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The Band Photographs: 1968-1969: Basic Hardcover Edition

By Elliott Landy, The Band



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(Book). Once in a while a photographer gains the trust of an artist or a band, and his work fuses with that of the artist in such a way that the two become married in the public consciousness. One can think of David Duncan's pictures of Picasso at work or Alfred Wertheimer's pictures of Elvis backstage in 1956. Elliott Landy's chronicle of The Band from 1968-1969 is of similar importance. He was trusted so deeply that this group of photographs is as intimate a portrait of a group of musicians inventing a new music as you are ever likely to come across. Today we call that music "Americana," and it is played all over the world by everyone from Mumford and Sons to the Zac Brown Band. But in 1968, when Elliott first started making these pictures, it was played by six musicians in the town of Woodstock, New York Bob Dylan and a group called The Hawks. They later changed their name to The Band. They had been The Hawks for five years when Bob Dylan pulled them out of Tony Mart's dive bar on the Jersey Shore to be his band.



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Editorial Review

Review

"Photographer Elliott Landy was in the right place at the right time--documenting The Band making their first two albums, *Music From Big Pink* and *The Band*. The 200 photos in *The Band Photographs, 1968-1969* (Backbeat Books), many published for the first time, are refreshingly intimate portraits of five nonconformist musicians creating the proto-genre we now call "Americana" music." --Parade

"This book is a fascinating crossover between photomontage and rock music history, blended with an exemplar on individual and multiperson portraiture. And if you're a fan of The Band, then this would be even harder to resist." - The Royal Photographic Society Journal

"Elliott Landy - a name from rock history. Not because of ground breaking albums or trendsetting style, but as the iconic rock and roll photographer who was the official photographer for Woodstock and visual chronicler of names such as Hendrix, Dylan, The Doors, Janis Joplin. He's associated with so many of the musicians who came to be seen as symbols of the era, one when rock music was breaking through and becoming an art form in a manner such that his photographic work is viewed in a similar way....A collection which pays due tribute to not only Landy, but the four guys from Canada plus Levon Helm, two truly revolutionary figures. A set of photographs which provide an intimate and inside portrait of a group of musicians on a trip, a mission even, to chronicle what would turn out to be a pivotal period on the timeline of music history." - Sonic Bandwagon

"The Band Photographs, a blood-sweat-and-tears project from photographer Elliott Landy has made me a fan of The Band...The book tells gives a sweet picture of comradeship. Gives a historic snapshot of rock history. And tells a beautiful picture of the Canadian-American roots rock group. The coffee-table book will have a music fan enthralled for hours, star-gazing through the photos, just having a feeling that they were there with Landy." --Geeks and Beats

"[The Band Photographs: 1968-1969] is breathtaking in style and subject matter. Even if you aren't a fan of the Band and their music, you can still appreciate the warmth and depth of each photograph. Elliot Landy was their official photographer for *Music from Big Pink* and *The Band*, and he'd developed such a rapport with the group that he was essentially invisible during his time with them, able to act as a "guitar pick on the wall" during key recording sessions in Woodstock and the downtime in between. That intimacy is strikingly apparent in the photos presented in this volume and makes the images captured feel both immediate and legendary, somehow, at the same time...As a work of pure photographic art, this book is guaranteed to awe. If you're a fan of The Band - or of Elliot Landy - it's a must-have. If you're keen on Americana and that fabled time in music history, you can't go wrong. And if you're like me and love big, beautiful books, it doesn't get much bigger or more beautiful than this." - Rebeat Magazine

The Band Photographs: 1968-1969 (Backbeat) by Elliott Landy. This book of beautifully reproduces Landy's black-and-white images of the quintet, offering an up-close and intimate look at the Canadian-American roots rock band that backed Bob Dylan between 1965 and 1967. By the time these photos were taken, the group had begun to be known simply as The Band and were performing on their own. Photos include group shots for albums as well as loads of candids. Best read with The Band playing on your system. --Marc Myers, JazzWax

About the Author

ELLIOTT LANDY (Woodstock, NY) is one of the first music photographers to be recognized as an "artist." His images of Bob Dylan and the Band, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Joan Baez, Van Morrison, Richie Havens, and many others documented the music scene during that classic rock and roll period which culminated with the 1969 Woodstock Music Festival, of which he was the official photographer. His photographs have appeared on the covers of major magazines such as the Life, Saturday Evening Post and Rolling Stone and in all media internationally for the past forty years. He is author of six books including Woodstock Vision, The Spirit of a Generation.

Users Review

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Lauren Joseph:

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