

black
archives **archivi**
& fotografi
italiani

A PHOTOAGENCY IS BORN



© 2004 Francesca Neri / L'immagine di Basso Cannarsa è stata aggiunta in postproduzione

Fabio Massimo Aceto, Graziano Arici, Giovanbattista Brambilla, Gerald Bruneau, Basso Cannarsa, Remo Casilli, Leonardo Cendamo, Titti Fabi, Fulvia Farassino, Francesco Garufi, Grazia Ippolito, Daniele La Malfa, Marcello Mencarini, Roberto Ponti.

WE ARE BORN!

After the recent closure of the historic agency Grazia Neri, fourteen of its long-standing photographers decided to pool their archive of six hundred thousand pictures and found a new image archive.

All fields will be covered: from Art to Politics, from Celebrities to Travel, from News to Fashion to Sport, as well as a vast collection of historical pictures.

There is an ever-increasing number of photographers who are asking to be part of this new project.

For more information please let us have your name and email in the boxes below.

 Name:

 Email: [\(E-mail\)](#)

WHO:

A group of more than twenty Grazia Neri photographers. The authors of hundreds of thousands of pictures stored in the agency's archives.

WHAT:

The images have all been collected in a single database: Blackarchives.

More than 700,000 pictures which can be easily researched and bought for journalistic and editorial use and for advertising .

The archive is continually updated and contains portraits of important personalities, and of newsworthy topics.

It also consists of a vast collection of historical images and has tens of thousands of geographical shots.

WHY:

To safeguard a very large and unique collection of images and to make up for the editorial and cultural loss generated by the closure of Grazia Neri.

But also to put forward reportages and projects regarding important topics by merging information and continually changing multimedia technology.

WHERE:

The servers we use are in the U.S. The desk work is everywhere: in our homes, at a bar, along the streets, in all places where our photographs are chosen.

WHEN:

We officially came into being in October 2009, a month after the closure of Grazia Neri.

HOW:

Blackarchives makes use of a proprietary software, created to satisfy the needs of photographers and photo editors who actively contributed to its creation.

Research speed, ease of use and safety were the factors which determined the creation of the platform. A network of very fast and efficient servers and advanced programming have allowed state-of-the-art research and archiving techniques. These will be continually updated to keep up with the ever-changing requirements of the photo market.

PHOTOGRAPHERS [founders and contributors]

Fabio Massimo Aceto

Professional photographer from 1996, Fabio Massimo Aceto is based in Rome and is specialized in portraits and reportage. After obtaining a degree in Economics at the University of Rome, he started realising portraits of personalities of the cultural scene and showbusiness. He works both on his own and on assignment from major Italian and International magazines. In 1999 he realized a photographic book on the holy festival in Calabria. In 2000 he completed a photographic book on Supermarkets as a place of aggregation. In 2001 he travelled throughout Senegal working on a reportage for FAO movement. In 2005 he realised several portraits of foreign people in Italy for a book entitled “ Sguardi stranieri”.

Graziano Arici

After studying Sociology, Arici moved into photography, specialising in the cultural arena with theatre and portraits. 1980 marked the start of his long-standing work with Venice's La Fenice Theatre. Arici has photographed, from 1979, all of the artistic and cultural events in Venice, from the various Biennales, performances, concerts and important exhibitions. From beginning, he did many reportages about the work of many international painters and artists. In 1984 he was photographer for Luigi Nono at the world première of "Prometeo". From 1990, Arici worked as still photographer on E. Reitz's film "Die zweite Heimat". In the 1998 founded with Marcello Mencarini. Rosebud, the first on-line news service to provide cultural images. From 2000 he made many reportages about archaeological sites. In the same period he began a long reportage about the industrial pollution in the venitian lagoon and about the turistic exploitation of Venice . Now he's working about the enormous works of defence against the high tide in Venice (MOSE) and about a long aerial documentation of the Lagoon. His archive has 850.000 pictures from 1947. His photographs and reportages have appeared in the world's most important reviews.

Giovan Battista Brambilla

Giovan Battista Brambilla is an Italian photographer, journalist and historical researcher.

As “Archivio GBB” distributed his personal photographic huge collection on movie stars and vintage historical images on visual and performing arts, music, literature, sports, royalty, politics, wars and geography.

At work for Agenzia Grazia Neri from 1988 to 2009 .

Journalist for Italian magazine “Babilonia”(1989-2004) and “Pride”(from 2004) and collaborate with more others like “Vanity Fair” and “Sette”. For some years (2001-2006) working for the most celebrated Italian web-site Dagospia with a weekly column. Today, collaborate with Italian office of Belgian “Ente del Turismo delle Fiandre” with new photo commissions and texts of historical interest . In 1995 author of biographic book “Marilyn Monroe: la vita, il mito” Ed. Rizzoli (also published in English for Rizzoli - New York).

Gerald Bruneau

Gerald Bruneau start his professional life in New York in Andy Warhol’s factory, doing portraits and reportages in the USA. In the ‘70 he moves to Italy. He do reportages in Kurdistan Israel Palestine Mexico, on death penalty in Texas, drug addiction in New York. His most known portraits, like Andreotti Cossiga Prodi Fo Pavarotti Zuccherò Shumacher Totti, are published in Washington Post, Time, Newsweek, Le Figaro, Le Monde, Vanity Fair, Magazine.

Basso Cannarsa

Basso Cannarsa was born in Termoli in 1957. Self-taught photographer since 1987.

Remo Casilli

Remo Casilli is a Rome based photojournalist of great experience, his portraits and features are published on the national and international press. His favourite fields are finance and commerce , news, as well as the main political and social issues. Since 2004 he is a Reuters stringer. His personal exhibition “Vita di cantiere” has been showed at the Macro Museum of Rome in 2004. His pictures have been shown at the exhibitons “ Due scatti” , Rome 2007, and “Itinera# 1” , Rome 2008. One of his pictures has been included in the “ 60 years Camera Press 1947-2007” book. He uses to say that what makes him love his job so much is “the curiosity of being here”.

Leonardo Cendamo

Leonardo Cendamo was born in S.Nicandro Garganico near Foggia, from many years he lives in Barni, in Como’s area. In 1962 he moved to Milan to attend "L'Umanitaria", where he studied photography. His first job was as assistant for the photographer Franco Scheckenbauer. After many experiences in fashion and portraiture, he worked in Paris, portraying personalities as Yves Montand and typical themes as Olympia Theatre. He had also the opportunity to meet Helmut Newton and Alberto Rizzo too, who asked him to become his assistant. Coming back to Milan after some months passed in New York, Cendamo was contacted from Giorgio Armani, who asked him to work in his company. In the last years he’s focused on photographing writer and literature world. He is currently working in a book project called:" Danzando con la mente" portraits of famous writers.

Tiziana Fabi

Tiziana Fabi started to work as photographer for the agency Linea Press – Rome, in 1990. From 1995 to 2005 she collaborated with the agency Team Editorial Service – Rome and the national agency Grazia Neri – Milano. Since 2003 she’s been stringer photographer for the international agency AFP (Agence France Press). Tiziana Fabi is active member of the Association of Professional Photoreporters with which she has taken part to the exhibition “Due Scatti” held at the Vittoriano Museum in Rome. She has also displayed her work in the exhibition “Itinera” held at the “Ex Gil” in Trastevere – Rome in 2008. So far, she has published in all the main national and international newspapers and magazines.

Fulvia Pedroni Farassino

Born in Cremona, Fulvia Pedroni Farassino lives in Milan since 1960.

She started her career in the field of art films and has been devoted to photography since the late 70's.

In her photographic studio she has worked freelance since the beginning of the 80's and contributes regularly to Corriere della Sera supplements: Magazine and Vivi Milano.

Her photos have been published in Max, Ciak, L'Espresso, Epoca, L'Europeo, Vanity Fair, La Repubblica, Il Corriere della sera, La Gazzetta dello sport, Insieme, Capital, ecc, and other Italian and foreign magazines.

She specialized initially in photo-reporting in the cinema field and attended film festivals and shootings, portraying mainly actors and film makers.

She later broadened her interests, photographing writers, artists, admen, entrepreneurs and artisans doing disappearing crafts in their working environment.

Other works includes: photos of Iraq after the first Gulf War, the Foreign Legion and the immigrant communities in Italy.

Francesco Garufi

Francesco Garufi was born in Rome and his passion for photography started very early. As a boy he took his first steps with black and white photography and processing. After graduation from high school he attended a photography course held by the region that allows him to take the first steps in the publishing world. In 1982 he works for the Master Photo Agency, a launch pad of the photographers of the time, as a handyman (entertainment, news, current affairs and politics). “We worked hard and earned little but the experience that was acquired was exceptional.”

At this time he was published already a great deal in most of the national newspapers. In 1986 he was engaged by Contrast where he had his first real professional satisfaction; works for the Time, Newsweek, Epoca and others. After a year he moved on to the just started Lucky Star, In 1992 the Lucky Star ceased it's activities and Garufi began to work with the agency Marka handling the market in Milan. Having a good relationship with the roman publisher he also featured several coverpages with L'Espresso. In 2000 he moves on to Grazia Neri and remains amongst the most published photographers in the fields of politics and economics.

Grazia Ippolito

From my early childhood I was always interested in different people's characters and physiognomy, probably because my grandmother a Soprano singer and Emilian cook, who travelled a lot in various countries in the beginning of the 1900, told me many funny stories about different and colourful personalities she met in her life.

I began as a sport photographer with principle interests in skiing and motorcycle racing. My pictures were published in many famous magazines in Italy and abroad. During the 1974 season I worked with the MV Agusta Racing Team.

After dedicating the early years to my expanding family, I restarted my career in the 1990's to portray writers and painters.

My pictures have been published in many mainstream magazines and newspapers in Italy and abroad, having also collaborated with many publishers including:

Adelphi, Mondadori, Einaudi, Seuil, Diogenes, Random house and Payot.

After my first personal exhibition at Feltrinelli bookshop in Milan, via Manzoni, others have followed in the past years as "Riprendiamo i giochi del passato" at Spazio Guicciardini in Milan about forgotten child-games, from 1999 to 2007, I participated to annual, collectives exhibitions with "ilbiancoenero" of Brescia.

Photography brought me close to the things I liked, once it was sport, after literature, paintings, opera and theatre.

Daniele La Malfa

I was born in Rome, my father Giovanni, professional photo reporter, approached me to this job. I was attracted from photography since I was very young and I soon recognized the smell of developing acids. Right after high school in 1998, I took my father's camera and I began to experiment always under his precious guidance and advise. Soon I was working at the agency Team Editorial Services in Rome, working on television and shows business. At Team I had the opportunity to work with Franco Lefèvre, photo editor of many Italian magazines. In 2000, with my father, I founded the professional association LaMalfaFoto. After ten years working at Team, I decided to move to Grazia Neri, with whom I'd been cooperating for years.

Marcello Mencarini

In 1979 after an experience in advertising, first as art director and then as photographer, he began contributing regularly to L'Espresso, photographing writers, poets, artists and the main cultural events of the time. From 1988 to 1994 he was member of the photographic staff of the magazine Radiocorriere TV, the magazine of Rai Italian Television. During the 1995 Venice Film Festival he was the first photographer in Italy to produce a reportage using only a digital camera, the Canon EOS DCS3. In the 1996 founded with Graziano Arici. Rosebud, the first on-line news service to provide cultural images. From 2001 he coordinates Eimage, the videojournalistic structure and multimedia lab of Grazia Neri agency. From 2002 he was editor in chief of Makadam, the first italian community of videos and pictures shot with a camera phone. In october 2005 he directed with Barbara Seghezzi "Nuovi comizi d'amore" (New Love Meetings), the first feature film in the world entirely shot with a mobile -phone. The film, a remake of a Pasolini's documentary of 1963, was chosen by the Moma Museum of New York as part of Fortnight Exhibition, by the IDFA Film Festival of Amsterdam, and by the Zurich Film Festival. Marcello Mencarini is based in Rome and Milan.

Riccardo Musacchio

Riccardo Musacchio started working for the principal theatres and auditoriums of Rome. Official photographer of Santa Cecilia's National Academy, for the Auditorium Music Park of Rome, the Sistina Theatre, Courtial International and many other collaborations. His contributions to national and international magazines and newspapers have consented him an approach outside of the theatre world. His archives, already rich of photographs of conductors, prose actors, sopranos, tenors, dancers etc, also include portraits of writers, scientists, Vatican, geographic reportages, fashion. In the last ten years, he benefits of the precious assistance of another photographer, Flavio Ianniello, that has brought a great contribute to his projects.

Roberto Ponti

Roberto Ponti was born in 1968 in Milan where he lives and work. He started photographing at 15 after being graduated at the Civic School of Photography of Milan, then he entered in a photo agency as a free-lance.

In 1999, he reaches Grazia Neri's agency, and he began to cover the greatest events in Italy and abroad.

His works are published on the most important Italian and foreign magazines.

He has recently published the book "A trip to Europe" following the Viadana's team of rugby.

Alberto Ramella

Alberto Ramella was born in Turin, where he lives. His father Severino was a photographer too and died in 1961 in Pakistan during a reportage.

He attended university courses of political sciences and an English school.

In his early years he trained his artistic sensibility through the study and the experimentation of music, theatre, literature and photography, with a peculiar interest in visual arts.

One of Italy's main weekly magazines, "Il Venerdì di Repubblica", has published a huge number of his reportages from 1987 to 1999.

Since 1996 he is the official photographer of Turin's opera house Teatro Regio together with his wife Alessandra Giannese. Since the 2001 edition he has been working for the International Book Fair of Turin.

From 2000 to 2005 he has been working for "Specchio", the weekly issue of La Stampa of Turin.

In the year 2001 he has also begun to shoot and produce his own promotional, creative and journalistic video clips.

In 2006 he worked for TORINO 2006 winter Olympic Games and he made a book for Progetto Italia.

Some of his photographs have been included in various private collections.

He is working on a project, started in the 1990, about professional soccer back stage.

From 2003 he's working for the European Training Foundation, ETF, as contracted photographer.

He has been professor at the Istituto Europeo di Design in Turin from 1998 to 2003.

In 2006 he covered Turin 2006 Winter Olympic Games working on a book produced by Sviluppo Italia.

In 2007 he founded the SYNC STUDIO photo agency with colleagues Paolo Siccardi and Max Ferrero.

Alberto Roveri

After graduating from the Istituto Tecnico Superiore , he followed Economy and Commerce at Università Cattolica in Milan. In 1971 he devoted himself entirely to photography, focusing on photojournalism.

From 1971 to 1972 worked at the weekly ABC where he met Letizia Battaglia, at that time filled the role of special envoy. So began his career in photojournalism.

In 1973 he entered in the staff employees of the DFP's Agency directed by Aldo Bonasia.

They are the warm years (the "years of lead") and Roveri reports everyday social tensions, clashes in the streets, but also the profound change that the country is going through. The battles of divorce and abortion, the feminist struggles for their emancipation, the problems of workers in factories. Also portrays the leading figures of politics and culture of those years.

In February 1975, after the death of dictator Franco in Spain, he's arrested and put in a cell because he photographed the prison of Madrid with hundreds of opponents of Franco's regime.

In summer 1976, he moves to Palermo to work as a staff photographers of the newspaper "L'Ora", founded by Letizia Battaglia and Santi Caleca.

From 1978 to 1983 he worked as a free-lance for several newsmagazines: Espresso - Panorama - Europeo - Due Più - Famiglia Cristiana - Prima Comunicazione - producing also some covers.

In June 1983, he signed an exclusive contract with the weekly newsmagazine of Mondadori, Panorama, where he's still working.

Mark Edward Smith

Mark Edward Smith born in Morocco lives in Venice. Since 1973, he's a professional photographer specialized in reportage, art, architecture and nude. He studied photography with Helmut Newton, Marc Riboud , Elliott Erwitt and Oliviero Toscani . Had 25 personal exhibitions and conferences in Italy and France and published a huge number of books in Italy, France, U.S.A., Germany, U.K., Japan, Korea.

The archive consists in 100.000 digitalised photos published in the following magazines: New York Times, The Times, Weekend, Geo, Dove, Bell'Italia, Bell'Europa, Winds, FMR, Meridiani, Paris Match, Herald Tribune, Life, Focus, Merian, Harpers Bazar, Ligabue Magazine Gente Viaggi, Tuttoturismo, Espresso, Panorama, etc.

Mauro Vallinotto

Born in Turin, in the 1960s he started to photograph the social marginalization in the North of Italy. Early in the 1970s he joined L'Espresso magazine in Milan as a staff photographer, cooperating with Time and Fortune magazines as well. In 1980 he was chief photographer at Panorama magazine, then he moved for Il Venerdì di Repubblica magazine as a special reporter. In 2000 he became photoeditor: at first working for Lo Specchio magazine and then for La Stampa newspaper in Turin. During his career he travelled around the world, specializing in reportage and stylish color features and publishing more than 150 covers.

Chris Warde-Jones

After University he taught English literature in a high school before finally giving in to his passion for photography. A year in New York was followed by his return to Europe where he began working for many foreign and Italian publications including The New York Times, Time magazine, Forbes, The Times of London, Vanity Fair, Il Venerdì, Corriere Magazine. His work, ranges from Portaiture to Industrial, and from News to Travel. He has had eight solo exhibitions of his work. Presently he lives with his family in a small medieval village just outside Rome.

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