

## Dave Brolan about Neal Preston

Imagine having Jimi Hendrix as your very first photographic subject. One might think it couldn't get better than that. So what next? For Neal Preston it started a career in photography that has seen him work with just about every major artist in the world and become the first choice for many of them, including Led Zeppelin, The Who, Queen, Fleetwood Mac and Bruce Springsteen.

In a room with five people or 50,000, Neal always seems to find a place of his own, to capture a moment not noticed or looked for by anyone else. His live photography perfectly relays the feeling of having been at that concert, to feel the excitement and energy and to visualise the music and identity of the subject. Complimenting this, Neal's reportage-style backstage photography gives us rare insight and an idea of the reality of life as a musician. His studio work is equally as powerful, as over forty cover shoots for People Magazine alone illustrates, but for Neal, they feel more staged and less unique. Throughout his body of work there is an unmistakable honesty and an obvious trust between photographer and artist.

When taking a picture, the photographer chooses the moment; when considering what to exhibit, the collector makes the decision. This can be as complex as capturing the original image. With Neal's archive, the choice is overwhelming, for each artist there could be any number of incredible photographs. The Lightpower Collection is a museum quality set of Neal Preston prints, carefully selected to represent the finest work from his extensive catalogue, with many photographs produced as fine art prints for the first time. The theme, regardless of the artist, is the heart of Rock'n'Roll.

Neal's career began and progressed as rock was moving from clubs to stadiums, small vans to private jets, from simple spots on stands to rigs full of computerised lighting, film cameras to digital. In a short time, everything changed beyond all recognition. If this era could be described as a hurricane, Neal captured this from his unique position in the eye of the Rock'n'Roll hurricane.

*Dave Brolan is a highly respected photo editor, curator and archivist specialising in music photography. Editor of the books Baron Wolman: The Rolling Stone Years, Trust: The Photographs of Jim Marshall, Real Moments: Bob Dylan by Barry Feinstein and Hell & Redemption: Johnny Cash by Andy Earl. Consultant for museums, galleries, magazines, publishers and record companies worldwide.*

*Text from the book "In the Eye of the Rock'n'Roll Hurricane", R|A|P London, 2015*