

Title: Thimm, Alex_Interview_Complete
Creators: Rick & Julia Goldsmith
Project: Herefordshire Life Through A Lens
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Evans Studio 1950s-1980s
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Interview Date: September_27_2018
Location: Hereford College of Arts, UK
Source: Catcher Media Social CIC
Interviewee: Alex Thimm (speaker, male)
Interviewer: Julia Goldsmith (speaker, female)
Camera & Sound: Rick Goldsmith (speaker, male)
Producer: Julia Goldsmith (female)
Language: English

Type: Video
Video Format: MPEG-4
Bit rate (overall): 29.5 mbits/s
Frame rate: 25 FPS
Aspect ratio: 16:9
Width: 1920 pixels
Height: 1080 pixels
Scan type: Progressive
Audio Format: AAC
Audio Sampling rate: 48.00 kHz
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Stereo/Mono: Mono
File Size: 2.33 GB
Duration: 11 mins 19 seconds

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Audio Format: MP3 audio
Audio Sampling rate: 44.100 kHz
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Outline:

Alex Thimm is a course leader in photography at Hereford College of Art, he talks about a couple of iconic images taken by Derek Evans and how Derek was much more than just a photographer. In this interview he explains how he considers Derek to be more than a photographic journalist, how his photos capture a period in history and how they also bring to life the personalities of the people he photographed.

Transcript Summary

0.00

Alex has been a course leader in photography at Hereford College of art for 10 years. He describes Derek Evans as more than just a photo journalist, Derek's work was more of a documentary practice and go beyond the normal photo image produced for newspapers. He produced iconic images from sustainable projects and was prolific in capturing the history of Herefordshire and the people, the photos show a wonderful sense of what Hereford was like during those years and the images bring out the personalities of the people. For example the picture of the May Fair was a considered photograph not just snapped on the spur of the moment, Derek thought about where the Old House is placed in the centre of the frame with the hustle and bustle of the fair surrounding it. It is not a simple image derek has taken great care in finding the right place to take the photo from.

Alex talks about Derek's ability to photograph people, his photos show that he had a wonderful sense of engagement with people, he was not judgemental and that comes across in the images, there is no negative side, the images show he observes everyone equally and they portray a more positive side to life which is maybe missing from some of images we see today. The photos show he liked spending time with people and the result is a documentary photographic record.

5.00

Derek Evans was very much of the period, we see that people were a little less wary of being photographed, possibly because of the novelty although you could argue that it was easier at that time but that doesn't distract from the way he engaged with people. It could be argued that is much more problematic now take the sort of images Derek took of children for example but

there is humour in his images, photos showing children in prams whilst parents pick hops brings the photograph to life. His photos show people from all walks of life and he was trying to portray them enjoying themselves, many having a great adventure and the innocence of the children at that time.

The photograph showing elephants walking through the city captures the period and what it was like at that time.

8.00

The photograph of Hereford Market is a classic image, the use of the light, we see the audience and an extra figure in the foreground and it is a photograph which is all about Hereford and the classic symbol of Hereford which is the Hereford bull. It is a stunning photograph and amongst many photographs of the old market stands out as a classic.

9.00

The other photograph Alex has chosen is the one of a group of travelling children, Derek has asked them to come together for the photo and it could be described as classic documentary approach. We can see something in the faces of each child, the expressions and character of each one and imagine what they were like, he's placed them cleverly in front of the housing for the travelling families which is classic gypsy wagons and this gives us a fantastic historical insight to what life was like with the old vehicles also in the background.

This image is part of a larger body of work showing the children and their parents and a lifestyle that doesn't really exist anymore, it is a fantastic record of this period in time.