

ROLLING BACK THE YEARS

ROLLING STONES-50 X 20 Edited by Chris Murray ISBN 978-1-60887-132-2

It's easy these days to throw together a Rolling Stones photo book, and with the band's recent 50th anniversary it's easy to make a small buck on the bandwagon. At least that's the impression you get from the more recent outpouring of rehashed imagery that's taking up shelf space in our book stores. Often poorly reproduced, let alone well researched with simply nothing to add to what's already out there it's been looking bleak for one of the greatest photogenic bands in the world.

But along comes **Rolling Stones – 50 X 20** and all seems well again! No prizes for figuring out the maths in the title but this tome does span and ties in with the Rolling Stones' 50 years in business through the eyes of 20 top lensmen with added comments and reminisces to add that extra personal touch. All on good sized quality glossy paper, in hardback for a reasonable retail price it looks like American publisher **Insight Editions** have got it spot on! If only they'd done the Jim Marshall photo legacy, but that's a different story altogether.....

From the comments we learn from the man at the start Gus Coral that Stones security wasn't that big in 1963 as he sketches the surroundings of his big night snapping away at the band being free 'n' easy whilst later photographers like Mark Seliger lament at the hands of a very uncooperative Keith during a *Rolling Stone* photo shoot, huffing: *"I don't really want to do this (...) I've been photographed with them for 30 fucking years, and it's fucking boring."* In between we find many personal tales behind the shots and stories of the shoots and how these guys interacted with the band on a very unique but pretty much a peripheral level often with a very deep and profound outcome.

Cos of course the pictures are the stars here and they are carefully picked. Some old, some new and some '-ish' but always of a very high standard so whether you are seeing these images for the very first time or have a comeback moment, the 'wow' factor remains at every page you turn leaving you to observe how the photographers and their subject matter have matched perfectly for just that brief frozen moment in time. And what times they were.... The Beggars' Banquet and the set of Performance...the flamboyant tours of the '70s, on to 1981 and rocking the stadiums of the world from then on - all the way back to the very beginning with a lovely spread of '60s lensmanship seeing the band on and off stage in a much more relaxed mood.

So thumbs up from us as far as Rolling Stones photo books go. This offers a really nice spread of great quality pics thru the years on a decent format, well researched and very well presented for a good price. Get yours now.