurent's first Boutique in London - Clare asked him in '72 to curate & design the music for Yves' Fashion Couture Show that year.

In 1977 Willie filmed the opening sequence to 'Shine on You Crazy Diamond' for Pink Floyd's 'Animals Tour'.

Finally in 1982, Willie got behind a movie camera and began writing and directing commercials and music videos including Pink Floyd's 20 minute video for 'Final Cut' and the first cinema commercial for 'Medway' Shoes. He directed over 60 commercials during the next few years. Many of his advertisements went on to win awards including Creative Circle, Lion and Clio amongst others.

In 1998 he adapted and filmed 'The Whisper', from a short story by Anton Chekhov starring Michael Gough, Jamie Glover and fourteen-year-old Emma Pierson. This was shown in Festivals around the world and reached the final list for BAFTA's 'Best Short Film' Award.



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In 1999 he directed a limited run of 'Siren' by David Williamson at London's Grace Theatre.

The launch of Willie Christie's Limited-Edition Collection in 2011 marked the first time the photographer had delved into his personal archives to showcase work that had not been displayed for over three decades. Following a successful Private View at Sophie Birdwood Gallery he immediately followed up at 'Eight' in London's City. In December 2011 he held a one-night show in aid of 'Facing the World' and has held further other Private Views at 'Sophie Birdwood' and the critically acclaimed show at The Ivy Club in 2012.

Willie has also given several talks on his work.

In 2013 he designed a BT ArtBox in aid of ChildLine. The box was displayed in a window of Harvey Nichols and stood outside Vogue House for four weeks before being sold to a private buyer.

Over the last few years his new work – and old – has been showcased in *Schon* magazine, *Classic Rock*, *Prog*, *Russian Vogue*, *Vivienne Westwood*, *French Elle* and predominantly in *Encens* magazine: the iconic French magazine is focused on fashion as art form from the perspective of designers rather than trends.

A major spread (20 Pages approx.) appears in the 'Night Swim/Issue 11.1' issue of *The Unseasonal* a new US Magazine concentrating on 'unique collaborations with some of the most creative and sought-after personalities in the fields of fashion, contemporary art, and celebrity culture'.

November 2019, Willie shot his first major return to fashion photography after 40 years, by shooting 20 pages for *Encens*. The work was so well received they asked him to repeat the exercise. This shoot was unfortunately postponed due to travel restrictions.

In 2019 Fashion and Cultural Historian, Laura McLaws Helms, recruited Willie to talk about his life as a photographer and other things for her 'Lady's After Hours' Podcast.

PROG 2019 Magazine also interviewed him in depth about his work for *Pink Floyd*.

## FILM PROJECTS

Willie currently has THREE screenplays looking for production. These have all been professionally critiqued and all have received Green Light evaluation. One as a Double Recommend (USA & UK) the other two both, Consider Grade ...

### LOGLINES:

**LADIES WON'T WAIT** / Noir- mystery -thriller.

As he searches for his beloved wife, ex-Special Agent, Mike Kells, is drawn into a labyrinth of kidnap, sex and betrayal across post-war Europe. (Recommend US & UK)

**IN SEARCH OF WORDS** / Maturation drama

After a tragic car accident that kills his parents and leaves him speechless with severe PTSD, Hong Kongese American Cedric Bradford, a 13-year-old piano playing prodigy, is sent to a boarding school in England where he must fight to reclaim his genius or fall by the wayside forever. (Consider UK)

**WOMAN IN A BLACK HAT** / Thriller

Accidental death of an art-dealer having been mysteriously secured by Special Branch, opens the way for a Russian, suffering from Asperger's Syndrome, to come looking for the dealer's innocent and uncomprehending wife. (Consider UK)

To see Willie's Christie's Screenplays/Director's Reel. Contact [williechristie@me.com](mailto:williechristie@me.com)

## TELEVISION

Apart from his Film projects, Willie is also in partnership with highly regarded television production company – STORYVAULT TV – to head-up a TV show on Photography.



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## WILLIE CHRISTIE - THEN & NOW

**T**he proposed title of Willie's first anthology of his work. It had been noted that his work from the 1970's remains highly relevant today. And although mostly retired from professional photography - he is currently working on a commissioned film script amongst others - Willie has gathered together a highly enviable team for his first book, showcasing his work from the 70's and 80's and the more recent work. Hence 'Then & Now

The Now & Then team include editorial adviser Harriet Wilson (ex-director of Editorial Administration and Rights, Conde Nast Publications), Picture Editor Michael Trow, designer Timothy Rennie (Creative Director @Epiphany51) and Robin Muir, arguably the UK's greatest curator and writer on photographic matters has been behind the project all the way, offering his invaluable opinion and guidance.

The legendary and influential Vogue style director Grace Coddington has written the Foreword.

Together the team have put together a 33 page presentation document with text by Willie Christie.

## WHAT THE PRESS SAY

-Sexy polished and subtly sinister, his photo archive is to die for" .

**THE TIMES**

-Although Christie's work is incredibly slick and its prevailing focus is upon the glamour models and celebrities of his era, it contains a beguiling otherness that travels far beyond the fashion sphere and poses questions about reality, identity and artice" -

**ANOTHER MAGAZINE**

-Perhaps the most astonishing thing about Willie Christie is that his career as a fashion photographer spans little more than a decade."

**HUFFINGTON POST**

-Willie's work with Grace Coddington was one the great personal and professional partnerships of its time ..."

**RESIDENT MAGAZINE 2011**

-In the > elds of fashion photography there are few pioneers who stand out not merely as capturers of a transitory image, but as artists in their own right. Willie Christie is one of them."

**RESIDENT MAGAZINE**

-Willie Christie was responsible for some of the most memorable glamour images in the mid 70's and early 80's"

**AnOther Magazine**

-His carefully constructed images place his subjects in all too perfect frames that leaves a surreal and at times almost sinister aftertaste"

**AnOther Magazine**

-It is total mystery how you have made, 30 years ago, pictures that are totally relevant today - we still have to invent another word than just timeless for you... because of this magic! We want them all!!!!"

**ENCENS MAGAZINE**