

FROM THE ARCHIVE

Selected Portraits · 1987-1990

Chris George / Liminal Mind

A Critical Reckoning of Witness and Time

Between 1986 and 1991 I worked inside the machinery of the British media, freelancing as an editorial photographer for the UK's leading national and international publications. My commissions often placed me face to face with prominent cultural figures, but the camera was rarely confined to the mechanics of publicity. I was documenting moments in cultural time—the human element embedded within shifting social and editorial structures.

For more than two decades the bulk of this work has lain dormant: unarchived physical artifacts held inside a shipping container. I am now beginning the vital task of digitizing it from the original negatives.

To return to these negatives is to perform an act of historical anti-entropy. I hope to recover images I have not seen clearly since the moment of exposure, letting the material record reveal what was invisible to me at the time.

The archive has also undergone a profound hauntological shift. Many of those captured in these frames have since died, and that biological window has transformed the portraits from timely editorial assets into primary historical evidence. They now carry a weight, a vulnerability, and a political significance that could not have been recognized when the shutter clicked.

This portfolio marks the beginning of that reckoning: holding a person's presence against the passage of time, preserving what history has already begun to erase.

Wynton Marsalis



JAZZ TRUMPETER & COMPOSER · C. 1987

A virtuoso of unparalleled technical and historical scope, Wynton Marsalis revolutionized the contemporary music landscape by becoming the first artist to win Grammy Awards in both jazz and classical categories in the same year. As a composer, educator, and artistic director, his work functions as a critical preservation of the American jazz lineage. This exquisite, geometrically precise composition captures Marsalis in quiet contemplation, his reflection mirrored perfectly on a polished table beside his instrument.

Mario Vargas Llosa



NOVELIST, ESSAYIST & NOBEL LAUREATE · C. 1987

One of the definitive giants of world literature and a leading architect of the mid-twentieth-century Latin American Boom, Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2010. His complex, politically charged narratives—such as *The Time of the Hero* and *The Feast of the Goat*—dissect the psychological anatomy of power, totalitarianism, and individual resistance. This uncompromising, macro close-up captures the absolute intellectual gravitas and formidable intensity of a writer dedicated to witnessing the friction of history.

Sir Bernard Lovell



PHYSICIST & RADIO ASTRONOMER · JODRELL BANK · C. 1989

A true pioneer of modern science, Sir Bernard Lovell revolutionized our understanding of the universe through his development of radio astronomy. As the founder and director of the Jodrell Bank Observatory, he oversaw the construction of the colossal steerable radio telescope that now bears his name—visible here through the control room window as a towering monument to human inquiry. This portrait masterfully balances the human scale of the scientist against the monolithic architecture of his life's work

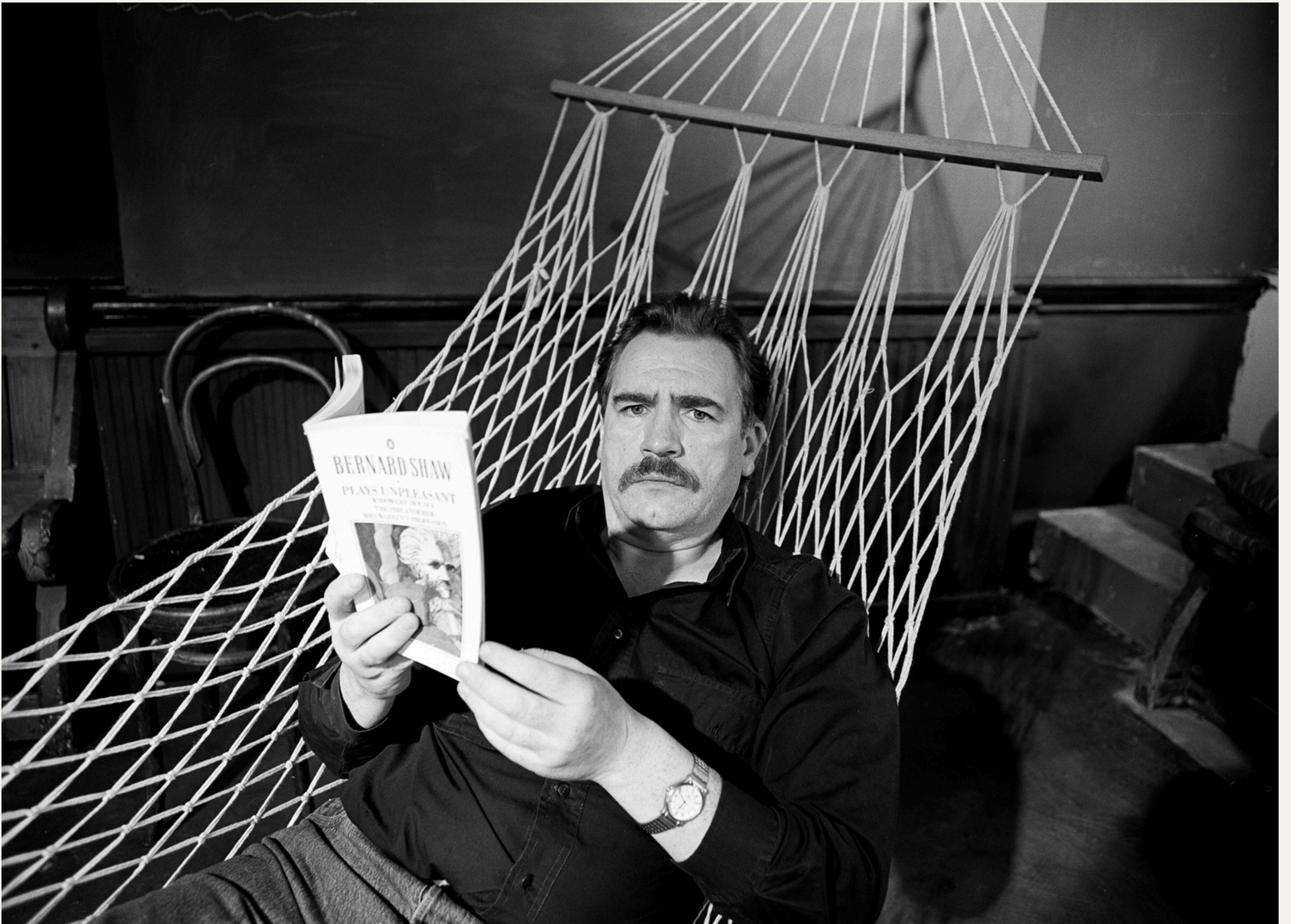
Ray Davies



SONGWRITER & FRONTMAN OF THE KINKS · C. 1988

As the chief songwriter and visionary leader of The Kinks, Ray Davies crafted some of the most enduring, socially observant narratives in British rock history. Masterpieces like *Waterloo Sunset* established him as a singular poet of post-war British life, capturing the friction between nostalgic heritage and modern alienation. This striking profile portrait—featuring his trademark panama hat and cigar—projects the detached, theatrical persona of a master storyteller.

Brian Cox



ACTOR · TITAN OF CLASSICAL THEATRE · C. 1987

Decades before becoming a global household name, Scottish actor Brian Cox was already recognized as one of the most formidable classical titans of the British stage. Celebrated for his fierce, psychologically complex performances with the Royal Shakespeare Company and National Theatre—including an acclaimed Titus Andronicus around the time of this photo—Cox possesses unparalleled dramatic gravity. Caught here in a rare moment of repose, reclining in a hammock with a volume of Bernard Shaw, the portrait captures the intellectual curiosity underpinning his ferocious talent.

Robbie Coltrane



ACTOR & COMEDIAN · C. 1988

Robbie Coltrane was a towering figure in British popular culture, possessing a rare, versatile talent that seamlessly bridged alternative comedy, intense dramatic television (*Cracker*), and global cinema franchises. Following his passing in 2022, early archival images like this carry profound historical resonance. Reclining beneath a painting, Coltrane's relaxed posture and sharp gaze capture the formidable intellect and immense physical presence that anchored his celebrated career.

Andrea Dunbar



PLAYWRIGHT · BRADFORD · C. 1987

Andrea Dunbar was a singular, blazing talent whose raw, semi-autobiographical plays—including *The Arbor* and *Rita, Sue and Bob Too*—shook the foundations of British theatre with their uncompromising depiction of working-class life. Photographing her with her young child outside her home captures a heartbreaking slice of domestic reality; Dunbar tragically passed away in 1990 at just 29 years old. Today, this portrait stands as a haunting, vital piece of cultural history, capturing a brilliant voice taken far too soon.

Miranda Richardson



ACTOR · STAGE & SCREEN · C. 1987

A performer of razor-sharp intellect and chameleonic intensity, Miranda Richardson stands as one of Britain's most acclaimed actors across theatre, television, and international cinema. Known for her Olivier-nominated stage work and BAFTA-winning film performances, she effortlessly bridges avant-garde drama and mainstream culture. This cinematic environmental portrait—captured on a London park bench as a pigeon takes flight—unites a fleeting moment of urban reality with her commanding artistic poise.

Jock McFadyen



CONTEMPORARY PAINTER & ROYAL ACADEMICIAN · C. 1986

Renowned for his gritty, atmospheric, and often monumental depictions of shifting urban landscapes, Scottish painter Jock McFadyen RA captures the poetic desolation of post-industrial Britain. His expressive work frequently documents the hollowing out and regeneration of London's East End, mirroring themes of institutional decay and capital-driven erasure. Standing arms-crossed in a leather jacket amid the raw textures of his studio, McFadyen is framed alongside the very canvases that challenge our perceptions of contemporary urban geography.

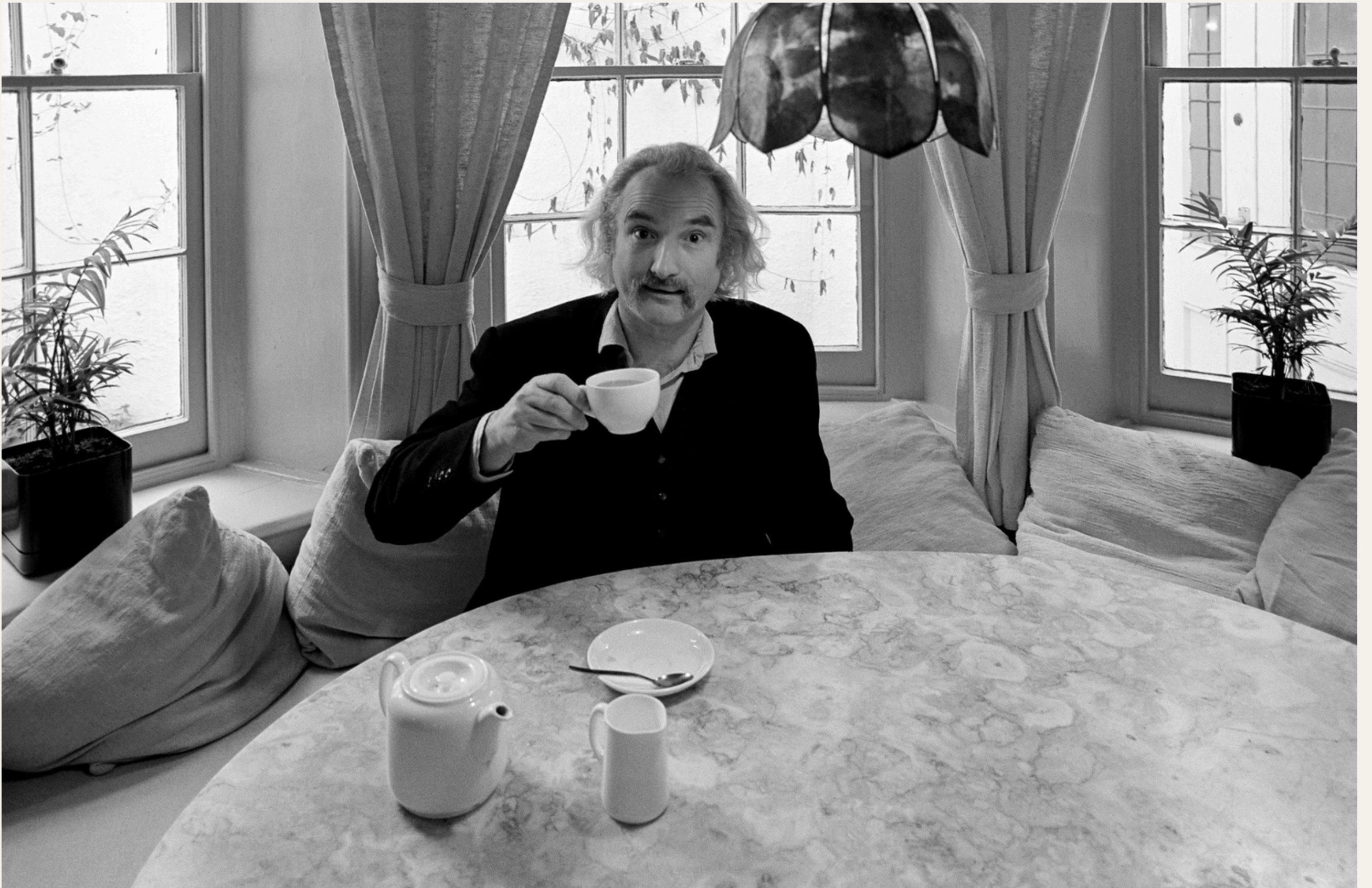
Willy Russell



PLAYWRIGHT & COMPOSER · LIVERPOOL · C. 1987

Willy Russell is one of the UK's most commercially successful and critically revered dramatists, celebrated for giving a powerful voice to working-class aspirations and struggles. Masterpieces such as *Educating Rita*, *Shirley Valentine*, and the iconic musical *Blood Brothers* redefined modern popular theatre. Framed against iron railings with the imposing silhouette of Liverpool Cathedral behind him, this portrait explicitly anchors the writer to the specific urban and cultural landscape that fueled his entire creative output.

Holger Czukay



EXPERIMENTAL MUSICIAN & CO-FOUNDER OF CAN · C. 1988

A visionary multi-instrumentalist and a pioneer of ambient music, Holger Czukay fundamentally altered the landscape of modern sound as a co-founder of the seminal German avant-garde band Can. His radical early adoption of tape-splicing, shortwave radio recordings, and primitive sampling techniques laid the structural groundwork for post-punk, electronic music, and hip-hop production. Captured in a rare, subversively domestic moment over a cup of tea, this portrait preserves the eccentric, restlessly curious intellect behind a titan of experimental music culture prior to his passing in 2017.

Don Letts



FILMMAKER, DJ & MUSICIAN · C. 1989

Don Letts is a monumental figure in British counterculture, famously bridging the punk and reggae scenes in late-1970s London as the resident DJ at The Roxy. His pioneering music videos for The Clash and subsequent documentary filmmaking established him as a critical visual chronicler of Black British identity, rebellion, and subculture. Seated before a wide bay window with stark horizontal blinds, this graphic, wide-angle portrait captures the relaxed yet razor-sharp focus of an artist whose cross-cultural operations fundamentally altered the aesthetic fabric of modern Britain.

Jazzy B



MUSIC PRODUCER & FOUNDER OF SOUL II SOUL · C. 1987

As the mastermind behind the collective Soul II Soul, Trevor Beresford Romeo—better known as Jazzy B—was a transformative architect of modern British youth culture. By fusing roots reggae sound system culture with contemporary soul, R&B, and hip-hop, he engineered an iconic, globally influential "London sound" that defined the transition into the 1990s. This brilliant, high-contrast mirror composition utilizes a split perspective to reflect the duality of an artist who operated simultaneously as an underground pioneer and a mainstream cultural trailblazer.

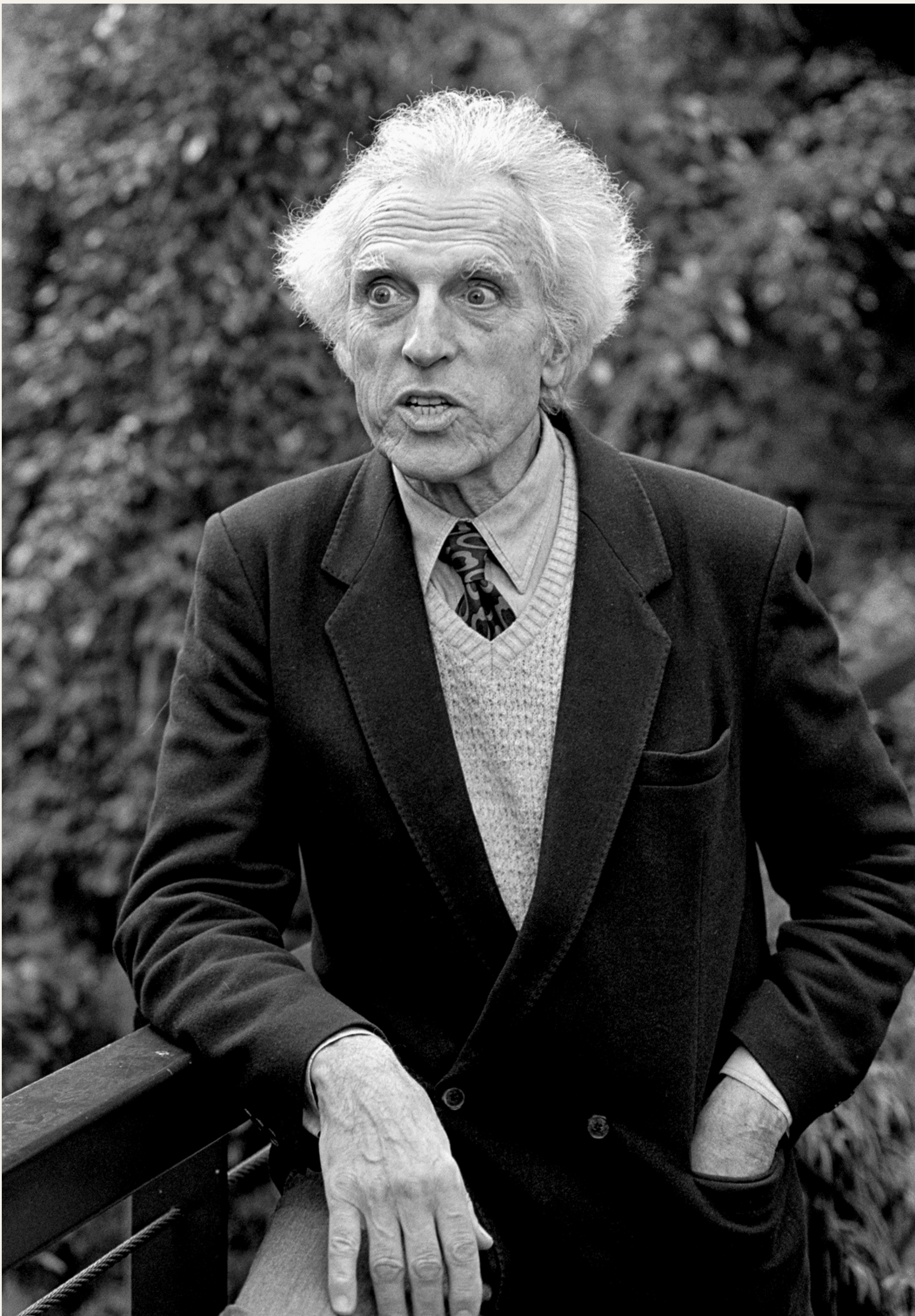
Deborah Curtis



BIOGRAPHER, AUTHOR & CUSTODIAN OF POST-PUNK MEMORY · C. 1989

Deborah Curtis is the author and biographer whose poignant work provides a searing, deeply intimate record of one of the most tectonic eras in British counterculture. As the widow of Ian Curtis—the enigmatic frontman of Joy Division who died by suicide in 1980—she became the central, unintended custodian of a tragic and heavily romanticized musical legacy. Her writing, most notably her celebrated biographical account *Touching from a Distance*, beautifully dissects the agonizing friction between private human reality and the monolithic public mythology that gathered around her late husband. Captured here before a weathered stone urn with a carved, watchful classical face peering over her shoulder, the portrait serves as a stunning, literal visual metaphor for a figure living alongside the monumental and hauntological shadows of post-punk history.

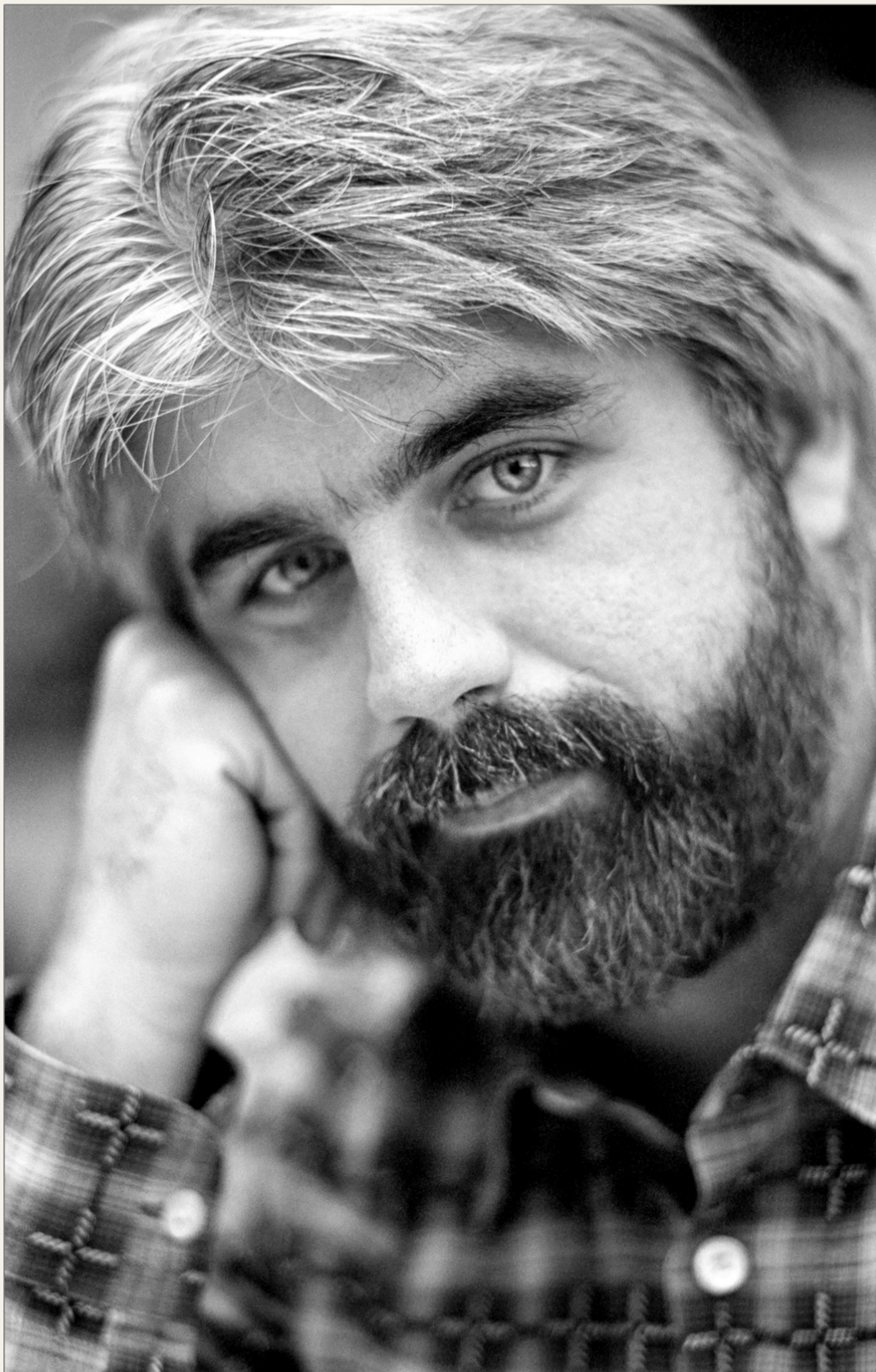
Paul Tortelier



CELLIST & COMPOSER · C. 1987

Paul Tortelier was one of the twentieth century's most revered master musicians, celebrated globally for his virtuosic cello technique, profound musical philosophy, and deeply expressive performances. Beyond his legendary recordings of the Bach Cello Suites, Tortelier was a charismatic educator whose televised masterclasses brought classical rigor to a mass audience. Captured here with an intense, animated expression, this portrait remains a vital record of his restless creative spirit prior to his passing in 1990.

Michael McDonald



SINGER, SONGWRITER & MUSICIAN · C. 1987

With his distinctive, soulful baritone and sophisticated harmonic sensibilities, Michael McDonald became one of the defining voices of American pop, soul, and rock throughout the late 1970s and 1980s. First as an integral collaborator with Steely Dan and later as the frontman of The Doobie Brothers, his work shaped the era's complex studio production landscape. This tight, intimate portrait captures a quiet, introspective vulnerability behind an instantly recognizable cultural presence.

Steven Berkof



PLAYWRIGHT, DIRECTOR & ACTOR · C. 1987

A true iconoclast of the British stage, Steven Berkoff pioneered a visceral, hyper-stylized form of physical theatre that fundamentally challenged the polite conventions of naturalistic drama. Through groundbreaking plays like *East and West*, his work blended poetic verse with stark, aggressive physicality. This high-contrast, tight macro portrait strips away all artifice, confronting the viewer with the raw, uncompromising intensity that defines his artistic legacy.

Dwight Yoakam



MUSICIAN, SONGWRITER & ACTOR • C. 1987

Dwight Yoakam burst onto the music scene in the mid-1980s, revitalizing traditional honky-tonk with a fierce, stripped-back punk energy that directly challenged the slick production norms of mainstream Nashville commercialism. Beyond his multi-platinum songwriting career, his intense, character-driven performances as a film actor demonstrated a profound artistic range. This striking portrait, framing Yoakam against a geometric wall of glass blocks, captures the brooding, singular intensity of a consummate outsider who conquered the mainstream entirely on his own terms.

Nicholas Roeg



FILM DIRECTOR & CINEMATOGRAPHER · C. 1987

One of the most visually radical and profoundly influential directors in the history of world cinema, Nicholas Roeg shattered conventional narrative structures with masterpieces such as *Performance* (1970), *Walkabout* (1971), and *Don't Look Now* (1973). His signature deployment of fractured editing, shifting temporalities, and deep psychological dread fundamentally redefined the expressive possibilities of the medium. This dramatic, low-angle portrait—positioning the director within the sweeping, shadow-cast geometry of a winding staircase—creates an intense, enigmatic composition that feels entirely embedded within the enigmatic fabric of his own cinema.

Dame Anita Roddick



ENTREPRENEUR, ENVIRONMENTALIST & HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST ·

C. 1988

A radical visionary who fundamentally challenged the foundational metrics of Western capitalism, Dame Anita Roddick transformed global business by pioneering ethical consumerism and corporate social responsibility as the founder of The Body Shop. She utilized her corporate infrastructure to campaign aggressively for environmental preservation, human rights, and animal welfare. Captured here in a rare, brilliantly playful composition alongside an iconic pop-culture cutout, this portrait balances her fierce, systemic iconoclasm with the radiant, accessible humanity that fueled her activism prior to her passing in 2007.

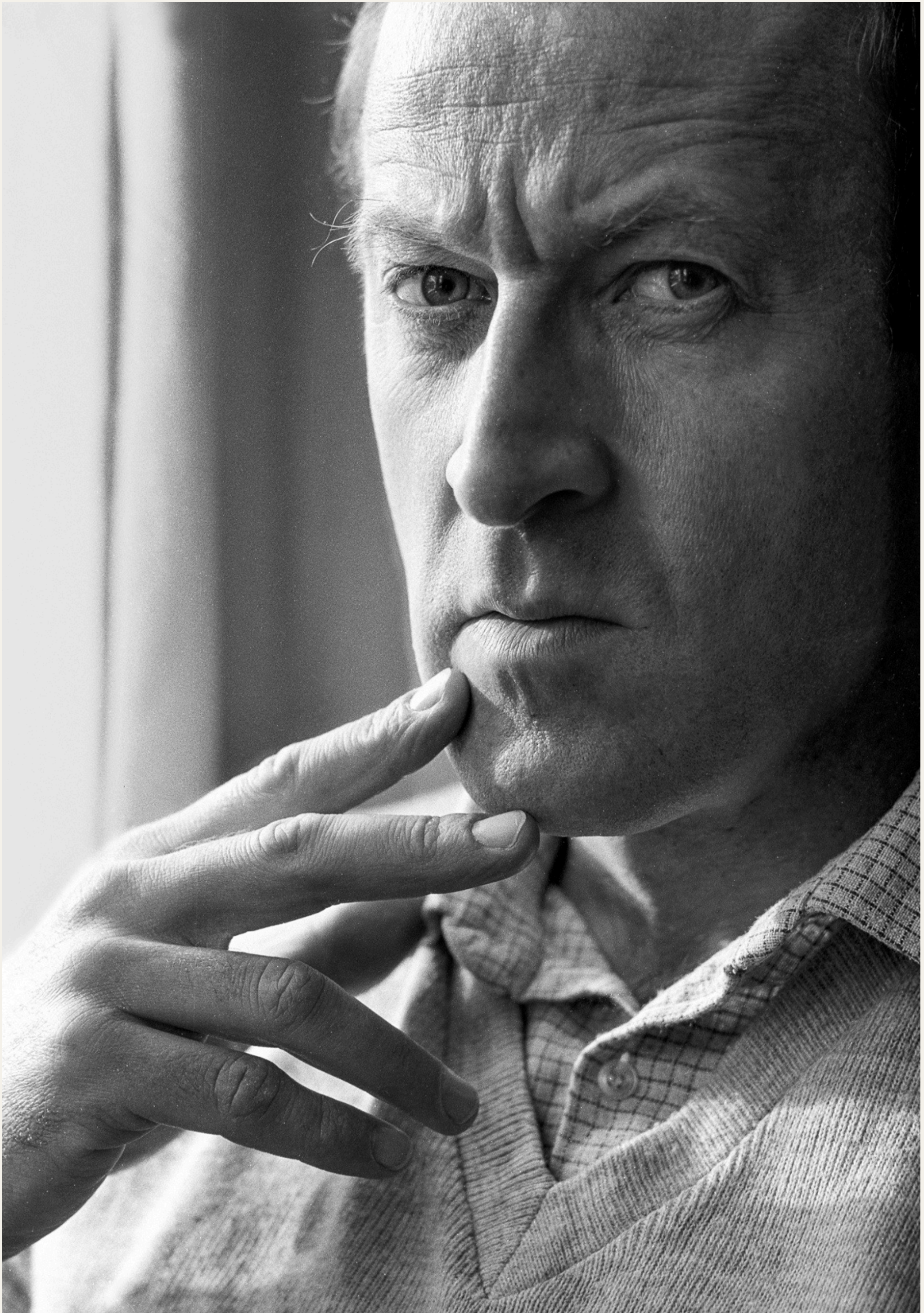
Edward Goldsmith



ENVIRONMENTALIST, PHILOSOPHER & AUTHOR · C. 1989

A towering pioneer of the modern green movement, Edward "Teddy" Goldsmith was the founding editor of *The Ecologist* and a radical systemic thinker who co-authored the visionary *A Blueprint for Survival* (1972). His deeply philosophical frameworks fundamentally challenged the post-war narrative of infinite industrial growth long before climate collapse became a mainstream political reality. Captured outdoors against a brilliantly backlit sky beside a weathered stone font, this portrait mirrors the expansive, deep-ecological perspective of a thinker dedicated to defending the biosphere from institutional extraction.

Bob Peck



ACTOR • ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY • C. 1987

Possessing a rare, magnetic intensity, Bob Peck was widely regarded as an actor's actor—a classical titan of the Royal Shakespeare Company who achieved enduring cultural significance as the lead in the BAFTA-winning BBC eco-thriller *Edge of Darkness* (1985) and later in *Jurassic Park* (1993). Peck's premature death in 1999 robbed British drama of one of its most profoundly grounded talents. This dramatic, low-angle portrait on a winding staircase encapsulates the brooding, intellectual power he brought to the stage and screen.

Sir David Attenborough



NATURAL HISTORIAN & BROADCASTER · C. 1987

Sir David Attenborough's contribution to science communication, broadcasting, and global ecological consciousness is entirely unparalleled. Through landmark natural history series like *Life on Earth* and *The Living World*, his voice became the definitive narrative thread connecting humanity to the fragile beauty of the natural planet. This striking, intimate close-up strips away the grand television backdrops to focus entirely on the warmth, wisdom, and enduring curiosity etched into the face of a global icon.

Alfred Molina



STAGE & SCREEN ACTOR · C. 1987

Celebrated for his extraordinary range and chameleonic versatility, Alfred Molina established himself as a vital force across British theatre and international film. From commanding performances with the Royal National Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Company to memorable early screen roles in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981) and *Prick Up Your Ears* (1987), Molina brings a striking physical and psychological depth to every character. Here, framed against a weathered urban doorway, he exudes a raw, grounded gravitas.

Desmond Hogan



SONGWRITER & NOVELIST & PLAYWRIGHT · C. 1986

A profoundly lyrical and iconoclastic voice in contemporary Irish literature, Desmond Hogan is celebrated for his evocative, fragmented explorations of diaspora, displacement, and marginalized lives in works like *The Ikon Maker* and *A Curious Street*. This atmospheric portrait—set in a room illuminated by candlelight, surrounded by a collage of manuscripts and ephemera—perfectly mirrors the intense, haunting, and deeply memory-driven texture of Hogan’s singular literary worlds

Kerry Trengrove



CONCEPTUAL ARTIST & RADICAL COMPOSITION · C. 1986

Kerry Trengrove was a highly influential, radical British conceptual and performance artist whose deeply political installations directly challenged institutional power, state control, and physical confinement—most famously in his endurance piece *An Eight Day Passage* (1977). Trengrove's tragic passing in 1991 at the age of 45 makes early archival documents of his practice exceptionally rare. This haunting, chiaroscuro portrait frames the artist looking upward toward a singular circular skylight, an architectural metaphor that beautifully echoes his lifelong creative interrogation of freedom and restriction.

The Pogues



MUSICIANS & ICONOCLASTS · C. 1987

Blending traditional Irish instrumentation with the feral energy of punk rock, The Pogues subverted the landscape of folk and popular music in post-war Britain. Led by the brilliant, poetic lyricism of Shane MacGowan (who passed away in 2023), the band gave voice to the displaced Anglo-Irish diaspora with an unvarnished, anti-authoritarian romanticism. This group portrait captures the collective, volatile chemistry of a band operating at the absolute height of their cultural and musical relevance.

