

ALEX YOCU

PHOTO ARTIST



I started professional photography in October 2010 and immediately began cooperation with the leading theaters in Moscow: Gogol Center, Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow Pushkin Drama Theatre, Bolshoi Theatre, Theatre of Nations, and others.

Since 2012 I have been engaged in shooting for magazines, advertising photography and individual photo projects. Since 2014 I have been working on socially significant reportage projects. In 2016 I started work with ballet and contemporary dance companies in Russia and overseas.

In 2017 my first personal photo book was published. 300 pages and 500 photos from the series "The Backstage Life of the Theater."

I have 8 personal photo exhibitions held in Moscow at various venues, including Moscow Manege.

LIFE BACKSTAGE

Alex Yocu's backstage moments capture of actors caught in the ongoing dramatic art performance.

In 2016, Alex Yocu started a project, followed by a photo book "Gogol center. Backstage", based on the reportage of the actors right before the entrance on the stage and right after the end of each performance during the whole year in the leading modern theatre in Russia – the Gogol Center, run by the internationally known Russian Director Kirill Serebrennikov.

The essence of the "Life backstage" project is to capture artists in the unique borderline psychological state between real life and the stage. More than 25 performances were shot.





JUST GO

The most valuable aim of travelling is to explore and understand other cultures and mentalities more, and at the same time to see the familiar places with new eyes.

“Just go” project was started during Alex’ first travel to Asian countries, into their poor and rich regions, where he found out how people smile and live in different circumstances. They inspired him to document different parts of the world and real life there.

At the moment there are more than 30 countries included into the project across Asia, Europe, Africa, Australia and North America. The story to be continued.





THE DECADE

“The Decade” project is dedicated to the biggest part of Alex Yocu's works - his role of a life-catcher of Russian the most famous classical and modern theaters in Moscow: Gogol Center, Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow Art Theatre, Moscow Pushkin Drama Theatre and others.

It is 10 years in 2020 since Alex has started his work with theaters. Without any modesty it can be said that Alex' photo works reflect the decade of Russian Dramatic Arts renaissance.





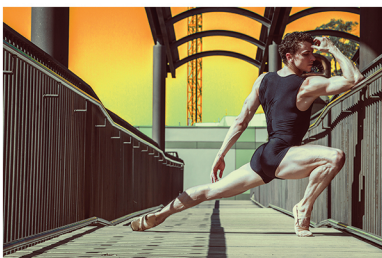
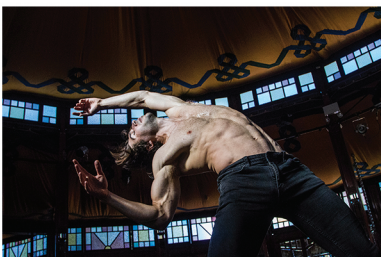
DANCE IT

Dance is a creative form of the world exploration, aimed at finding a more beautiful version of it - that's how Alex catches dance moments and that's how he proposes you to see them.

In the "Dance it" Project Alex presents ballet and dance artists from Australia, France, Russia, Ukraine, Japan and Italy.

And the most important thing in Alex' work is not just a movement of dance, but people who create these movements.





THE STRAIGHT STORY

The journey of movie creation is really impressive.

Via his photo lenses Alex monitored the impersonation of actors into their characters, the whole crew's mood changes while every scene was creating, the movie directors' emotions during the shooting process.

The project has started in 2015 and consists now of more than 5 movies backstage. Those movies have won the Cannes film festival, other European, Canadian and Australian festivals.





1418

The project “1418” is dedicated to those people who know about the War more than we do.

1418 = days of the Great Patriotic War, which these people went through. Alex Yocu made the photos of veterans and witnesses of the War while the heroes were talking about their life stories in senior centres or surrounded by loving family members.

There were already two exhibitions of the project held in Moscow central gallery Manege and famous theater Gogol Center in 2015.



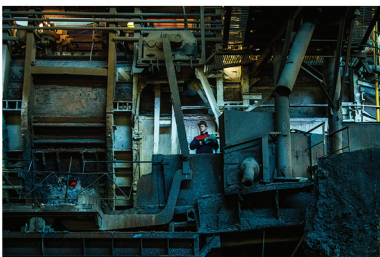


THE LAST DAYS OF FIRE

On March 23 of 2018 the last Open Hearth Furnace (known as “Marten”) in Russia was stopped forever. Many of the steelworkers have been working at the furnace for more than 35 years. Their lives changed completely that day: some of them moved to another part of the factory, others had to be retired, some had to change their profession completely.

Alex Yocu spend a week on the factory before the fire there was blown out. It seemed that the steel process production went as usual, but the atmosphere, the people's eyes reflected the fear of changes.





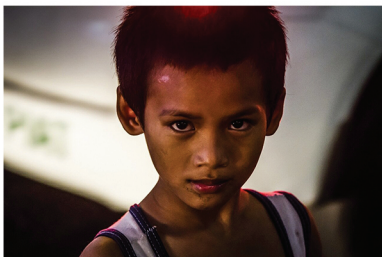
WE

Faces are like flowers.

It is one of the most impressive source of emotions we meet and which we react every day. They are ours, our family's, our colleagues', just random people's, who we meet on the street.

Followed by his passion to explore people, to catch their similarities and differences, Alex shoot people everywhere in the world where he travels.



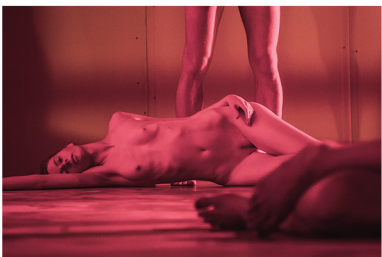


NUDES

Body is our instrument and our conductor to feel the world around. This instrument is worth to be admired, to be explored and to be shared with its beauty.

Alex started his work and art study of humans' bodies in 2016. Since then the collection of naked bodies inspiring movements and gestures has grown and expanded to be shown as an exhibition.





MELBOURNE FACES

Imagine a city where it seems that someone took people from all over the world, put them into one place and said: here will be the harmonic place, international respect and shareable feeling of joy of life.

This place is called Melbourne. While you are in a tram you can hear at least 10 or even 15 different languages at the same time, see a variety of different faces, skin and eyes types. And it's really awesome! Alex was inspired by this phenomenon from the first sight - that's how the project "Melbourne faces" was born.





HOMELESS WOMEN IN MOSCOW

Some people lose beloved ones, homes, work and finally themselves.

But it doesn't mean that their life is over. They still can learn, they still have dreams - quite basic, but which help them to exist and even to try to change their life one day.

The society can't ignore these faces. Look at them - everyone has their own history behind.





WINDOW TO GEORGIA

Alex Yocu captures real-time images of strangers' lives from the passenger seat as he traveled across Georgia by car.

For this project, Alex spent a month following the route of the main Georgia's roads from Tbilisi to the boards with Armenia, Turkey, Russia and Azerbaijan, as well as to the centre of the country close to Borjomi Nature Reserve.

Doesn't matter if it was close or quite far from any city, the people across the roads always were friendly or at least curious, ready to help with the route, car maintenance or to share their region history.





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