Celebrity Photographer Achieves Highest Professional Qualification

Stuart Wood aimed to be a portrait photographer, and his sheer determination has succeeded in making him one of the UK's leading professional photographers.

As a student he wrote to 250 celebrities, asking to photograph them – 25% said yes; Lenny Henry, Melvyn Bragg, Bob Monkhouse, Barbara Windsor – the list goes on.

He set up professionally with help from The Princes Trust in 1991 and his big break came when the BBC asked him onto the set of Pride and Prejudice, staring Colin Firth. Since then, he has photographed countless celebrities, working for clients such as the BBC and Radio Times, ITV, Coca Cola and C4.

Personal achievement and development is important to Stuart and two years ago he started a personal project – to gain his professional qualifications in photography.

In 2008, 20 of his images, along with examples of how his images had been used, gained him a Licentiateship of the British Institute of Professional Photography (BIPP), the qualifying and governing body of professional photography. In late 2009 he took the next step in the journey and applied for Associateship of the BIPP.

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In fact, the Assessors were so impressed by these latest images that his work was automatically upgraded to the highest level of qualification. In December 2009, Stuart became a Fellow of the BIPP, holding the highest level of professional photographic qualification available.

BIPP President, Graham Rutherford FBIPP, enthused "The standards we set at the BIPP are extremely high. All photographers joining our organisation go through a challenging qualifying procedure and people buying photography should be reassured to see the BIPP symbol alongside a photographer's name. Stuart consistently produces outstanding examples of some of the best photography in Europe today."

Stuart shows the same enthusiasm for photography now, as he did in his student days – "It would be absolute torture for me not to have a camera. I can't imagine not shooting pictures."

Ends.

BIPP

British Institute of Professional Photography

Notes to Editors

- Stuart Wood FBIPP holds a Fellowship of the British Institute of Professional Photography (BIPP), in the category of Press/PR photography.
- Fellowship is the highest of three levels of professional qualifications governed by the BIPP.
- The British Institute of Professional Photography (BIPP) was established in 1901 and is the qualifying and governing body of professional photography. BIPP currently has over 3,500 members.
- The list of celebrities photographed by Stuart is extremely long but includes Sir Ian McKellen, Jeremy Clarkson and Paul Gascoigne – for further details of celebrities, please contact him direct!
- Stuart is a life-long fan of Derby County and can often be found at the ground, supporting the Rams!
- For further information on the BIPP, please contact Hilary Harper at Hilary@bipp.com.
- For information on Stuart and images, please contact him direct on stuart@stuart-wood.com.

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