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Birmingham Photographer Brian Griffin's Stunning Images to Wow New York

By Ruth Meredith

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He's the Birmingham photographer who is set to wow New York with a solo exhibition of his most stunning pictures.

Brian Griffin, 67, will showcase 75 evocative images at the world-famous Steven Kasher Gallery from later this month. The Capitalist Realism exhibition features powerful photos taken during Margaret Thatcher's time as Prime Minister, as well as stark scenes of the West Midlands industrial landscape.

Photographer-to-the stars Brian also has a long list of celeb portraits on his resume, including Paul McCartney, Iggy Pop, and Queen's Brian May. He called the New York show his "big break into the United States after years of dedication and hard work".

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Brian was born at Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1948 and grew up in Lye, just outside of Stourbridge, attending school in Halesowen. Yet he later quit a steady job to train as a photographer and a picture from 1974 called Rush Hour London Bridge set him on his way to fame and fortune. Brian said: "I left my job as a Pipework Engineering Estimator to go to Art School to study photography. My parents were distraught, as I had left a job that would have given me a secure lifestyle. "Obviously starting as a professional I was very nervous and not totally sure that I could make it in a most competitive field, therefore letting my parents down.

"However this photograph, taken after less than 18 months, convinced me that I was talented enough to succeed. It is most special to me and is now in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum." Yet it is not just photography that has won Brian admirers.

He was last in New York to shoot the Depeche Mode video, Only When I Love Myself. He has also published more than 20 books and is recognised as one of the key British photographers of the 70s and 80s. Brian said: "Growing up in the Black Country gave me a good work ethic which has enabled me to be driven to reach the top of my profession.

"The city has influenced me tremendously. The industrial side of the area influenced the look of my work, especially my early photography, including the factories, the smoke and the workers."

In 2003 Brian worked on Birmingham's bid to become European Capital City of Culture and was awarded a honorary doctorate from Birmingham City University in 2014 for his lifetime contribution to the city.