

With colours removed, B&W images allow you to focus on the actual content of a portrait. Here a young Brazilian boy considers the view from his window.

Why **THE PROS** love **BLACK & WHITE**

Monochrome remains the medium of timeless portraiture and classic landscapes. We asked three internationally acclaimed professionals about the enduring appeal of B&W in the digital age. ➔



News of the world

Photojournalist **Nick Danziger** relies on B&W to tell a story, stripping the whole world down to bare facts without the glamour of colour.



About Nick Danziger

Nick is one of the world's top photojournalists and has recently returned from Ethiopia with some of the bleakest yet most emotive images ever taken. In 2007 his exhibition 'Blair at war' was shown at the National Portrait Gallery, London, and his work is held in museum collections across the world. See more of Nick's work at www.nickdanziger.com

Why do you think black & white is as popular as ever, despite digital taking over the world?

A good black & white photograph has not lost any of its pathos or power to communicate. If anything it might stand out more as it becomes rarer.

Do you still shoot film these days or are you exclusively digital?

I still shoot black & white film – lots of it! However, almost all of my colour photography is now digital.

What do you look for in a black & white photo? What are the key elements?

For me, I begin with the person or people I am photographing – their story is everything. Then it's like building a puzzle; I try to put the pieces

together with the person or people at the centre of the story, fleshing out the detail.

Do you go out with your 'black & white head' on or is it a case of seeing what works on the day?

I usually set out in black & white mode but I think about the story beforehand and question myself as to what will work best. It could be colour or even a combination of both, but I find it difficult to work in both colour and black & white.

Do you think black & white is more suited to certain subjects?

I believe that black & white is more suited to what I shoot, but there are photographers who have produced great work in colour on similar subjects. So it also comes down to how you use either monochrome or colour.

Are there any black & white photographers whose work inspires you?

There are lots – Gilles Peres, Sebastião Salgado, George Rodger, Jean Gaumy, Robert Frank, William Klein... And these are just the black & white photographers!

I also admire the work of great artists such as Delacroix, Caravaggio...



PHOTOGRAPH: NICK DANZIGER

BEST SHOT



Left: Taken on his recent Oxfam trip to Ethiopia to document the potentially devastating famine.

Above: Nick has spent years recording the streets of Britain in stark black & white.

Right: A classic Danziger documentary image, showing Columbian locals panning for gold.



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lost any of its power to communicate..."

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WHY WE LIKE THIS SHOT

A 'decisive moment' filled with spontaneity captured perfectly on the streets of Parkhead, Glasgow, where a water main has burst, much to the glee of local children. The angelic pose, backlit silhouettes, glistening cobbles and water spray elevate the shot into a work of art.



DRAMATIC CONTRAST

Black, shaded buildings frame the sunlit road and backlit water perfectly, providing an excellent foil for our two silhouetted figures.

DECISIVE MOMENT

Nick has caught the moment the boy leaps into the water, freezing his pose with a fast shutter speed.