

PRESS RELEASE  
APRIL 2018

## Windrush: Portrait of a Generation



### A photo-story by Jim Grover

*In celebration of the Caribbean community in south London*

June 22nd 2018 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the *SS Empire Windrush* at Tilbury docks in 1948. The ageing merchant ship brought 492 young hopefuls, nearly all of them Jamaican men, to help rebuild Britain in the aftermath of the war. This was a truly momentous moment in the evolution of Britain's cultural life: the arrival of those first passengers and ensuing steady flow of migrants from the Caribbean, often referred to as the 'Windrush generation', was a major step in the creation of a multi-cultural Britain.

*Windrush: Portrait of a Generation* is the latest photo-story by award-winning social documentary photographer Jim Grover and runs at the gallery@oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf on London's South Bank from 24th May until 10th June 2018.

The set of 60, predominantly black and white photographs and accompanying narrative, portray the current lives and traditions of this first generation of Caribbean migrants, who settled in south London and are part of its vibrant community.

The photographs are themed into groups of photo-stories that, together, encompass their daily lives; community clubs; customs, dominoes; dancing; faith; family gatherings; the Jamaican home; service to the mother country; funerals; and nine nights' (a tradition which marks the passing of a loved one). The exhibition leads with an opening portrait and personal story of Alford Gardner, now aged 92 and one of the tiny number of surviving original 'Windrushers'.

Many of the Windrush generation Grover photographed, now in their late 60s to 90s, still live in Brixton and Clapham in south London, as some of the very first



'Windrushers' were accommodated in the underground war shelter at Clapham South and sought their first jobs at the Brixton labour exchange. Over the last ten months, Grover was invited into their homes, clubs, churches, and memorials.

Jim Grover comments: "It's been such a privilege to spend time hearing such inspiring stories within our local community. I feel it's so important to document and celebrate the lives and traditions of this remarkable generation."

The exhibition is curated by Katy Barron, senior director at the Michael Hoppen Gallery. In addition, remarkable personal stories from the Windrush generation, based on interviews with Jim Grover, as well as extended photo-stories running as slide shows, that bring to life a typical Jamaican funeral, the playing of dominoes and portraits from the members of the Stockwell Good Neighbours Club, will be featured.

This will be Grover's second solo exhibition at gallery@oxo. His first, held in 2016, was 'Of Things Not Seen' which told the story of a year in the life of a South London priest; it attracted over 7000 visitors, received extensive publicity and has been on tour to several locations across the country, most recently at the 2017 Edinburgh Festival.

A Private View and opening ceremony, attended by one of the last surviving passengers from the original *Empire Windrush* voyage, Alford Gardner, will take place on 23rd May, 6.30pm. Generously supported by Wray & Nephew White Overproof Rum.

**Listings info:**

Title: *Windrush: Portrait of a Generation*

Venue: gallery@oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf, Bargehouse Street, South Bank, London SE1 9PH

Dates: 24 May – 10 June

Opening times: 10am – 6pm

Twitter: @Jimgroverphoto

Instagram: jimgroverphoto

#Windrushoxo

Please include this link in your copy:

<http://www.oxotower.co.uk/events/lives-windrush-generation/>

**gallery@oxo is owned and managed by Coin Street Community Builders:  
[www.coinstreet.org](http://www.coinstreet.org)**

-ENDS-

Notes to editors:

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**About Jim Grover**

Jim Grover is an award-winning photographer based in Clapham, South London.

Jim's images have appeared in various publications and online including The Times; The



Sunday Times; the BBC; Sunday Times Travel; The Guardian; The Guardian Magazine; The Daily Telegraph; The British Journal of Photography; Black + White Photography; Leica Forum; and many others.

His images have been recognized in various competitions including The Sony World Photography Awards, and the Landscape Photographer of the Year Awards. In 2015 he won the 'Faith Through a Lens' competition; the judging panel was chaired by the internationally renowned photographer Sir Don McCullin CBE.

His work has appeared in both solo and joint exhibitions.

His photo-essay *48 Hours on Clapham High Street* was featured by both The Guardian and the BBC, and was exhibited in a solo exhibition in Omnibus Theatre in Clapham in April 2017.

Other solo exhibitions comprise *Cafe Delight is 21*, a project which was featured on the BBC TV News. His work has also appeared in joint exhibitions in Somerset House and The National Theatre in London.

In 2016 he was a member of the judging panel at the MIA Photo Fair in Milan.

[www.jimgroverphotography.com](http://www.jimgroverphotography.com)

[www.ofthingsnotseen.com](http://www.ofthingsnotseen.com)

[www.48hoursonclaphamhighstreet.com](http://www.48hoursonclaphamhighstreet.com)

#### **About Wray & Nephew**

The legendary rum pours through Jamaican lives and culture in rituals and everyday living - as can be seen in some of images featured in Jim Grover's exhibition. The rum has been distilled in Jamaica for over 190 years, representing the proud and bold spirit of the island. Guests to the private view will enjoy classic Wray & Nephew cocktails including 'Wray & Ting' and the 'Wray & Nephew Rum Punch'.

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