

Putting photos back on film

> British photographer Paul Gadd is offering photography fans a chance to return to the dark room and relearn the basics

BY BISSME S.

BRITISH photographer Paul Gadd is in Malaysia on a mission – to prevent film photography from being entirely swallowed up by the digital revolution.

Considering it as a “dying artform” in Malaysia, Gadd is attempting to give film photography a breath of fresh air by setting up The Print Room.

From this studio, this photographer intends to offer courses on film photography and processing of pictures in the dark room.

The Print Room, located in Petaling Jaya,



ANWAR FAIZ/THE SUN

will be officially opened on July 10.

Gadd points out that digital photography is making people less competent with their cameras.

He says photographers these days tend to spend more time in front of the computer smoothening out the weaknesses in the pictures they have taken, rather than creating better compositions on the set.

“They are becoming more of a graphic designer and less of a photographer,” says the 42-year-old, who has 15 years of experience in professional portrait and fashion photography.

“There’s so much art work in film photography compared with digital photography,” he declares.

He suggests that youngsters who are really interested in a photography career learn to use the manual camera first before moving on to a digital camera.

“I’m not against technology,” says Gadd who has been in and out of Malaysia over the last eight years. “But with a manual camera, you’ll have a better appreciation for photography.”

Gadd will, among other things, teach the history of photography to his students at The Print Room.

He said he would keep the fees as low as possible just to cover the cost of running the studio.

“I’m not out to make a profit,” he says. “I just want to re-introduce film photography to Malaysians.”

To subsidise the cost of operating The Print Room, Gadd will rent out space at the studio for events like photo exhibitions.

In conjunction with the opening of The Print Room, Gadd will also launch his photography book titled *People of Malaysia: Five Minutes*.

The book has more than 150 pictures, showcasing from ordinary Malaysians to famous politicians.

Among the well-known personalities in the book are former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad; Nurul Izzah Anwar, the daughter of Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim; film director Dain Said; and West End actor Sean Ghazi.

Fifteen of the best photographs from the book

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– Paul Gadd



will be exhibited at his studio. The exhibition will run till Aug 20.

“I chose to self-publish the book because I didn’t want anyone to say who should be in the book and who should be out,” he says.

Born in West London in 1968, Gadd was trained in fine arts at the Epson School Art & Design in London before pursuing a photography course at Swansea Institute.

Interestingly, he studied to be a sculptor and photography never crossed his mind then.

Since most of his sculptures were too big and too difficult to be moved from one place to another, he had to take photographs of his sculptures for his portfolio. It was then that he developed a passion for photography.

After his graduation in 1997, he entered the Catwalk Photographer of the Year Competition organised by *The Independent* newspaper. He emerged runner-up and immediately secured a job as a catwalk photographer.

His vivid and stunning images have been featured in various publications in London and Asia ever since.

A great believer in social causes, Gadd has contributed his photographs to institutions such as the National Cancer Society of Malaysia; Home of Peace, an orphanage in Kuala Lumpur; and Arts and Earth, an environmental awareness concern in Kuala Lumpur.

Spending most of his time between Seoul in South Korea and Kuala Lumpur, Gadd has also held several photo exhibitions in various parts of the world such as the United Kingdom and Spain as well as here.

He says people have the misconception that photography is very easy.

On the contrary, he adds, only skilled and experienced photographers can take really good pictures.

“I’ve also heard people say it’s easy to study art because all you have to do is draw. But the reality is a lot of people drop out of art college simply because they cannot cope with the subject,” says Gadd.



Excerpts from Five Minutes



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

“I am proud that during my time as prime minister, the country was stable, there were no racial outbreaks and there were no confrontations. And as a father, I was very proud when my first child was born. The only regret I have is that I couldn’t finish my work as prime minister.”



Mahjong Guys

“There’s nothing much to do here. So, all we do is play mahjong. It’s when we meet old friends and talk about our family. It’s how we pass our time. Nothing else we can ask for!”



Som Awang Mat

“I was the first woman to start this village (Kampung Jaya Gadin in Pahang) I now live in. My late husband and I arrived here to start a family and a place to call home... we chopped down the trees, built houses, grew vegetables and started our family in this village. Today, eight of my nine children still live here in their own houses. I am glad that they are all still living near me.”

First class treat for Domino’s fans

DOMINO’S Pizza believes in rewarding its loyal customers. On June 8 and 9, they treated more than 40 of its loyal customers to Platinum-class tickets to the movie, *X-men: First Class*, at Cathay Cineplex at e@curve.

These loyal customers, who Domino’s referred to as its Super Fans, were identified through their ordering records.

One of them, 14-year-old student Mohd Fayzal Mohd Nadzir, said he first tried Domino’s Pizza about two years ago after seeing a promotional flyer. Since then, he has been ordering pizza at least two to three times a week. His favourite choice is the beef pepperoni pizza.

“I enjoy the taste and I especially like the toppings,” he says. “My

brother also enjoys Domino’s so I would order for both of us. We prefer Domino’s Pizza because of the taste and they deliver within 30 minutes.

“I was delighted to find out that I was one of Domino’s Super Fans! I was invited to watch *X-Men: First Class* and I really enjoyed the whole experience. I was also happy to get free pizza vouchers and coupons.”

Equally happy was 23-year-old Hiba Farah Mohamed from Sudan who is studying biotechnology at one of the local universities in Kuala Lumpur.

It was her sister Enas, 25, who first introduced her to Domino’s pizza.

“I like the crust and their fast delivery,” says Hiba who spends

about RM400 a month on Domino’s pizza.

Another faithful customer is Shaban Abazi, 25, from Kosovo, who is pursuing a Master’s degree in information technology.

He first tried Domino’s when he found a discount voucher for it five years ago. Since then, he has been ordering Domino’s twice a week.

“I like Domino’s because they always give discount vouchers,” he says.

In collaboration with the summer blockbuster *X-Men: First Class*, Domino’s Pizza also launched a new premium range of First Class Pizzas, comprising the tuna extreme, the chicken perfection and the prawn passion. – Bissme S.



Domino’s Super Fans all set for the *X-Men* movie.