People, Stories & Dance

...in words and pictures



by Ivan Gaal

Introduction

I was a professional photographer and filmmaker, but on many occasions I saw myself simply as a person with a camera.
The camera has always been a form of expression for me. It allowed me to extend myself and to discover more about people, their stories, their interests in life, and their interaction with me, and with their environment.
The camera also made me a better person in my own life.
It helped me to take more interest in my environment and learn about the people who live within it.
It has always been an extension of my personality.
My aim is to share my love of photography and to inspire others.
The photos in this book formed a solo exhibition at the Arts Centre in Warburton, Victoria for three months in 2016/17. They represent my work spanning over 40 years.



Photo Nigel Buesst

All special effects photography were achieved in the camera at the time of exposure or created in the darkroom later.
The only print which is digitally altered is "Joe Bolza-Mime Artist."

Quotes are from the book
ZEN in the ART of PHOTOGRADHY
by Robert Leverant
Images Press-Berkeley
1969

Many thanks to all the people who helped me with the exhibition and putting this book together, especially Cathy Gaal, Paul Colcheedas, John Bodin and the participants appearing in the photos.
Happy shooting!

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Foreword

Filmmaker and photographer, Ivan Gaal, and I met as work colleagues during the 1970s, at the Department of Education, Victoria, and in Fitzroy North as neighbours. He has created iconic films and photographs that give a visual social commentary on Australia's history for almost forty years. As an educational film-maker he created visual stories in the Department's Audio-Visual Education Centre (AVEC) and made independent films too which provided opportunities to educate society.

Ivan and I collaborated on the film Ibrahim during 1983 and 1984. Funded by the Victorian Government's 150th Anniversary, Multicultural and Equal Opportunity Committee, Ivan made a special film which showed firstly how school age children arriving as refugees from war torn countries (in this era it was from Lebanon) were traumatised by their dangerous experiences which continued to affect them in Australia. Secondly it revealed the positive changes in Ibrahim's life which included him thriving in the Department's multicultural language support programs. Ibrahim was a significant film when it was made and its subject matter was part of Ivan's life story too as he came to Australia in 1957 as a nineteen-year-old Hungarian refugee, from an equally troubled country.

The beautifully crafted and culturally significant film Ibrahim unsurprisingly won two Australian Teachers of Media (ATOM) awards and international attention. Many of the issues explored in Ibrahim in the 1980s are equally topical today. He made many other culturally significant films such as Camberwell Junction (1975), Jubilee and Beyond (1977), and No More Secrets (1988). Many of his films dated from the 1970s to 2016 are available from the ACMI Lending Collection and fifteen are on permanent display at ACMI Mediatheque. More recently I discovered that Ivan was a gifted photographer . Like his films, Ivan's portrait photography tells stories as each photograph depicts a moment in a person's life. He has described his creative photographic aim as trying to capture the 'soul' of the subject.

His photographs have won awards, including the Arts Centre, Warburton Visage 2014 Portrait Competition in Photography, and as a finalist in the 2013 and 2015 National Photographic Portrait Prize in Canberra, and the Duo Photographic Portrait Prize, 2016 in Townsville.

This book includes photographs Ivan presented at his recent exhibition, People, Stories and Dance, on show at the Arts Centre Warburton in 2016. One is of the late Ron Howard, a happily dancing ninety- nine-year old, which was a finalist in the National Photographic Portrait Prize. Others were of members of the 1970s' Pram Factory Collective, Carlton's radical live theatre, and of Margaret Lasica's Modern Dance Ensemble, depicting their mobile faces and lithe bodies. Like his movies these photographs show a diversity of society's characters and provide social commentary. Carefully chosen, these photographs depict Ivan's historical and contemporary commentary on Australian society by spanning forty years of his artistry.

Ivan's films and photographs tell us as much about him as they do about the people and the content he displays. Perhaps because he is a migrant he is always exploring Australian society to help him understand it and as an artist he is sharing his discoveries with a diversity of intergenerational audiences. We can also see his mastery of the changing technologies for creating films, videos, and photographs over time, combined with his visual literacy. Recently described as 'a poet of image and sound', by Adrian Martin, Monash University's Associate Professor of Film and Television, Ivan is justifiably proud to share his photographs with old and new audiences in this unique publication and I am honoured to write the book's foreword.*

By Dr Deborah Towns

- *Adrian Martin, 'Comment, Think, Analyse, Experience and Learn, The Neglected Film Work of Ivan Gaal', in Metro Magazine, No 176, Autumn, 2013,64*

Ronnie Howard Dancing

The late Ronnie Howard turned 99 years old in January 2015. For the last 33 years he was a well-known personality in the Warburton community in Victoria. His love of dancing and singing was always within him. Bill Howard, his late son, was a member of the Red Onion Jazz Band in the 1960s. I photographed him in front of the Mechanics Hall stage. He was instrumental in the restoration of the Hall, which had fallen into disrepair. As a further contribution, Ronnie donated a piano in 2006.

Finalist in Canberra in the
National Photographic Portrait Prize in 2014.



Ronnie Howard

Winner of Visage Portraite Competition - Photography

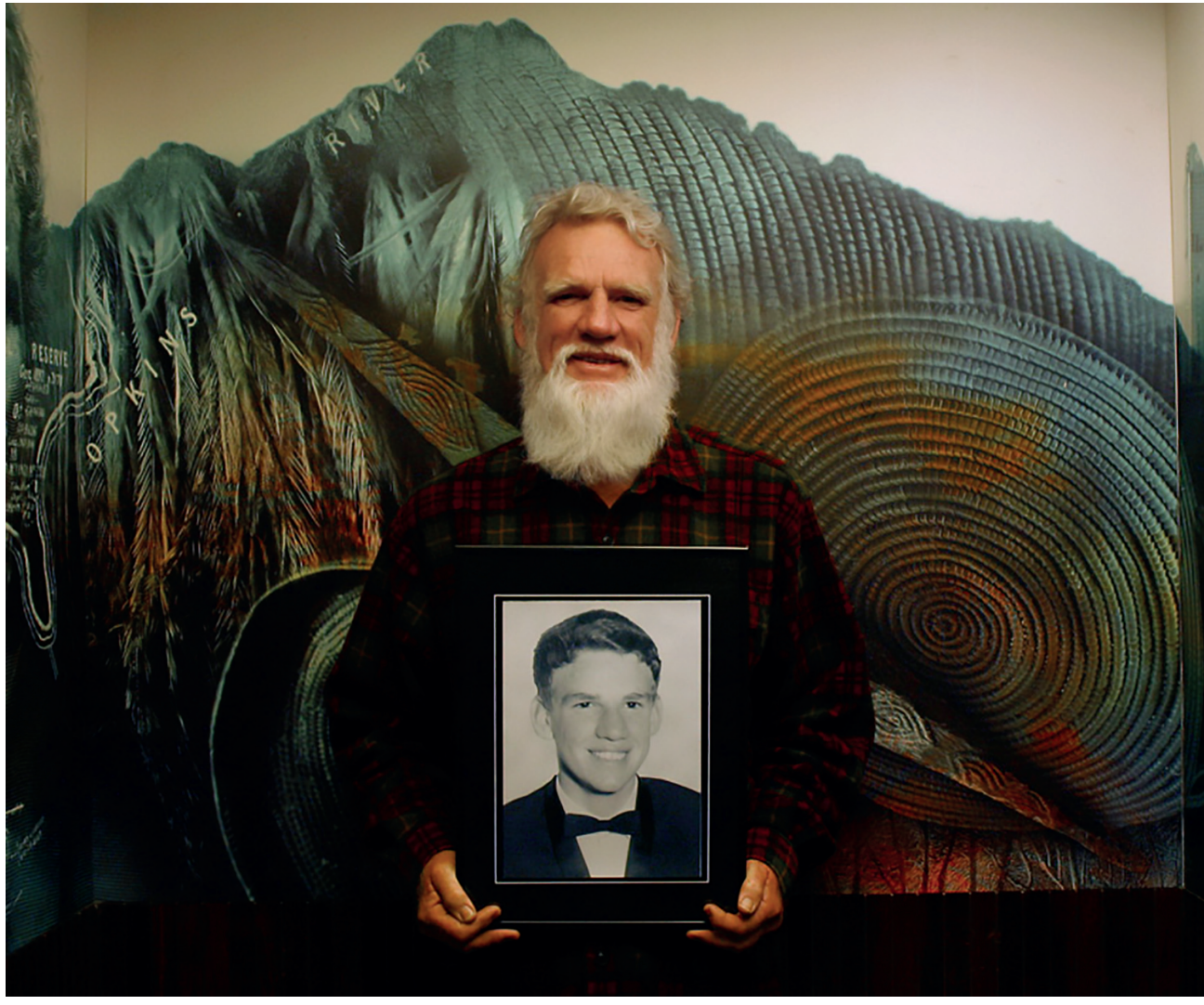
Upper Yarra Artisans



Bruce Pascoe

Bruce Pascoe is a writer, teacher and cricketer of Bunurong descent. I first met Bruce at the then Melbourne Secondary Teachers College when he was 18 years old. He was not aware of his Aboriginal heritage at that time. I followed Bruce's career in the media and his discovery of his past. I met him again 40 years later during the filming of a documentary.

Finalist in Canberra for National Photographic Portrait Prize in 2013.


RIVER
RESERVE

Gloria...my first girl friend in Australia,
photographed in 1960

"A camera is a means of communication as
strong as words, for the language is universal
and nothing is lost in translation."

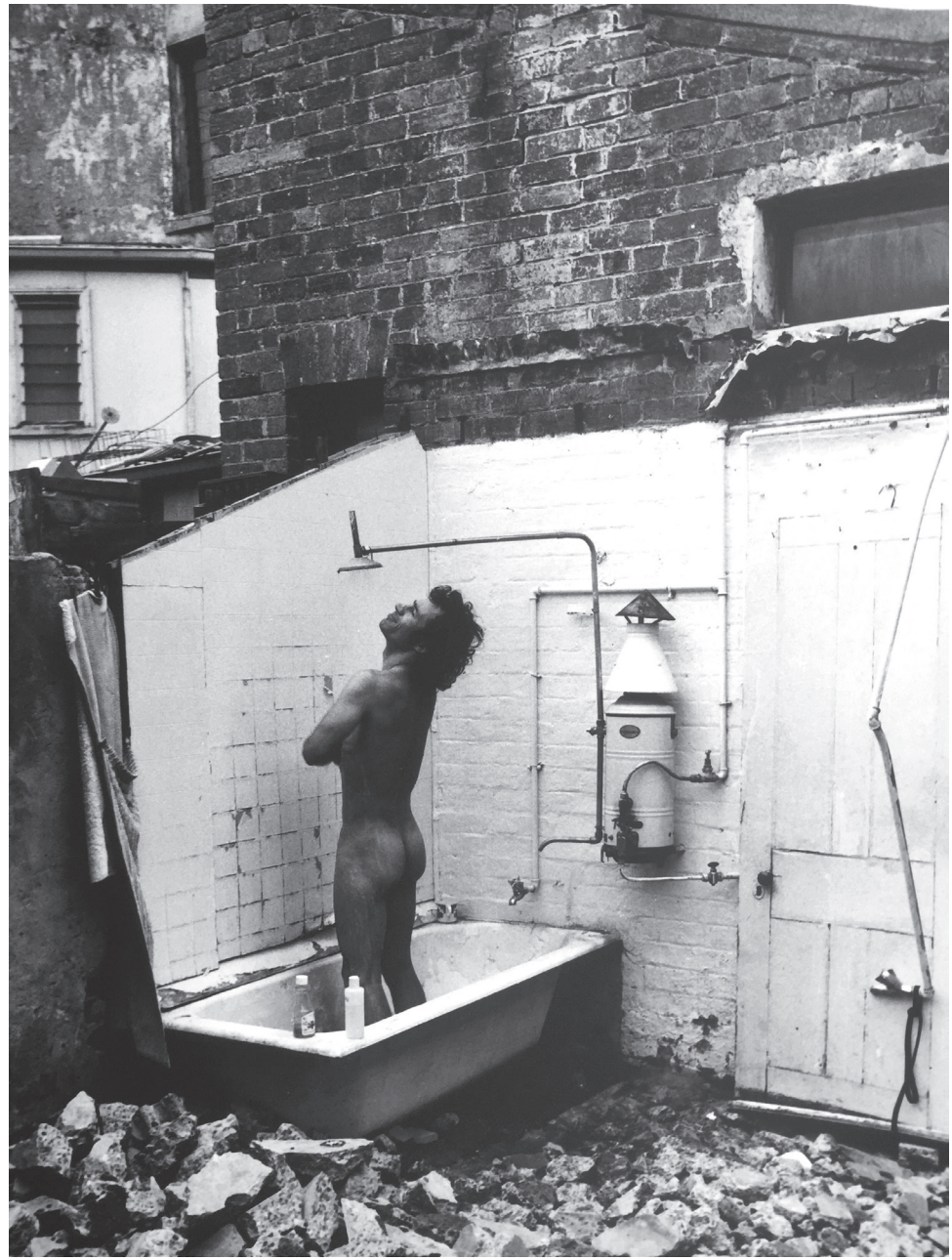


George Spartels

George was one of my students at the then Secondary Teachers College, Parkville, in the early 1970s.
My publicity photos and his talent helped him to get into a serious acting career.
After his over forty years in television dramas, on stage and in films, plus twenty years on Playschool, I am still very proud to be his friend today.

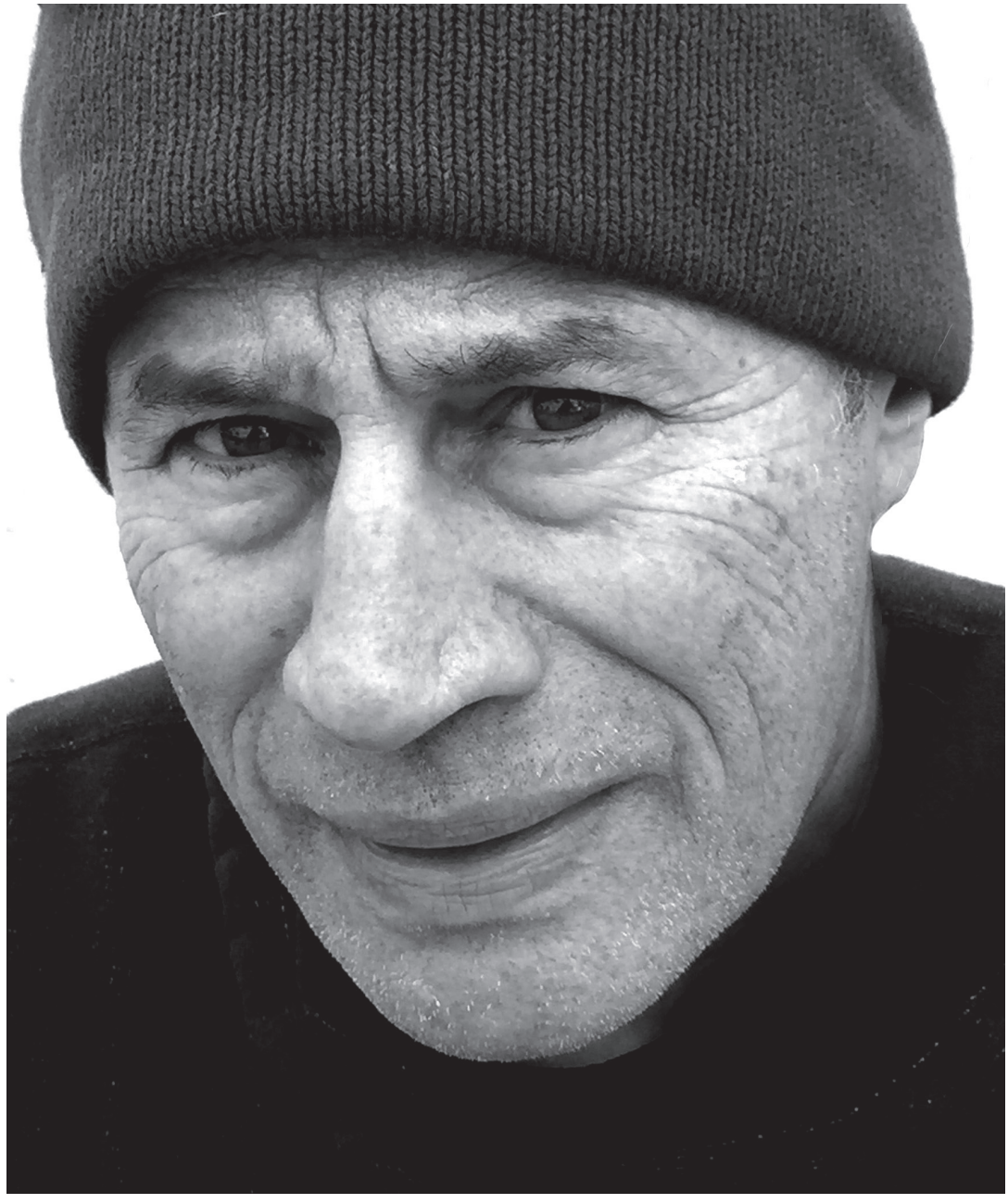


George was renovating his house in Carlton when I snapped this picture in the 1970s



George at the age of 69...where to now?

Finalist in Townsville in the Duo Magazine's
Portrait Prize competition in 2016.



A woman at a rock concert in the 1970s

I was fascinated by her mysterious look and unruly hair...

"Zen in the Art of Photography,
to discover the universe, we discover ourselves"



The Twins

I experimented with different lenses when I photographed these identical twins in the 1970s.



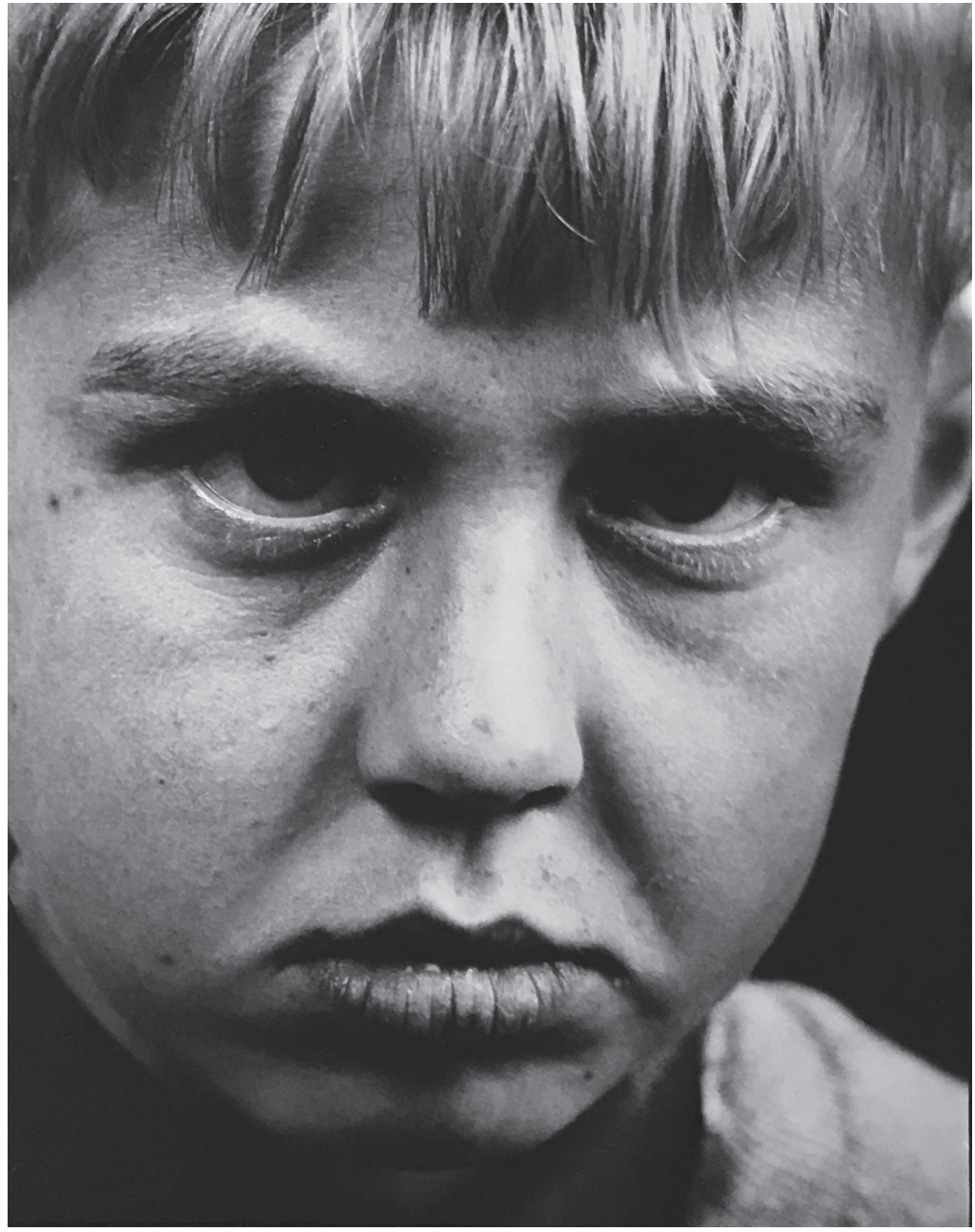
Doriano the Watchmaker

Doriano Pellegrino has been a watchmaker for fifty years.
He came from Tuscany, Italy in the 1960's. He feels that in this modern digital age he is one of the last few remaining experts of mechanical watches and clocks.



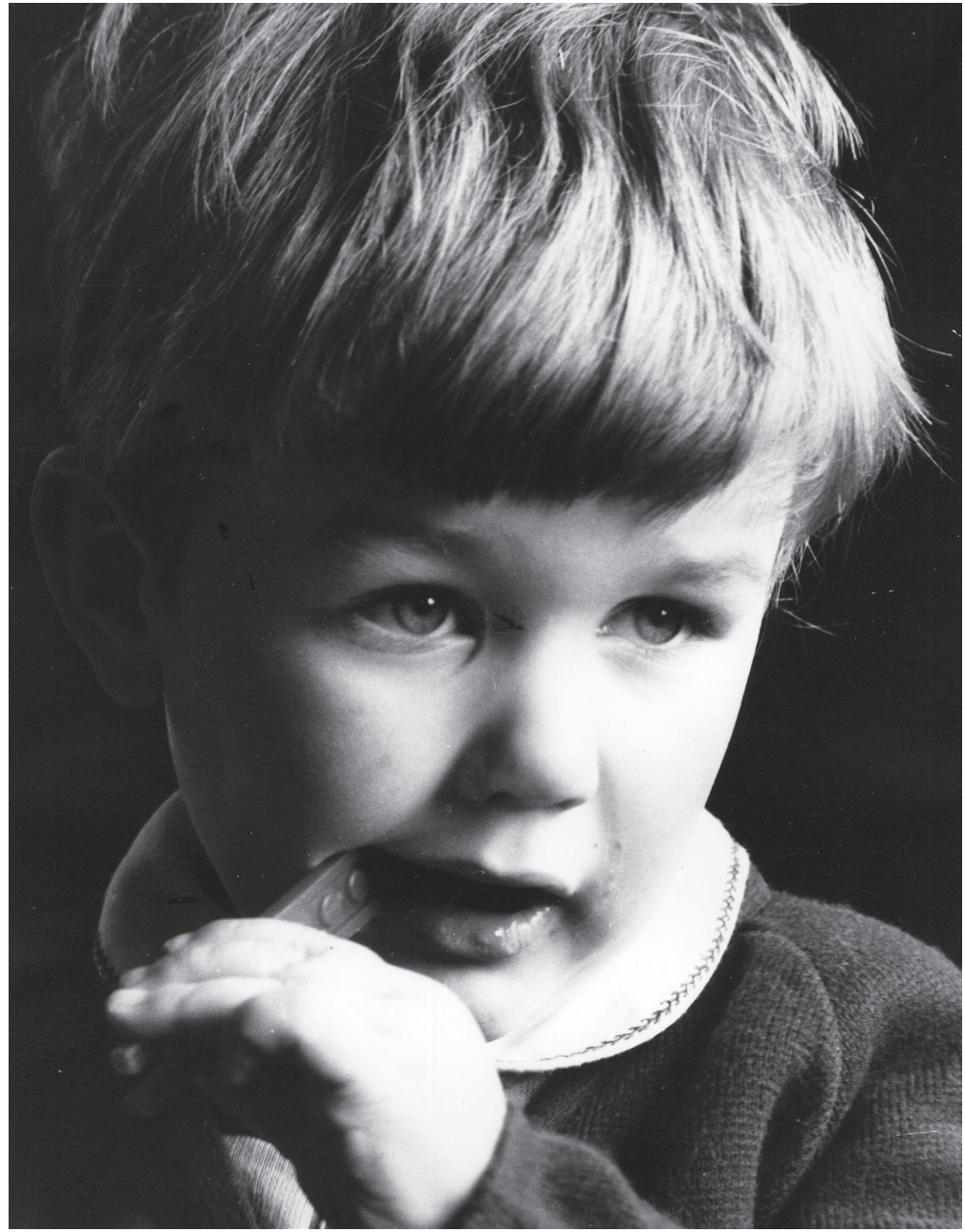
Child with Autism

In the late 1960's and 1970's in Australia, there was increasing awareness of Autism.
Through a friend, who had a child with Autism, I was involved in many awareness campaigns with my films and photography.
These were some of the photos used to create public awareness.



Child with Autism

"Tools are steps towards mastery"



Child with Autism

"Mastery is where nothing is mastered but ourselves.
That is our end"



Child with Autism

"The camera makes us aware of our differences"



Child with Autism

"We know we are light as we know the universe to be light"



My wife Cathy in the 1970s

I think that this is the best and most natural photograph I took of her during our over forty years of being partners.



Jack Burnett

My father-in-law at work listening to a mid week horse race...
He was a keen punter and the subject of my short documentary, 'The Punter'



I love you...



Cathy with our new born son Nicolas in 1980

"The camera is only an imtermediary between us
and a new us.
To repeat: we must be as receptive and
ready as our new equipment"



Our son Tomas with his dog, Bonnie



Cathy in a pensive mood



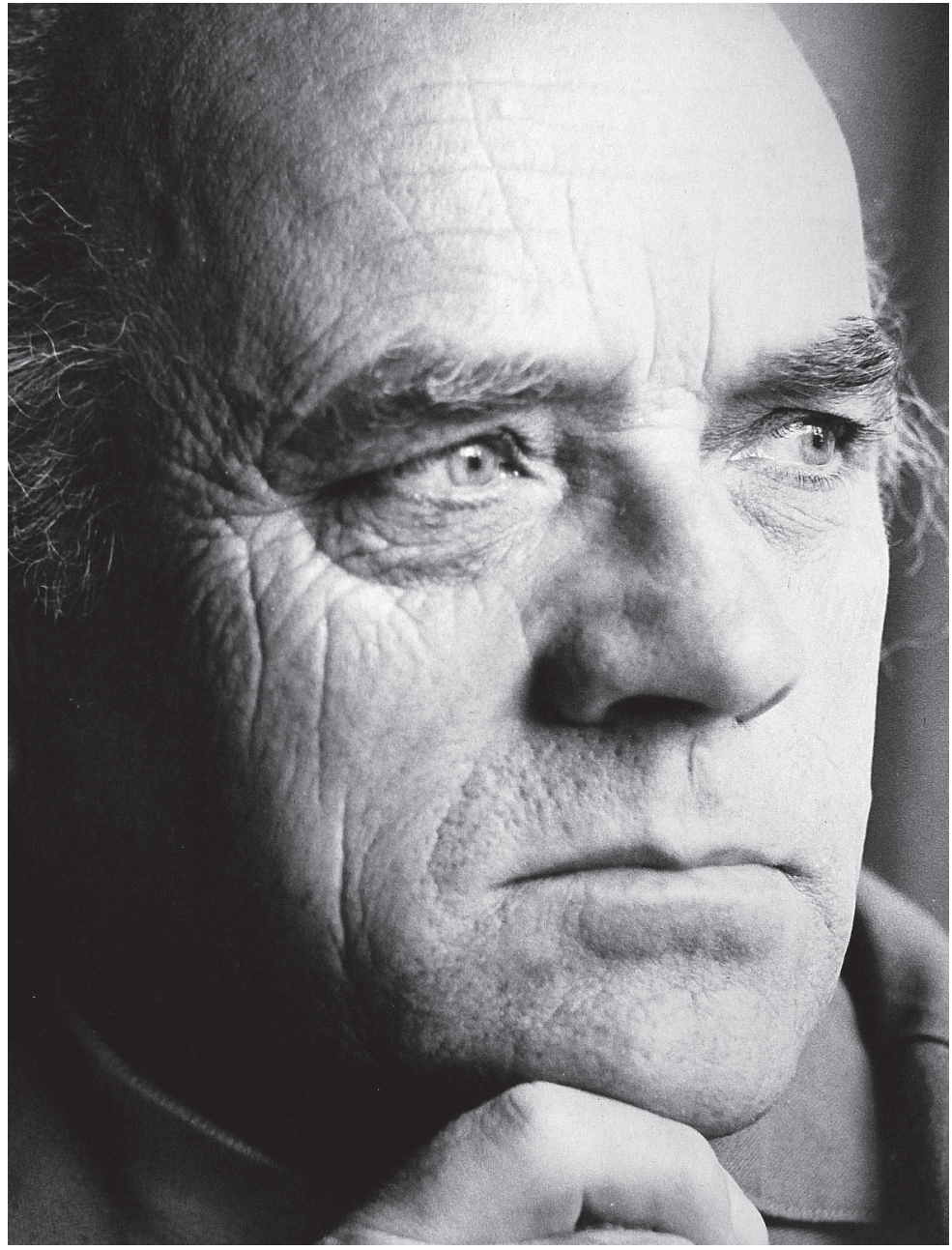
Author Alan Marshall Face to Face

I filmed several documentaries about his work and life and created this image of him.



Uncle Aladár

He was my friend, my mentor, my landlord and my dentist...
A great support to me in my early days in Melbourne in the 1960s.
Unfortunately he found it hard to assimilate in the new country and its culture. He mainly socialized in the Hungarian community.
I tried to capture that expression.



Uncle Choli Doreczi Jozef in Hungary

I met him at a Romani 'Gypsy' dance night in Budapest. He is a prominent leader of the Hungarian Romani community. He took a great interest in hearing about the Australian Aboriginal culture.



Sándor Mokos

My teacher in Hungary and my long time
friend in Australia.
For fifty years I have enjoyed his
special bean soup.

"The old masters used cameras so simple and so direct
they are not popular now."



My sister Udikó in Budapest

She is always happy...



Ayman in Budapest

Aymen, a Palestinian living and working in Budapest selling "on and off" bus tickets mainly to tourists from Israel. I asked him how he felt about that. He said that "Jews and Palestinians always got on well, the politicians cause all the trouble".


BAR
THE BAR
PREMIUM
SIGHTSEEING CRUISES
Budapest & Szentendre
queenyBUS
HOP ON HOP OFF
BUDAPEST BY NIGHT
Longest & most
+map inside
every
14
20
30
48
6000 HUF
stops
languages
minutes
hours ticket
English
Free drinks

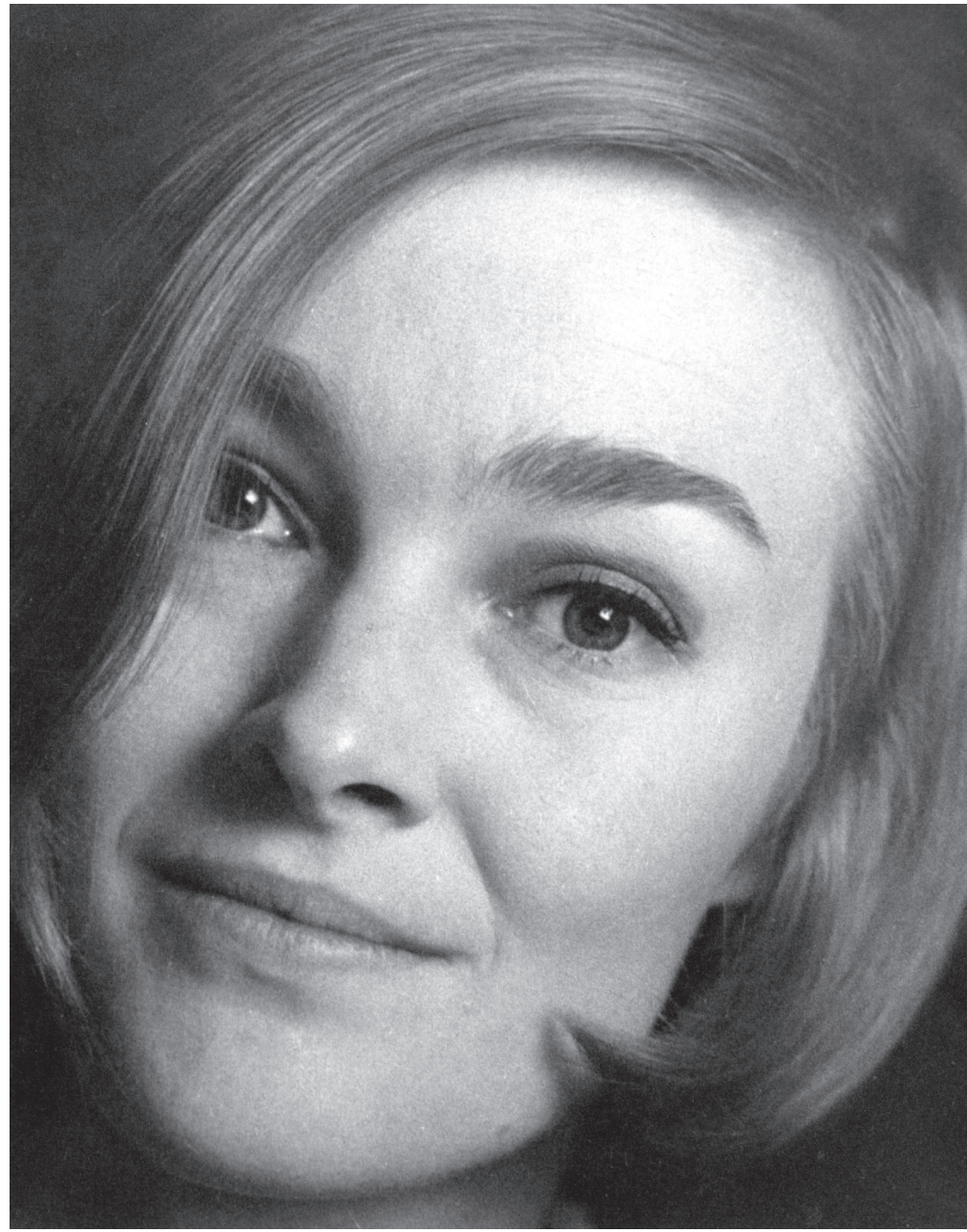
Fritz

Warburton's own local poet and sculptor

"We want ourselves out of the picture.
We want IT to speak. Not us."



Barbara in the 1970s

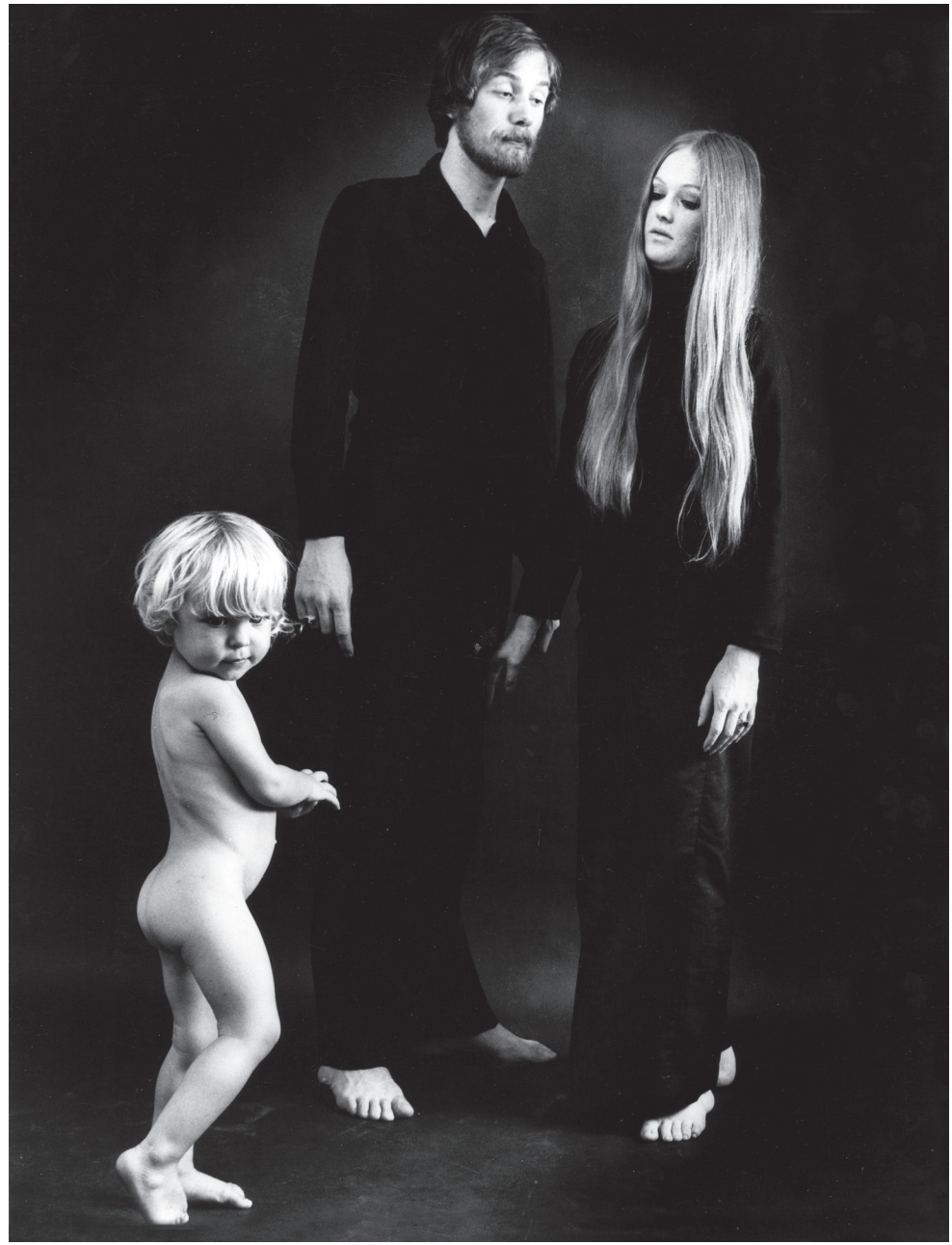


Franciscus Henri

Entertainer, composer, singer and children's song writer. With multi exposure in the camera I tried to capture his multi talents.



During a photo shoot with Franciscus and his wife Elizabeth, this little girl walked into the studio...



Alistair in his kiln

Warburton's Master Potter with one of his creations.



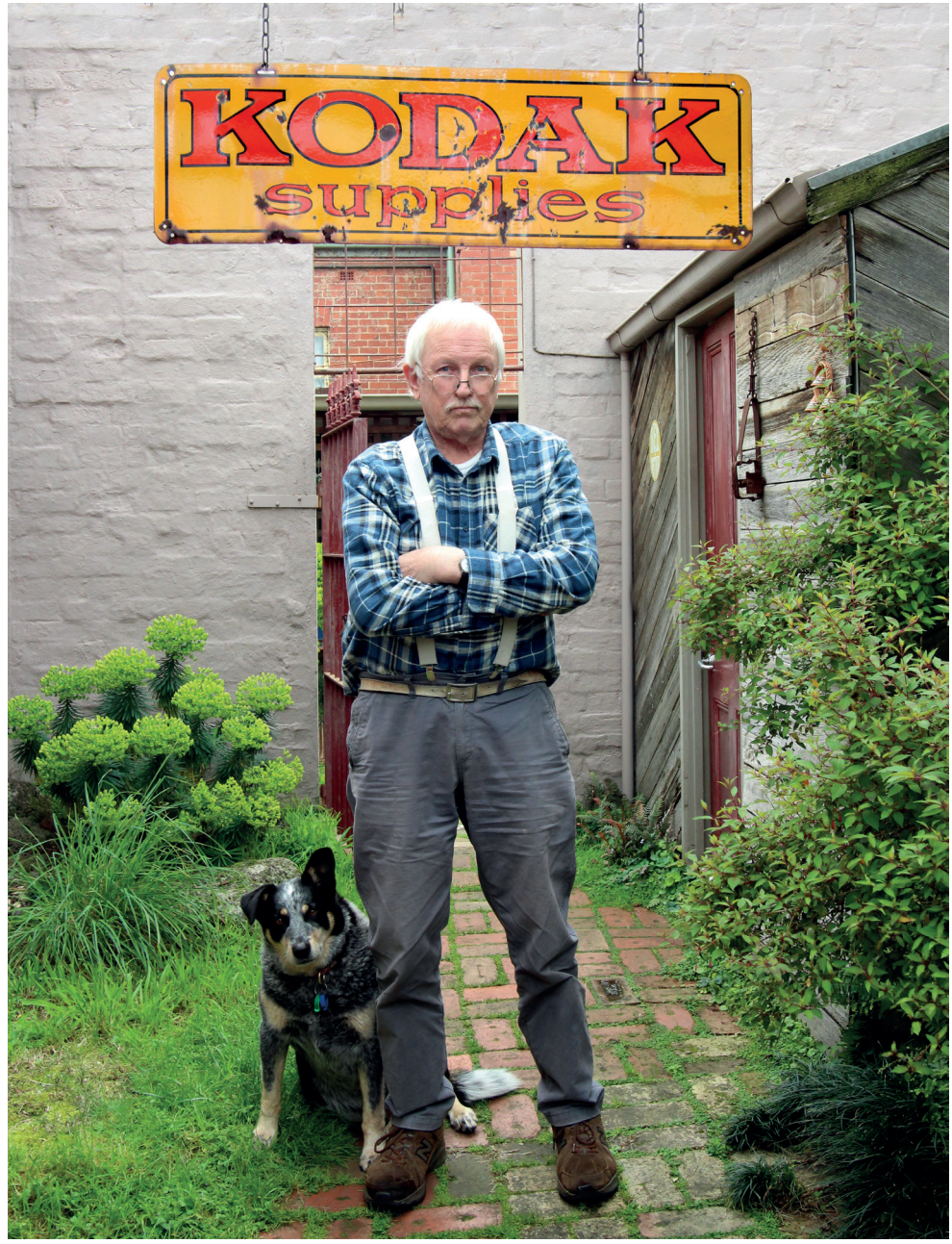
Mariko Whyte - also known as Mari-ko Firetwirler

Blessed with the creative background, her father being Master Potter, Alistair Whyte. She is a self taught Poi Firetwirler.



Nigel Buesst

Filmmaker, my lecturer at the Victorian College of the Arts Film and Television School, a mentor and a friend.


KODAK
supplies

Special Wedding photos for my Friends
I experimented with these images in the 1970s

"The internal with the external and the eternal"



The perfect match...



Brian Bogle

Television and radio announcer with the ABC in the 1960s.
He helped me to get rid of my "Footscray factory floor" accent.
He became my friend.


BRIAN BOGLE

Tony Todd and Ann

My long standing friend Tony in Melbourne with his girl friend in the 1960s.



Tony in Portobello Road London,
with his partner Elaine in 2006


PORTOBELLO
MARKET
ANTIQUES
NEW GOODS
FRUIT & VEG
NEW GOODS
FLEA MARKET
steely dan
heavy rollers '07

Friend, Historian and Social Scientist, **Dr Deborah Towns**, is dressed up as Marie Antionette, with **Mike Macaskill** her husband. Deborah is noted for dressing up for parties, and reflecting in her costumes her historical, international, and feminist interests.

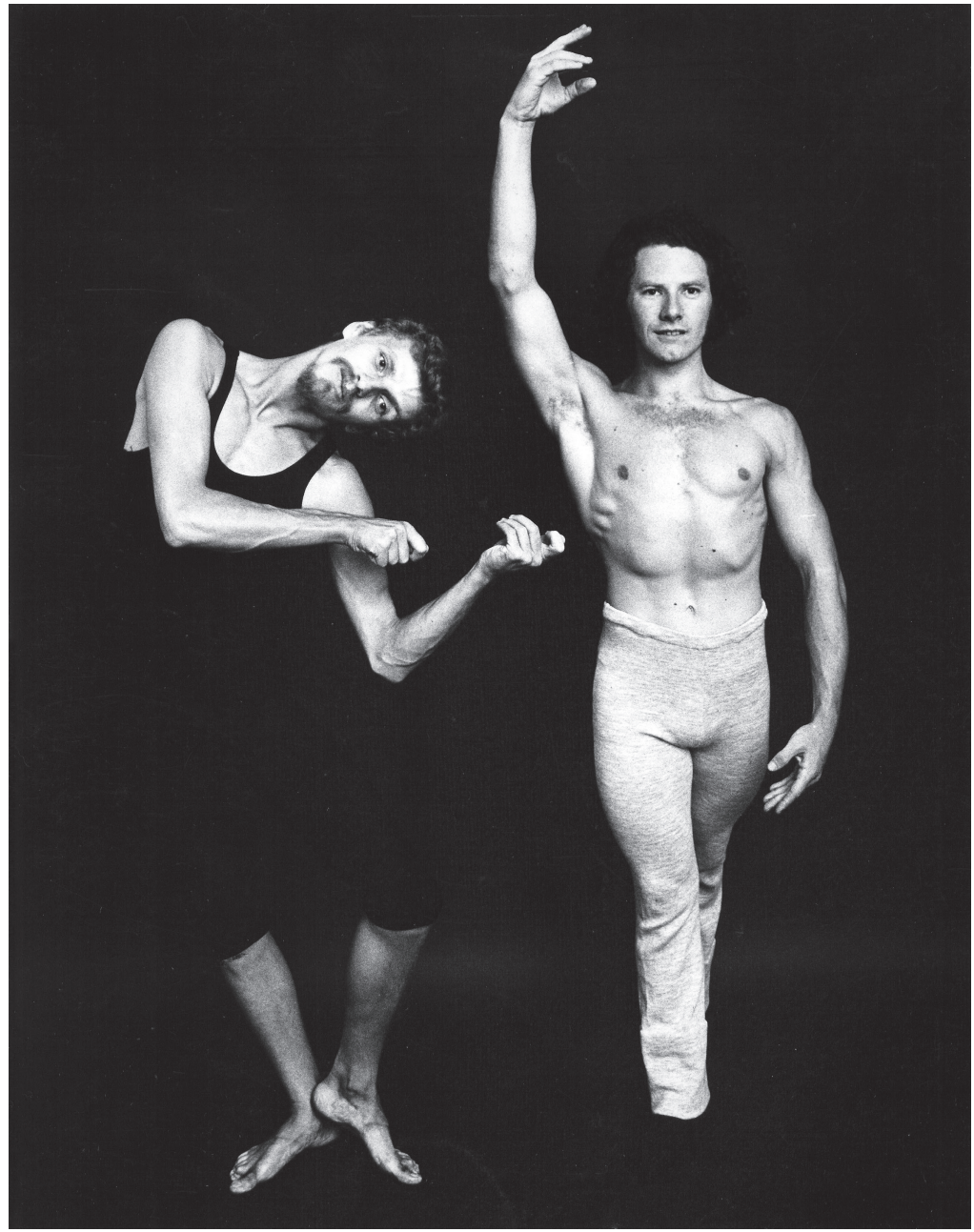


Maureen in the 1970s



A scene from the "Bob and Joe Show"

Joe Bolza and Bob Thorneycroft met while performing with Margaret Lasica's Modern Dance Ensemble at Melbourne University.
In 1970 Joe left Australia to study mime in Paris with Marcel Marceau and Etienne Decroux.
Bob studied dance at UCLA, New York, London and mime with Joe and Decroux in Paris.
On their return to Australia they joined the larrikin Australian Performing Group at the Pram Factory.
They created the "Bob and Joe Show" with extensive seasons at the Pram Factory in Carlton 1973-1975, and several festivals throughout Australia.

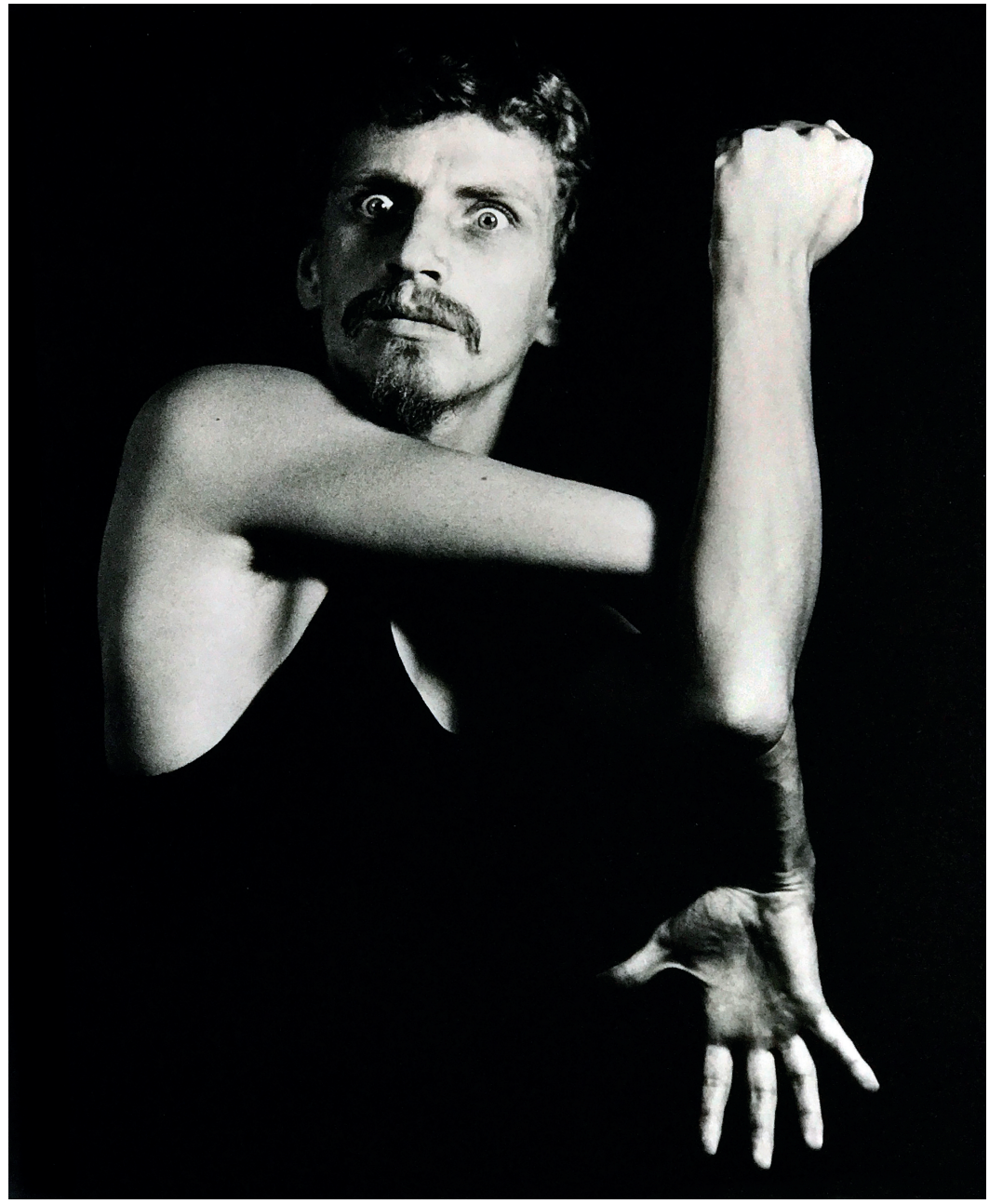


Joe Bolza and 'dancers'



Joe Bolza

"Spirit not flesh"



Joe Bolza - Pierrot character in "Love Story"
Modern Dance Ensemble,
Melbourne University Union Theatre in the 1970s


LOVE
STORY

Joe Bolza

"The camera is a means of communication as strong as words. stronger, for the language is universal and nothing is lost in translation."



Bob Thorneycroft for "Cityscape"
Performed for "Bob and Joe's Revenge"
Pram Factory 1974

"The pursuit of photography is also a pursuit of will, of making us masters of ourselves so that under any conditions, including sickness and fatigue, and under the fall of rain, snow, earthquakes, or sunshine, we can wield our instruments with the delicate lightning of a samurai"



Bob Thorneycroft in 'Mr.Bojangles'



Bob and Joe Show...'Dumpmaster'.

Pram Factory 1970s



"The Ritual" by Margaret Lasica

Modern Dance Ensemble 1972



Movement... Modern Dance Ensemble

performing with Dan Taggert



'Sequenta' by Margaret Lasica 1968,
with Dan Taggert amd Margot Ewert



My favourite dancer...
Modern Dance Ensemble

"What we focus on we become.
How we focus we become.
The message is the medium."



'Thou Shalt Not' by Margaret Lasica 1970

Joe Starr and Ken Stevens



Joe Bolza in an abstract mime piece,
'Hammerthrow', based on Etienne Decroux's
analysis of movement 1973



János Zoltán

Filmmaker, friend, and fellow countryman, made films about my life and achievements in Australia, so people will remember me...



The Old and New in Budapest

The Hilton was the first Western style hotel built in Socialist Hungary. It is next to the old Fisherman's Bastion on Castle Hill in Budapest, where I grew up.

I am in the centre of the two worlds...

"The medium is photography.
Photography is ourselves.
It is our world we are creating"

