

People & Places

Music

'Intimate portraits'

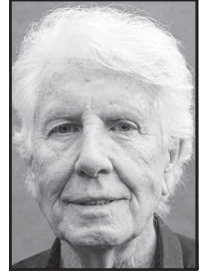
Graham Nash shows candid side in book

By Mark Kennedy

He's a legendary musician and two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, but the thing that Graham Nash never leaves home without isn't his guitar. It's his camera.

The Nash in the supergroup Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young began taking photos long before he started making music and taunts fate every day to show him something interesting to capture.

"Here's what I do: I wake up every morning. I get on with my day. If I'm leaving the house — sometimes when I'm not leaving the house — I take my camera and I say to myself,



Nash

"OK, the world is going to show me something fantastic today. What is it? Come on, show me," he says.

The singer-songwriter is now ready to show us what he's seen with "A Life in Focus: The Photography of Graham Nash," a collection from Insight Editions spanning decades that captures many fellow artists like Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Mama Cass Elliot, Twiggy and, of course, Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

"I'm a curious man about the world, and I see strange things," Nash says. "I see differently than most people. I'm not trying to brag about it. I just know that I see differently."

The book mixes intimate portraits and concert shots with surreal images Nash has happened upon, moving from a shot of a sleeping David Crosby to images from Woodstock to a mirrored building's reflection or the shadow from a bicycle on the street.

"I've been doing it for 70 years and you get to feel when something's going to happen. You get to be able to put yourself in a place where Elvis comes around the corner on the back of an elephant," he says. "I'm waiting for the world to show me something fantastic, and it always does."

The book was released last month and Nash held talk about it in a discussion streaming live from New York City's 92nd Y.

Collection

Nash says he sent many of his images to the publisher and left the art team to curate the collection without his direction. Whenever he has a show at a gallery, he also leaves it up to the professionals to figure out how the images talk to each other.

"I sent them a bunch of images that I thought were worth looking at. I don't want to waste anyone's time. I'm not going to show you an image that is pointless. I mean, why? Why waste a couple of minutes of your time? Time is our only currency, really," he says.

Insight Editions' founder and publisher Raoul Goff estimates that he and his team sifted through 700-800 of Nash's images. He calls the photographs "visual poetry."

"Some people think that when you look at an artist, their music is their music, their photography is their photography, their writing is their writing. But I think with Graham, he's one of those individuals where it's all interconnected," says Goff.

"You can make those connections between his lyrics, between his music, between his photography and kind of what he stands for and what he believes and what he's observing in the world. A lot of the photographs, old and new, are a commentary, a dialog, about today's world."

Goff found ways that the disparate images could connect, as when they paired a shot of Shawn Colvin looking over her shoulder from 1990 with a shot of Mitchell in a similar pose in 1971.

"They did some wonderful things where I wouldn't have thought of that and I was amazed. I like letting people do their job," Nash says. "My father taught me that many, many years ago. My father said, 'Never buy a dog and bark at yourself.'"

Nash might be a photo pro, but he's not precious about the equipment. He notes that he was photographed for the cover of his album "Earth & Sky" holding a cheap disposable camera. "I don't care what I'm using. I don't care if it's a Cannon or Leica. I don't care," he says. "Just just give me something to shoot with."

Moment

Many of the most striking images in the book are Nash's self-portraits, him stopping time in front of a mirror by holding a camera up and snapping a moment, something that has been aped countless times in our Instagram age.

He recalls at one of his gallery shows in Berlin, an intense woman came up to him and said, "Do you know something?" Nash played along and answered "What?" She replied: "You should have your head examined. These self-portraits are very disturbing. You should talk to a therapist about this." Nash laughs at the memory: "What can you do?"

Nash says taking portraits of people is different than snapping an interesting thing he sees on the street. "It's a give-and-take situation. I am taking that picture, but I'm giving them a portrait of themselves that they may not have seen."

Nash credits his photography-loving father for passing on his passion and writes that one of his first photos was of his mom looking contemplative in 1953 when he was 11, an image he says made him realize he could offer something special as a photographer.

"I'm a curious boy," he says. "I've been a witness to this world for almost 80 years, and I have no intentions of stopping."

Also:

LOS ANGELES: New music from U2 is included in the soundtrack for the animated "Sing 2," which opened Dec 22. The film sequel — which features the band's singer and songwriter Bono voicing a character called Clay Calloway — also features "bad guy" by Billie Eilish, "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" by Elton John and Scarlett Johansson singing U2's "Stuck In a Moment You Can't Get Out Of." Taron Egerton covers "A Sky Full of Stars" and Halsey tackles The Struts' "Could Have Been Me." Another U2 song — "Where the Streets Have No Name" — is performed by Tori Kelly, Taron Egerton, Johansson, Reese Witherspoon and Nick Kroll. (AP)



Dave Bayley of Glass Animals performs at the Outside Lands Music Festival in San Francisco on Oct. 29, 2021. The band is nominated for a Grammy Award for best new artist. (AP)

Music

Glass Animals' 'Dreamland' is deeply personal

Band ride 'Heat Waves' to Grammys

NEW YORK, Jan 4, (AP) — Hospitals aren't usually incubators of great music, but in the case of English indie-pop band Glass Animals, one member's medical emergency led to a breakout album and a Grammy nomination.

Drummer Joe Seaward was struck by a truck in 2018 while riding his bike in Dublin, leaving him fighting for his life. Dave Bayley, the quartet's songwriter, singer and producer, spent long hours next to his friend in the hospital, the future uncertain under the harsh fluorescent lights.

"Hospitals are weird places, and I think because of that, they make you feel very nostalgic. You're looking for comfort in the past. So that was the kind of beginnings of the album," Bayley says. "I started writing down these memories and searching for more memories, and some of them were great. Some of them are really uncomfortable."

The album that emerged was the deeply personal "Dreamland," rooted in Bayley's past. There are playful references to Scooby-Doo, Fruit Loops, Pepsi Blue and Mr. Miyagi, but also a song about domestic abuse ("Domestic Bliss") and a tune about an old friend who planned but never pulled off a school shooting ("Space Ghost Coast to Coast").

The standout single is "Heat Waves," a hypnotic, hazy tune that honors a departed friend whose birthday brings grief each passing June. It was a slow-moving hit, reaching the top 10 of Billboard's Hot 100 after 42 weeks on the chart, the longest climb to the top 10 in US chart history. The song has earned over 1 billion streams on Spotify, landing it in the company of "Levitating" by Dua Lipa and "Dynamite" by BTS.

"Dreamland" was made before we ever knew about COVID-19, but it was born in period of personal turbulence for Dave and the band — in the wake of Joe's accident," says Amy Morgan, the band's manager.

"Heat Waves," for example, is a very personal love song about loss, but it connected because I think it captures a very universal sense of loss — which is at the forefront of all of our hearts at the moment, sadly."

Glass Animals also snagged a Grammy Award nomination for best new artist, even if that's a little curious for a band whose debut album came out in 2014. Later this month, they'll compete against the likes of Olivia Rodrigo, Saweetie, Finneas, Japanese Breakfast, The Kid Laroi and Arlo Parks. The band has also bagged two Brit Award nominations.

Bayley believes some of the success of the album is due to the pandemic. Finding the future bleak, many listeners looked for comfort in the past — like he had done back in the hospital.

Comfort

"They were in a similar position to the position that I was in when I wrote a lot of this record," he says. "Everyone was stuck inside. They were listening to the music they grew up with. They were eating the food that they grew up with it. They were seeking comfort in those situations and reliving these memories because they can't be out creating new ones as well."

The confessional roots of "Dreamland" were actually sown on the band's last album, "How to Be a Human Being," which saw Bayley write each song from the perspective of someone else. The last one, "Agnes," was about a friend of the band who died by suicide. It was Bayley's most personal song and marked a change in his songwriting.

He didn't want to put it on the album. He played it for the rest of the band, who quickly insisted it be on the album. Fans later wrote letters saying how much the song meant to them and that gave Bayley courage to turn more inward.

"That response gave me a lot of confidence to write more personal things,"

he says. "The songs that have meant the most to me by my favorite writers is when they speak about something personal and it makes you feel less alone."

With the songs done, there was something missing — "a bit of a glue," he says. Bayley looked for something that tied it all together and realized it was his mother. He had recently digitized old camcorder tapes she had made when he and his brother were kids and he layered some of her narrations into interludes on the album, making "Dreamland" all the more personal.

He also added some subliminal messages for hard-core fans — there's something in Morse Code in the middle of the vinyl record, another message that can be heard on another track if you reverse it. The album was finally done, but the pandemic wiped out the band's plans for touring.

"We had to completely rethink everything. And in a way, it kind of made us really open-minded," says Bayley. "No one during the Spanish flu left a handbook of how to release an album in a pandemic."

With the blessing of their record label, Glass Animals started giving the album away — literally. They launched an open source website where fans could download each section of the songs and artwork. They invited remixes and saw their music adopted for TikTok videos and by Minecrafters. Fan fiction and art submissions inspired by "Dreamland" poured in.

"I would wake up every morning and be excited to look at what was coming in. That was my petrol," says Bayley. "I was kind of like, 'We don't know what to do. This is helping me. Maybe it'll help some other people.'"

Avery Lipman, president, co-founder and chief operating officer of Republic Records, credited the band, their labels and their representatives for being flexible and innovative. "Glass Animals have defied gravity in historic fashion," he says.



Diane Keaton takes the stage during the 46th AFI Life Achievement Award gala ceremony honoring George Clooney on June 7, 2018, in Los Angeles. Keaton turns 76 on Jan 5. (AP)



McMullen



Waterston

Variety

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.: This year's Moby-Dick Marathon, the annual cover-to-cover reading of Herman Melville's iconic man-versus-whale novel hosted by the New Bedford Whaling Museum, kicks off on Jan 7.

This year's celebrity reader, who traditionally gets things started with the words "Call me..." is actor Sam Waterston, who was nominated for a best male actor Oscar for the 1984 movie "The Killing Fields" and is known for his work on the "Law and Order" television series.

The nonstop reading, again a virtual event this year, takes about 25 hours to complete.

Although this is his first time at the museum, Waterston is a Melville aficionado who once read the part of Ishmael in a 2001 celebration of the 150th anniversary of "Moby-Dick" at Tanglewood.

The marathon, which has been held since 1997, ends Sunday Jan 9.

"Over the years, the Whaling Museum has hosted an outstanding array of celebrities, academics, and public officials for the Moby-Dick Marathon," said Amanda McMullen, President and CEO of the museum. "We are thrilled to have the participation of all our readers — 200 strong — and know that their passion for Melville and heartfelt commitment to New Bedford will help make the 2022 marathon the most exciting and engaging yet." (AP)

HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP, Mich.: A woman was rescued from her burning southeastern Michigan home after she refused to leave while trying to save some of her exotic animals, birds, ferrets and other pets.

Deputies pulled the 41-year-old Highland Township woman through a small basement window, the Oakland County sheriff's office said.

The fire was reported shortly before midnight about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northwest of Detroit. It likely started when one of the family's dogs knocked over a heater near a bed of straw in the garage, according to the sheriff's office.

The deputies saved the woman's life, Sheriff Michael Bouchard said in a release. "The fire was spreading rapidly throughout the garage and the living area of this home," Bouchard said. "Deputies quickly assessed the situation, found a safe way from the home and pulled her to safety,

despite her reluctance to leave."

The woman and three other residents of the home were treated at a hospital for smoke inhalation. Three dogs also were saved. (AP)

CARLSBAD, Calif.: Drivers scrambled to grab cash after bags of money fell out of an

armored truck on a Southern California freeway, authorities said.

The incident occurred shortly before

9:15 am on Interstate 5 in Carlsbad.

"One of the doors popped open and bags of cash fell out," California Highway Patrol Sgt Curtis Martin said.

Several bags broke open, spreading



This image released by FX shows, (from left), Kevin Carroll as Alton, Damson Idris as Franklin Saint, and Michael Hyatt as Cissy Saint in a scene from "Snowfall." Idris was named one of eight breakthrough entertainers of the year by The Associated Press. (AP) — Details on Page 12

money — mainly \$1 and \$20 bills — all over the lanes and bringing the freeway to a chaotic halt, Martin said.

Video posted online showed some people laughing and leaping as they held wads of cash.

Two people were arrested at the scene, and Martin warned that any others who are found to have taken the money could face criminal charges. He noted there was plenty of video taken by bystanders at the scene and that the CHP and FBI were investigating.

Anyone who took money was urged to bring it to the CHP office in Vista.

Authorities didn't immediately say how much money was lost. However, at least a dozen people had returned money they collected to the CHP by afternoon, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported. (AP)

RIVERSIDE, Calif.: Police were looking for a man dubbed the "snake burglar" who wriggled his way through a Southern California business and fled with several thousands dollars.

Surveillance video showed the man slithering on his belly at the Rustic Roots salon in Riverside at around 5 am after apparently getting into the business through a rooftop fire escape.

"It just gave me chills up my spine," owner Lori Hajj told KNBC-TV.

Hajj says the thief she calls the "snake burglar" stole hundreds of dollars worth of products, cash from the register and a safe with more than \$8,000 inside. (AP)