



# TAKEN BY **STORM**

A PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION OF THE MUSIC SCENE

By Storm Hudspith Walker



## Supporting Statement - TAKEN BY STORM

Music lights me up and energises me like nothing else. I have such a love for music and everything that surrounds it, I can't imagine a world without it. Music is art, a friend, a helping hand, a safe space, and an expression of creativity. It allows us to connect with others, with a universal language, bringing people together with shared intentions and a mutual goal. It's a place of expression and people being undeniably themselves. Photography is how I express my creativity. Taking photos isn't just me picking up a camera, it's showing the way I see things around me. I love the access and imagery my camera gives me, capturing a moment in time. I get such a rush of adrenaline shooting live music and waiting to capture that special moment. That split-second moment that might otherwise be lost within a million others. It's become such a part of how I think that even at gigs where I'm not shooting, I am imagining the shot. A photograph can capture more than just a moment in time, it can capture an emotion, a feeling, a vibe, and the essence of the music. I want my photos to light people up and make the viewer feel as if they are there as if they can hear the music coming out of the picture. This is what I will forever strive for. My dream is to keep shooting and learning from everyone and everything around me.

TAKEN BY STORM is a creative photography publication of my music photography, with minimal writing, allowing the photographs to shine. Presented in the form of one continuous photographic montage, the book consists of live-action gig shots, snapshots of backstage and behind-the-scenes, stylised press shots, and portraits. The collection features pictures of a variety of artists from more established names to local acts on the rise. Portraits of local acts portray my creativity through styling and photographic techniques due to the freedom and access I had to the musicians. This book is a vivid and visual account of my adventures behind the camera, at the start of my photography career, giving an insight into the moment and circumstances of the photoshoots, including personal recollections of the subjects I worked with. It is a collection of wonderful musicians I have been fortunate to have shot, captured and admired so far.

On the back cover of the TAKEN BY STORM Volume 1 Book there are endorsement quotes from industry professionals, giving their stamp of approval on my photography. I am incredibly lucky to have endorsement quotes from Bob Gruen, legendary Music photographer, Jason Florio, Photo Journalist and Filmmaker, Pooneh Ghana and Phoebe Fox, Music photographers, Thushara Chandarasiri, Founder of Darkus Magazine and finally Lizzie Esau, Singer Songwriter and Musician. All of whom have inspired me and helped me on my photography journey.



**NOVA TWINS**



When shooting a live show I really want to capture the energy and essence of the musician's performance. It gives me such a rush of adrenaline. I shot these pictures of Nova Twins using my Canon R DSLR, using my 16-35mm lens. I love using a wide-angle lens as you can fit so much in the frame and you can get some really creative pictures. The photo pit for the photographers at this gig was very small meaning I was very close to the artist, using a wide-angle lens really helped with the close proximity.

At live shows, photographers are not permitted to use flash, which means I always have to adapt my settings to the lighting. I used a high ISO, a wide F-stop of 3.2, and a fast shutter speed of 1/60. A fast shutter speed is for a live gig in order to capture the musician's fast movements without a blur in the picture.





## TOM GRENNAN

For this shoot, I was very fortunate to be given the opportunity to shoot Tom Grennan's arena show in Newcastle. This meant a large stage with a spacious photo pit, and a brilliant lighting setup, which is a photographer's dream.

The stage was incredibly high and had a long walkway for Tom Grennan to use during the show. I positioned myself at the very end of the walkway waiting for that perfect moment. I also noticed the surface of the walkway was reflective which is something I wanted to utilize for the shot. I wanted to create symmetry for the picture so I lined up my camera lens as central as possible to the stage.



Throughout the performance, I wanted to get as many different and creative photos as I could, to truly capture the energy and feel of the music. I played with using different camera angles and framing of the artist. I tilted my camera for the shot on the left, to achieve a row of lights above Tom leading to the spotlight behind.

Arena shows are largely publicised by the press due to the artist's height of fame. This meant there were a lot of photographers at this show. The music industry is very male-dominated and this is something I have found when shooting these shows, I am usually the only female photographer in the photo pit. I have only had great experiences so far working alongside other photographers and I don't view other photographers as competition but allies and great connections in the industry. It's a great place to make friends.



## LIZZIE ESAU - 'JELLYFISH'

As well as live music photography I also have worked with musicians creating portraits to be used as press shots and promo for song releases. For this shoot, I photographed musician Lizzie Esau for the release of her single 'Jellyfish'. This included sourcing a location for the shoot, styling and creative direction. For this shoot, I wanted to capture the vibe and energy of the song in the pictures. I used a hard flash with a fast shutter speed and asked Lizzie to move how she performed on stage. I noticed during her live performances that she flicks her hair when performing this song which is what I wanted to capture but as a portrait. I used various different angles and played with the lighting to achieve different effects.



As well as shooting on my DSLR for the portrait shoot of Lizzie, I also wanted to experiment with doing some film photography. For these pictures shown above I used my Canon 35mm using Ilford HP5 plus Black and White film. I really wanted to experiment using film from being inspired by rock and roll photographers in the 70s such as Mick Rock, Bob Gruen and Pennie Smith, whose images are legendary.



I also experimented using Lomochrome purple colour negative film, which alters colours. I wanted to experiment with using Lomography film from being a fan of music photographer Pooneh Ghana's work. I have such a passion for taking pictures, I am forever inspired and I'm always on the lookout for new ideas and new ways of taking photos. The Lomochrome purple film altered the colours changing Lizzie's hair to pink, and giving her surroundings a magenta and blue tinge, which was really interesting. Lizzie liked the pictures so much that she dyed her hair pink after this shoot.





## LIZZIE ESAU - 'KILLER'

Through building a professional relationship with Lizzie Esau, we worked together again for the release of her song 'Killer'. The single is about that negative voice that you have in your head that never truly allows you to enjoy things or truly live in the moment. For this shoot, I took a variety of images to achieve promo shots and a single cover.

I wanted the shoot to be quite dark and mysterious as if Lizzie is running from the killer, the negative voice in her head. To achieve the shot on the right I used a fast shutter speed, a narrow aperture and utilized the daylight. I used a wide angle lens (16-35mm) on my DSLR, so that I could be really close to Lizzie and capture her running away from the camera without a blur, giving me a sharp final image. The day of the shoot was really sunny which meant I created the effect of dark clouds above and dark grass in the edit. I did this by making the photo black and white and burning the sky and grass to add darkness to the photo.

For the above shot, I used my 8mm fish eye lens on my Canon R DSLR. I had the concept in mind to use the fish eye lens to show as an audience listening to the song 'Killer' we are peering into Lizzie's mind and hearing this negative voice in her head.





For this shoot, I also shot using my Canon 35mm with a roll of Ilford HP5 XP2 Super. I wanted to experiment and achieve some grainy shots, inspired by psychological cinema by Alfred Hitchcock such as 'Psycho' and 'The Birds.' I had the photos developed and scanned by a darkroom and asked for a contact sheet to be made. I wanted a contact sheet made as I believe reducing my shots to thumbnails permitted me to consider the lines and composition and allowed me to judge whether each photo is compelling or not.

An advantage of shooting film is it allows me to focus on the discipline of photography and shoot more critically. It pushes me to be more thoughtful when taking pictures, every shot counts. I am continuously wanting to develop my photography, I'm really passionate about the craft and I want to learn as much as I can wherever possible, learning different techniques and skills behind the camera.



## LOYLE CARNER

I really wanted to shoot Loyle Carner as his music genre is completely different to the other artists I have photographed. I wanted to capture his musical style and the essence of his performance in the pictures. The lighting for the show was brilliant for audience members but not for a photographer. The stage was very dark with minimal flashing lighting. However, there was one song where there was a single spotlight on the artist, which I captured. I think this perfectly represents Loyle Carner through being a solo artist and having thoughtful lyrics. I first shot directly in front of the musician using my 16-35mm lens, framing the shot with the spotlight. Loyle Carner held his mic stand tilted for a split second when I captured the shot using a fast shutter, wide f-stop and high iso, to let as much light into the lens as possible while achieving a sharp picture.

The above shot I took when the spotlight was shining down on Loyle Carner. The spotlight was a white colour, however, I edited the lighting to be a cyan colour to contrast with the white at the bottom of the image.





As well as shooting in the photography pit in front of the stage, I noticed how amazing the stage setup and band were behind the artist. I shot this image on the balcony of the venue using my 70-200mm zoom lens, allowing me to zoom in yet get a brilliantly crisp image. The stage was backlit for this shot, which is why I used my starlight filter on the lens to achieve the starburst effect shown in the middle of the image.



## STRAYS

Smaller local bands play in smaller venues, which means there is no professional lighting or photo pit for the photographers. I think there is something really exciting about seeing a band that could make it big one day and are yet to make their big break. I really wanted to capture how much raw energy and passion Strays had on stage, however, the lighting was so dark, meaning the photos would have a lot of noise, which is why I shot using flash.

In the above photo, I wanted to get all three members in the frame. I wanted the photo to be black and white to pay homage to rock n roll photographers, which is why I used a HP5 LUT to replicate B&W film photography in the edit.

To achieve the photo on the right, I shot using flash with a slow shutter and used camera movement to produce a light trail while keeping the subject of the shot in focus. This technique is quite experimental and gave me some interesting shots which really captured the energy of the performance.





*'Storm, Good luck with your photo work... The Future is Unwritten!'*

**Bob Gruen, American Author and Rock 'n' Roll Photographer**

*'Photography can be as much an examination of the self as it is of the outer world- wishing you a beautiful journey Storm.'*

**Jason Florio, Photojournalist & Filmmaker**

*'Good luck with your ventures in music photography Storm! Remember to trust your gut and creative eye as you navigate this world and to shoot what makes the music fan in you excited to see.'*

**Pooneh Ghana, Music Photographer**

*'You have a name as memorable as your photos and I can't wait to see what you make!'*

**Phoebe Fox, Music Photographer**

*'Whether it be live music photography, portraits or representing DARKUS at London Fashion Week, what I love about Storm's work is her ability to produce photography that captures the moment and tells a story. Storm is by far one of the best-emerging creatives I know, and it just excites me each day being able to see her grow from strength to strength.'*

**Thushara S. Chandrasiri, Editor-In-Chief & Founder of Darkus Magazine**

*'I feel so lucky to have met you through the things we both love, being creative together is always the most fun! I can't wait to see your bright future in photography blossom! You're an absolute gem and a true talent, I know you'll go far.'*

**Lizzie Esau, Singer Songwriter & Musician**

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