

THE ROLLING STONES



The Rolling Stones, March 1963

Giclée edition of 495
Image 12" x 18"
Framed £275

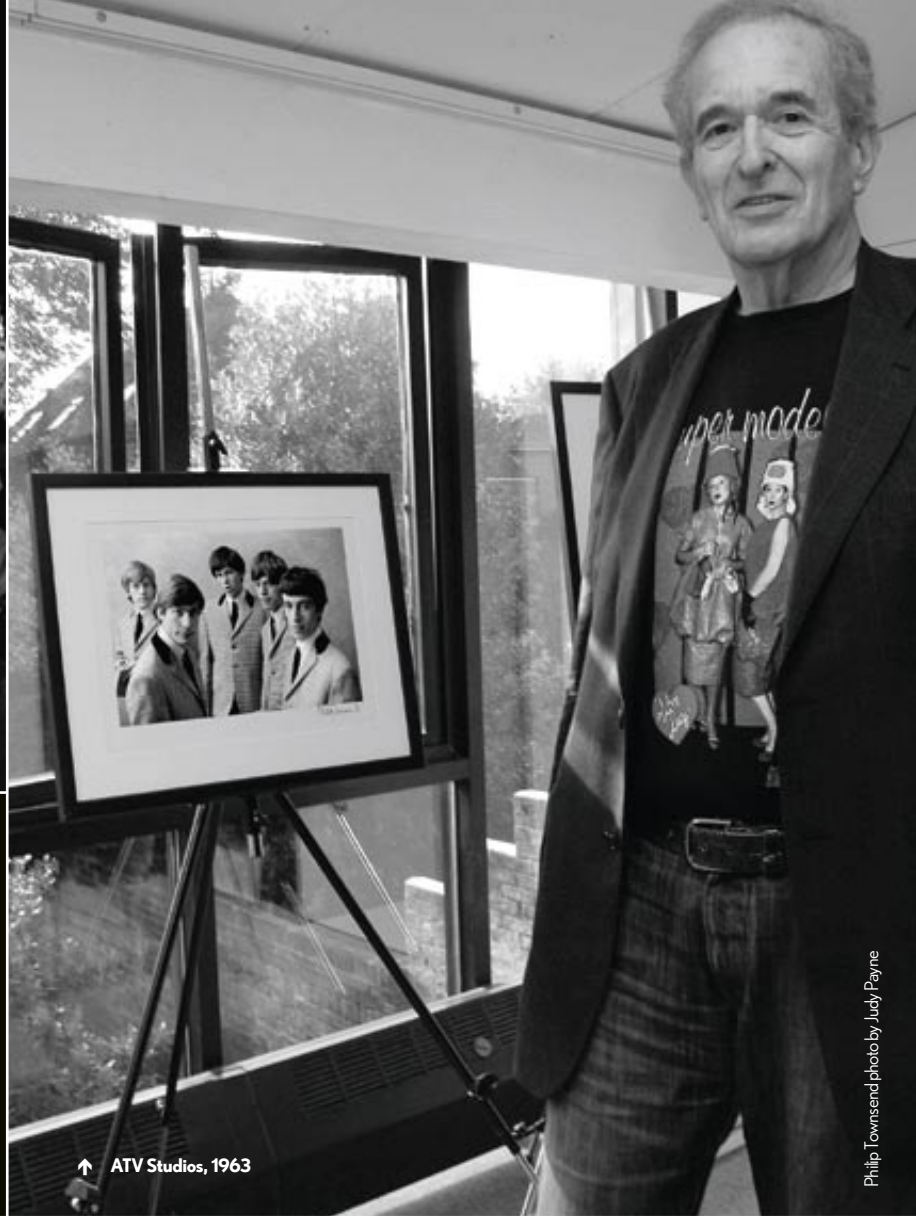


BOYS ON FILM

Half forgotten and hidden in a drawer for decades, *Philip Townsend's* '1st Photo Sessions' with The Rolling Stones captured a fresh-faced band on the brink of superstardom – before the record contract had even been signed. Dusted off, the release of the limited edition prints by Washington Green has evoked the frenzy of the swinging sixties for a new generation ➔



Mick & Keith



↑ ATV Studios, 1963

Philip Townsend photo by Judy Payne

TAKEN IN 1963, THESE IMAGES CAPTURE THIS ICONIC GROUP BEFORE FAME AND FORTUNE CAME THEIR WAY AND BEFORE THEY KNEW JUST WHAT STARRING ROLES THEY WOULD PLAY IN THE FABULOUS 60s AND THEREAFTER



Studio 1, 1963.

All giclée editions of 495
Image 12" x 18"
Framed £275

"I WAS VERY LUCKY, IN THIS THIRD SHOT FROM STUDIO 1, TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THIS PICTURE FROM THE SIDE OF THE STAGE. IT GIVES MORE DEPTH TO THE IMAGE, IT IS ALSO A RARE SHOT OF ALL OF THEM PERFORMING TOGETHER."



← **Mick**
Giclée edition of 495
Image 12" x 18"
Framed £275

"FROM HIS EXPRESSION YOU CAN SEE MICK'S EXCITEMENT BY THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE - PERHAPS A SIGN OF THINGS TO COME"

BEFORE MILLIONS OF dollars were lavished on infamous stadium concerts and seas of crowds began simultaneously chanting their frustrations of getting no satisfaction, five wide-eyed lads with neatly combed hair and matching houndstooth-checked jackets stared into the lens of Philip Townsend's Hasselblad with just a hint of self-consciousness.

THE '1ST PHOTO SESSIONS' INCLUDES ONE OF THE VERY FIRST PROFESSIONAL SHOTS TAKEN OF THE STONES

"In the beginning, none of them had a clue what to do in front of the camera - they didn't know how to stand, which way to look or how to pose, they didn't even know each other very well," Townsend recalls. "As for those tailored black and white jackets, they hardly gave the cruel and nasty look their manager wanted for The Rolling Stones - the future of rock and roll!" But the outfits were free hand-me-downs, and the Stones, without a recording contract or penny-to-rub-together, were broke.

In 1963 after a chance meeting in a Monte Carlo café, Townsend was offered what could possibly be described as one of the biggest exclusives in rock history - the opportunity to take the very first official pictures of manager Andrew Loog Oldham's newly-discovered and soon-to-be-legendary musical protégées.

As well as taking those momentous first snaps, the 21-year-old photographer got to know Brian Jones, Keith Richards, Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts and Bill Wyman intimately, ferrying them around to gigs in smoky London clubs in his Ford Capri. "That was in the days when I was the only one with a car, and they were paid £15 a night to perform - long before the private jets and free-flowing champagne - when I had to buy them dinner," Townsend laughs, without a trace of nostalgia.

Cherry-picked from the photographer's impressive portfolio documenting the band in their first year - when their image as snarling, streetwise stars was starting to be carefully cultivated - the 1st Photo Sessions includes one of the very first professional shots taken of the Stones, complete with black turtle-necks and a suitably scruffy washing line backdrop.

Amongst the collection of six limited edition giclée prints released by Washington Green is also a rare image taken from the intimate vantage of the wings at their first gig at London's famous Studio 1, capturing the five members on stage together. There's also the bold shot of the band innocently bedecked in checks, taken just before the Stones' first appearance on television - on the show 'Thank Your Lucky Stars'.

Released in numbered editions of 495 and hand-signed by Townsend, these iconic and highly collectable prints not only illustrate some of the most important moments in the chart-toppers' early history, but, according to Oldham, the images also played a part in securing the Stones' first record contract with Decca.

Squirrelled away in cupboards and drawers for almost 40 years, Philip Townsend's treasure trove of sensational images now offers a fresh opportunity to see The Rolling Stones as they were in the very beginning - an appealing prospect for those who can remember originally singing-along with the swaggering youngsters in the sixties, as well as new generations of fans who have crowded into their massive sell-out concerts ever since.