



**Masters of Jazz: Unseen portraits**  
**Photographs by Jamie Hodgson**  
**16 December 2005 – 28 January 2006**  
**Monday – Saturday 10.00am – 11.00pm · Admission free**

**Now available for hire**

A major exhibition of previously unpublished photographs of jazz legends of the 1950s and 60s opens at the National Theatre on Friday 16 December. The collection includes over 40 highly evocative, black and white photographs of luminaries such as Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Lionel Hampton and Jimmy Rushing. Most were taken during live London performances and capture the immediacy and spontaneity of the jazz movement. They range from a series of photos of the exuberant Velma Middleton performing with Louis Armstrong to a dynamic action shot of the legendary Barrett Deems, who many consider to be the fastest drummer of all time.

Hodgson's photos also reveal some private offstage moments including a pensive Dizzy Gillespie playing chess and a candid shot of Ella Fitzgerald before a *Sunday Night at the London Palladium* performance. Hodgson recalls: "She was very upset at the time I took that photograph, because they wouldn't allow Oscar Peterson onstage to accompany her due to the unions' regulations." One of the most distinctive photographs is a 1970 shot of a melancholy Louis Armstrong – the last picture Hodgson took of Satchmo before his death in 1971. The illustrious musician was unquestionably Hodgson's favourite subject: "He was a wonderful musician and a very humble man – probably the most humble famous person that I've ever met."

Hodgson's photographs not only demonstrate his great skill at capturing the moment but also convey his pure passion for jazz. He started photographing the jazz legends without payment or commission but simply because he loved the music. Coupled with his fascinating first-hand anecdotes, his work evokes a golden era and offers a rare glimpse of these jazz giants.

**JAMIE HODGSON** started his career in photography with an architectural and commercial company, following the end of his national service in 1950. After freelancing in fashion photography, he worked at Studio Lisa, Transatlantic News Features and Mayflower Studios, where he concentrated on fashion, advertising and photographing TV personalities, including show business luminaries Frankie Howerd,

The Crazy Gang, Harry Secombe, the Ted Heath Band and the Louis Armstrong All Stars.

In 1956, he set up his Kinnerton Street studio in Knightsbridge, where he photographed most of the models of the day, such as Jean Shrimpton, Tania Mallet and Sandra Paul (now Howard). He also added children's fashion and aerial photography to his repertoire. Meanwhile, for his own interest, he continued taking pictures of the jazz giants and their performances.

#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

- This exhibition is coordinated by Akehurst Creative Management and is a rare opportunity to purchase these limited edition, fibre based prints. For further details please contact Nicky Akehurst: [na@nickyakehurst.com](mailto:na@nickyakehurst.com)

**For further details contact Nicky Akehurst  
Akehurst Creative Management,  
10 Esmond Road, London NW6 7HE  
Tel: 020 7624 2366 Fax: N A  
E-mail: [na@nickyakehurst.com](mailto:na@nickyakehurst.com)  
[www.akehurstcreativemanagement.com](http://www.akehurstcreativemanagement.com)**

### **'MASTERS OF JAZZ: UNSEEN PORTRAITS' Photographs by Jamie Hodgson**

#### **THE EXHIBITION**

##### Content

The exhibition comprises of 49 works mounted and framed – 24x 32x28", 14x 28x32", 8x 24x20" and 4x 20x24" – 49.64 metres. The frames are a mix of black lacquered and stained wood with standard glazing. The frames are mirror plated. The photographs are window mounted within an off white mount. The frames must be fixed to wall via the mirror plates with security screws.

##### List of Images

Louis Armstrong, Billy Butterfield, Harry Carney, Ray Charles, Eddie Condon, Barrett Deems, Vic Dickenson, Mercer Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Bud Freeman, Leonard Gaskin, Dizzy Gillespie, Paul Gonsalves, Bob Haggart, Lionel Hampton, Johnny Hodges, Major Holly, Eddie Hubble, Professor Dick Hyman, Gus Johnson, Yank Lawson, Humphrey Lyttelton, Velma Middleton, Johnny Mince, Benny Morton, Ray Nance, Oscar Peterson, Jimmy Rushing, Billy Strayhorn, Maxine Sullivan, Bob Wilbur, Sam Woodyard, and Trummy Young,

For all other information including fee, terms and conditions and contract please contact.

Ms Nicky Akehurst  
Akehurst Creative Management Ltd  
Tel: 020 7624 2366  
Email: [na@nickyakehurst.com](mailto:na@nickyakehurst.com)