

ONE EXHIBITION
NOT TO MISS



FLASH! NIGHT-TIME ADVENTURES WITH THE SPEED GRAPHIC

The Speed Graphic camera, used by the American Press of the 1940s and 50s, gave **Simon Davey** the starting point for an ambitious new project now showing in London

For Simon Davey, the energy and vibrancy of the American press photography of the 1940s and 50s was enough to inspire him to buy a Speed Graphic camera and emulate the style of the genre for his latest project.

The Speed Graphic was standard equipment for an American press photographer of the early part of the last century and produced a distinctive style of photograph that relied on lighting, composition and image quality.

Left **She, was a late arrival... he, wished he hadn't just made up his mind to leave the bar early**

Below **In sheer bliss**

Simon, being intrigued by night-life, worked on the project after dark, 'hanging around street corners waiting for something to happen'. He used authentic vintage magnesium flashbulbs, which provide a very powerful source of light, to capture amazing detail in his 'caught' shots.

Before taking each photograph a new flashbulb and wooden darkslide containing a 5x4in negative has to be inserted into the camera – so every shot has to count. Simon finds that using such a cumbersome and obtrusive camera forces him to photograph in a quicker and more deliberate way. Most of the people in his images did not know they were



This girl's dreaming... of being famous one day... but... tonight she'll be dancing for loose change, again



It's four in the morning and, as usual... this joint is buzzing. The cook's busy flipping burgers, he never says much... he lets his greasy food do all the talking



Calling long distance

being photographed until the flash went off, making their expressions and movements appear both spontaneous and realistic.

Simon's images are printed by hand in the darkroom on to

vintage photographic paper, giving them a truly authentic quality.

To see more of Simon's work visit:
simondaveyphotographs.com
or email sjdavey@hotmail.com

FLASH! NIGHT-TIME ADVENTURES WITH THE SPEED GRAPHIC

is on at **Artisan 80, 80 Harlesden Road, London NW10;**
020 8451 6315 / 07789 002 052 from 3 February to 3 March

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