

ASIAN Photography

JUNE 2008

Inside AP
Cover Contest

ASIA-PACIFIC EDITION

PRO PROFILE

Hans Hendriksen

TIPS & TECHS

A Taste of JAVA

Digital SLR Basics

Shooting Themes

ISSN 0972-9410



9 770972 941007

www.asianphotographyvasean.com

JUNE 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

NEWS

- 04 Adobe Unveils Acrobat 9 Software
- 05 Kodak Introduces Its Thermal Dry Lab System - APEX
- 06 HP DreamColor Technologies Enter the Fray
- 07 Canon Launches PIXMA iP100 for mobile printing

FOCUS

- 08 The Network Attached Storage (NAS) Option

TIPS & TECHS

- 30 Shooting themes – connecting the unconnected objects
- 34 Creating Slideshows
- 38 Digital SLR Basics – Creative Scene Modes
- 44 Compositional Rules
- 50 Easy as Ponit-n'-Shoots
- 56 Learning Photoshop

REVIEWS

- 60 Samsung NV20

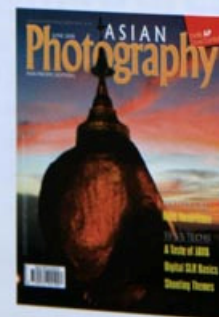


Image: Hans Hendriksen
Cover Design: Shrihari Billa

24



a taste of
Java

Pro
Profile

14

Professional
Photographers

must never shoot through the eyes of customers



- Hans Hendriksen

Professional Photographers

must never shoot through the eyes of customers



- Hans Hendriksen

In the past 18 years, Dutch photographer Hans Hendriksen has extensively covered the continents of Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe. Interestingly, Hans held a day job like most people and went on photography trips only on holidays from work. As many people passionate about the art, Hans has never looked at photography as his main source of sustenance. His journeys bear a philosophical element as he travels the world to find his identity and discover himself.

In the past 18 years, Dutch photographer Hans Hendriksen has extensively covered the continents of Asia, Africa, Americas and Europe. Interestingly, Hans held a day job like most people and went on photography trips only on holidays from work. As many people passionate about the art Hans has never looked at photography as his main source of sustenance. His journeys bear a philosophical element as he travels the world to find his identity and discover himself.

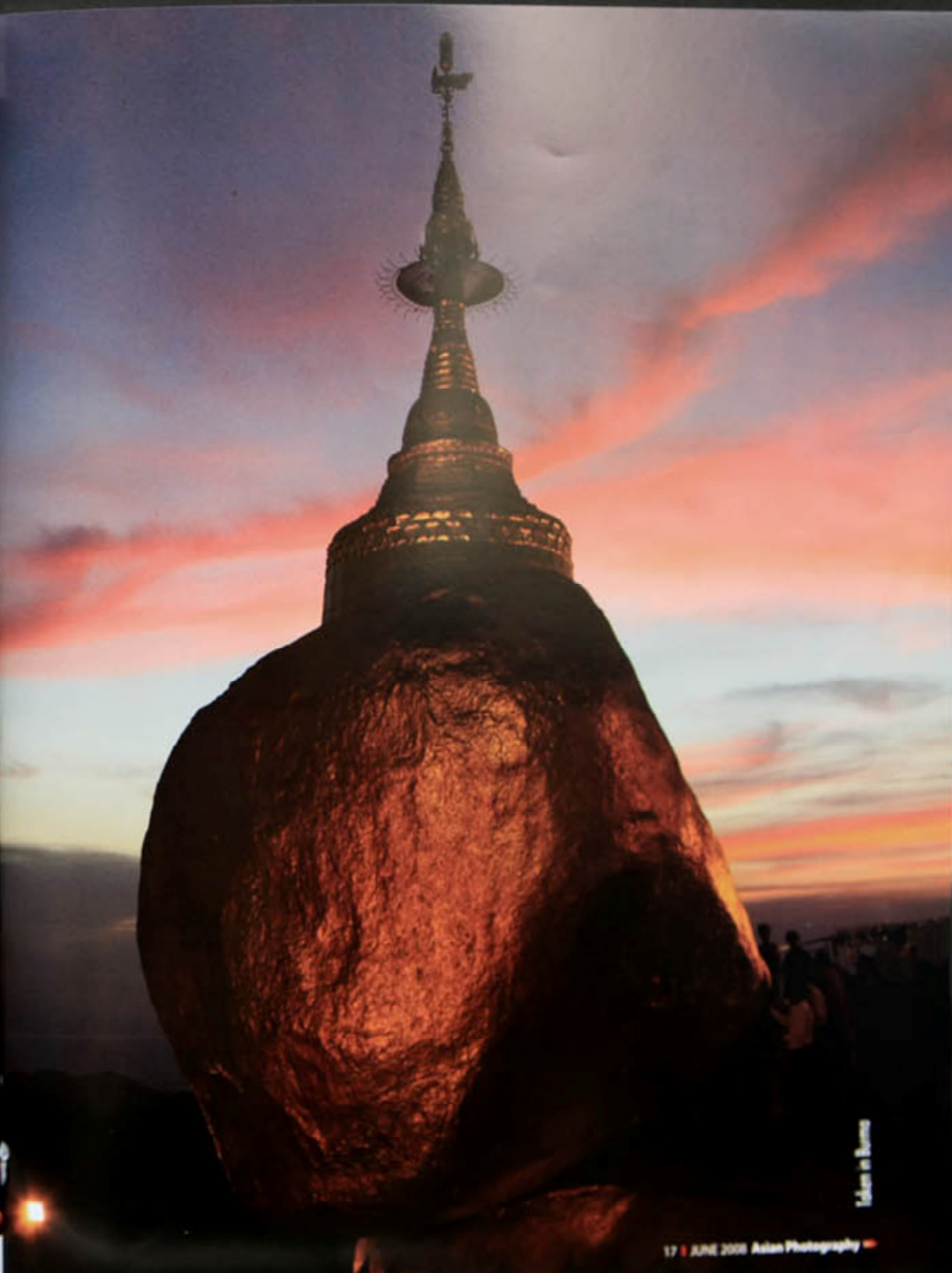
Could you tell the readers about yourself?

I was born in the Netherlands in 1957 and became addicted to travel from the moment I made my first trip by airplane to the Spanish island of Mallorca at the age of 15. In 1990, I began to take pictures while travelling. From that period I have travelled through Asia, South and Middle America or Africa every year. Soon travel photography became my deepest passion in life. I taught myself photography by continuously trying to raise my quality. I prefer to shoot colourful scenes which take place in daily-life. In 2007, I started-up my own travel photography company. My main occupation is an account manager for a Dutch company that supplies systems for the railway infrastructure. I never got married but I do have a girlfriend. We live together in the eastern part of the Netherlands. My other hobbies are driving motorcycles and playing piano.

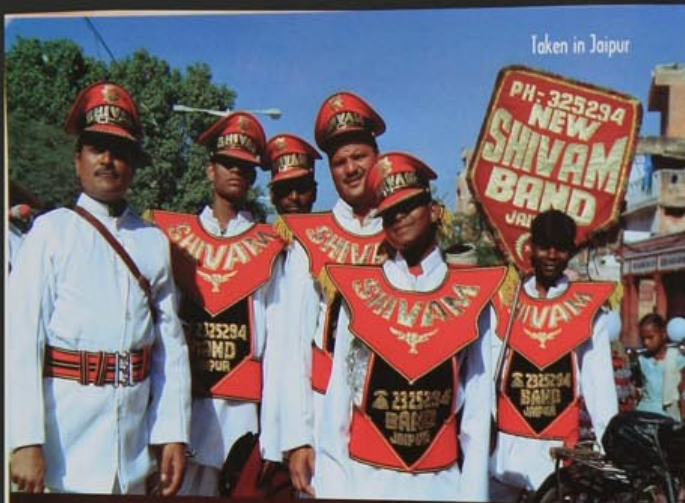
Do you pursue photography as an interest? Or have you taken things further?

You cannot call it a hobby anymore because I photograph as a professional using the best professional equipment like the EOS1Ds Mark III. However, travel photography will always stay as my second profession. By keeping your biggest passion as a second profession you will never have to look through the eyes of your customers. I never have to ask myself "will I ever sell this image?" This way you can work without pressure and follow your heart. You are always free to shoot the things that you find

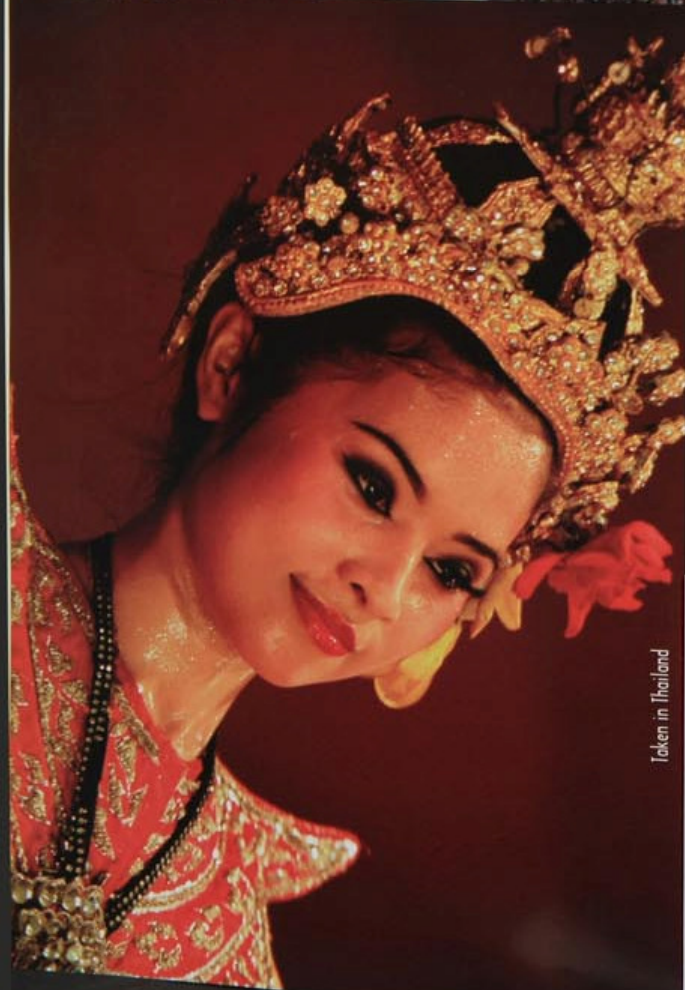
Taken in Burma



Taken in Burma



Taken in Jaipur



Taken in Thailand

impressive. It does not matter if people are not interested to buy your images. I think this is the best way to develop your own personal, independent style and will keep you hungry for more.

With a day job in the railway industry, when do you make time for these trips?

Fortunately the working conditions are extremely good in my country. Per year, we have over seven weeks holiday which makes it easy to make 2 trips every year.



Taken in Mexico

When did the idea of undertaking this continent-spanning journey germinate in your mind?

I started to make travels to far-away destinations from 1990. I minimise my homework before leaving because all you will read is a personal view or opinion. To keep an open-mind you should not read too much about a country. The only thing I plan carefully is the travel route and the festivals or special events that I can put in my schedule. In the plane, I start to read the Lonely Planet or other travel books.

Have you travelled to all these places by yourself or with companions? (Even someone like a translator to help you with the local language)

As a rule my girlfriend joins me on my travels. Only the last trip to Burma in March this year I had to go alone. She did not wish to come there for political reasons. I heard that Burma is hell for the people who live there but surely it is a paradise for travel photographers so I just had to go there. To avoid translation problems, I always arrange drivers who speak sufficient English.

You describe travelling as a means to discovering your identity. Could you elaborate your personal philosophy?

I think the experiences you make while travelling forces you to think about the way other people live and what their personal, religious and cultural values are. When you are really interested in other cultures you will often be forced to determine your point of view about the things you encounter. During my travels I constantly have to review my opinions and also learn more about my-



self. Furthermore I think the best way to find your identity is when you are in very deep trouble and your world seems to collapse: stolen passports and flight tickets in Mongolia, or a bag with all my films left in a Mexico City taxi can make this happen.

How would you feel if you had to travel to a foreign country without a camera?

If I did, I would feel as if I was there for my company's work. I never use my business trips to shoot travel photographs. I am convinced; it will have a very bad influence on my sales work as well as on my travel photography.

What moods and emotions do you try to capture in your photographs?

I respect all people, no matter who or where they are and will try to capture the emotions belonging to a situation at a specific moment. This could be sad, happy, crazy or even angry emotions. I think that the best possibilities to catch emotions in travel photographs will occur when people are not aware of your presence. I often try to make myself more or less invisible.

Travel photography seems like a very personal journey for you, have you held exhibitions to expose people to your work?

You are right. For me travel photography is a very personal journey. I held a few expositions in the Netherlands but since 2003 the best way to share my most special travel moments with other people on a worldwide basis is my homepage www.hanshendriksen.net. The shown photographs are 100% identical to the image I saw through the viewfinder of my camera. This means that I never partially enhance, crop, flip, cut or paste my images. It may be an old-fashioned vision but I will always stick to it.

You have mostly chosen to travel to developing countries, why is that?

FREE AT LAST

Taken in Swaziland



Taken in Denmark



Taken in Mongolia



I think all western cultures look a little bit the same, specifically the street life. Good travel photography is all about authentic people. I like to photograph people in daily-life situations which are far more easy and colourful in developing countries.

Do you find the people in these countries more approachable and more alive?

Except for South America this is certainly true. The Indian people there



Taken in Russia

hate photographers because they are convinced their soul will be stolen the moment someone takes a picture of them. Living and working in developing countries is very hard and mostly takes place outside, in the streets. For western eyes, the people there indeed look more alive, more emotional and more authentic.

How many trips do you make in a year?

I only travel for 3-4 weeks per trip.

Mostly I plan one or two trips every year.

Your work reveals that it is the people that reside in a place that fascinate you more than the place itself.

I find photographs of landscapes, cities or houses rather boring and dead. They can be beautiful but for me only if people or animals can bring emotion into a photograph and always bring added value to the image.

Australia and Antarctica are the only continents you have not been to, do you plan to visit these places too?

Australia and Antarctica are all about nature which is not my favourite genre. A people photographer will not find interesting moments there. But I realise this is not based on personal experiences so I will also visit these continents in future if I can. The next places I plan to go to are Mali in Africa and East India.

- GAUTAM KAGALWALA