

THE PERFECT SHOT

Here's a quick look at the works of some of the top photographers in the country.

BY EE-LYN TAN

Grant Corban

Looking through photos his grandparents had taken during their world trip sparked an interest in photography for Grant Corban.

The exotic lands they explored were captured on film and transparencies as slide shows were the way to share your travel adventures back then.

With no satellite TV and no channels like National Geographic or the Discovery Channel, photography opened the door to the world to the then seven-year-old Grant.

"The cameras that were commonly used then were very mechanical, which appealed to me.

"There was the factor of using

mathematics to calculate flash rations, along with the aperture to shutter speed relationships.

"This was all very interesting when I was young," says the professional photographer who hails from New Zealand.

Grant learnt to take photos on an old twin lens reflex and range finder cameras.

When he eventually splurged on his first single-lens reflex camera (an Olympus OM10 to be exact), the salesman who sold the camera to him further fuelled his interest in photography by loaning Grant his photography magazine.

"He was just as passionate as I was and he barely knew me," said Grant.

The camera soon became his faithful friend and the two of them travelled Asia together.

One day, two of his friends casually asked him to shoot their

engagement photos, which he did in black and white.

They loved his pictures so much, they used one of them on their wedding invitation.

While this encouraged him, it didn't really throw Grant onto the path of becoming a wedding photographer.

It was only after he moved to Malaysia that things started to really roll.

Some couples had heard about him, and before he knew it, demand for his work took on a life of its own!

These days, the renowned wedding photographer is booked most weekends and occasionally travels overseas to shoot weddings too.



You light up my life.

When asked what he likes to photograph most, Grant says it's children.

"They are unpredictable and goof off in a very natural manner.

"My speciality is weddings but I am branching out into children and family shoots these days," he says.

Grant fondly recalls when he nearly fell into a swimming pool while carrying RM35,000 worth of camera equipment.

"I now believe in angels! Till today, I have no idea why I didn't fall in but the moment is indelibly fixed in my mind," he says.

As glamorous as the job may sound, Grant says that photography is hard work.

"It involves long hours, dealing with unreasonable requests and insane deadlines.

"But my family has been very supportive, which is important in this field," he says.

For those considering taking up photography as a career, Grant advises them to be interested in life.

"Photography is an extension of who you are. It is not who you are.

"Those who succeed in this business do so because they work hard, put in long hours and persevere.

"They make their own luck. Be flexible and never stop learning," says the professional.

To check out Grant's beautiful work (I want him to shoot my wedding!), visit www.grantcorban.com.



Let's shout out their love to the world, under the clear blue sky.



A study in happiness.



Thai Buddhist monks reciting prayers during a multi-religious candle light vigil for the tsunami victims in the town of Takua Pa, Thailand.



Thai tsunami survivor Prapasiri Klongboon, 11, cries as she is comforted by a volunteer during a memorial ceremony marking the one year anniversary of the Indian Ocean tsunami on Phi Phi Island.

Bazuki Muhammad

NOT many people can say they've been to Afghanistan, but for professional photographer Bazuki Muhammad, being in that country constituted some of the most memorable moments of his career.

Having spent three months there in 2002, he was again sent there during the war to shoot human interest stories of life in the war zone.

Since he had been attached to Reuters for 10 years, the

trip to Afghanistan was in line with his interests.

"I really enjoy covering human interest stories.

"But these days I cover almost everything, from economics, politics, culture and sports and, once in a while, entertainment and fashion, too," he says.

Having stumbled upon photography by accident, Bazuki hasn't looked back since.

While studying for his bachelor in architecture at the Louisiana State University

in the United States, Bazuki found that the university had a good programme in photojournalism and decided to take it.

He enjoyed it so much that he decided to pursue it after graduation.

He later returned to Malaysia and worked as an architect for six years but soon found the itch to shoot again.

"I missed taking pictures and the surge of adrenaline

I get when I am chasing the news," says Bazuki.

It's been 20 years since he's made a career out of his love for photography and there's nothing else he'd rather do.

"Careers in photography have changed so much these days that it's actually viable to make a living taking pictures.

"In fact, it's becoming a booming business, especially wedding photography," said Bazuki.

He's quick to point out that those who want to pursue this fulltime should go to school first.

"Many people think that photography is just 'point and shoot' but if you think that's what the industry is like, then you're going to find you have a lot of competitors out there," he said with a laugh.

Check out Bazuki's work at www.bazuki.com or foto-warung.bazuki.com.



A man talking in his car which has a bullet hole on the windshield, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Oct 15, 2002. The man, known as Said, said in Dari that his father, who was an ethnic Tajik, was killed by an ethnic Hazara during the civil war in the 90s through that bullet hole.



Fireworks, wine and friends to share that special day with you.



Greg Morgan of New Zealand trying to catch the ball during a cricket match between India and New Zealand last year.

Peter Lim

WITH so many fields in photography these days, it isn't easy to decide on one to specialise in.

But an interest sure helps to narrow down the field.

For professional photographer Peter Lim, his love for superbikes made it perfectly natural for him to specialise in motorsports photography.

Lim took up photography as a hobby in his teens and later made a career of it.

He slaved in several commercial photo studios to learn the trade, then began to dabble in wedding, fashion and even



commercial photo shoots.

But it was when he stumbled into sports and motorsports that he knew he had found his niche in photography.

"I will always remember shooting my very first MotoGP.

"Being able to meet the riders and get up close and personal with them to get that perfect shot was very thrilling," says the 35-year-old KL-ite.



Lee Chong Wei aiming for that perfect shot.

Since then, he's been engaged by big organisations such as the Associated Press (AP), Getty Images, Asian Festival of Speed (AFOS), International Cricket Council and even the Asian Football Confederation, just to name a few.

So what has changed in photography since he first started?

"It used to be that we used film in our cameras but in

2000, we started going digital and this has grown in popularity. Today, clients want everything fast, so digital is the most appropriate solution," he says.

So what is Lim's advice for aspiring photographers?

"You've got to love what you are doing, else don't bother," he says.

Check out Lim's work or even purchase a few at www.photodesk.com.my.



Valentino Rossi (ITA) FIAT Yamaha Team during the MotoGP Pre-season testing session in Sepang Circuit, Malaysia.