OFFSHOOT
BY TRELLIS PRESS

About Bobby Talamine

Bobby Talamine took his first photograph at the age of 10, and his most recent photo likely last night.

His eye for photography and the perfect shot began when his mother bought him his first 35mm camera.

She noticed that he was drawn to large print photography in *Life* magazine, especially the combat photos of World War II, the battle of Iwo Jima, and the Korean War.

He was fascinated by the striking images and the bravery of the photographers who captured the worst of circumstances with a candid eye, making you feel like you were there in the chaos.

His first photographs focused on tree bark, cracks in the sidewalk, and other patterns he saw in his neighborhood. At an old-school, mom-and-pop supermarket, he saw the beauty in the wheels of the lined-up shopping carts. He also saw the beauty of the juxtaposition of the shopping carts in the front that are used over and over again and the carts in the back that haven't been used in years, showing wear and collecting dust, spiders, insects, and bird nests. It was during this time that Bobby's sisters introduced him to the music of Joni Mitchell, Laura Nyro, and Janis Joplin, which sparked his love of music.

As a teen, Bobby was floored by the live concert photography in *CIRCUS Magazine*. He was in awe of the rich color photography of Led Zeppelin, Queen, The Who, The Rolling Stones, Jethro Tull, Deep Purple, and many more. He said to himself, "I want to do that!"

Bobby has frequently said that Pennie Smith's iconic photo of The Clash's Paul Simonon smashing his bass into pieces on stage at the New York Palladium is one of his favorite photos.

In 1977, he shot his first concert when he brought his camera to a Led Zeppelin show at the Chicago Stadium. Over the years, he honed his craft, and he started his professional career as a concert photographer in 1982.

In a career that spans five decades, Bobby has captured significant moments in music history. He shot Siouxsie and the Banshees and Jane's Addiction co-headlining the first Lollapalooza in 1991; Lady Gaga's The Monster Ball Tour in 2010; the last time Roger Waters shared a stage with the other surviving members of Pink Floyd, David Gilmour and Nick Mason, at the O2 Arena in London in 2011; and Prince's final Chicago arena concert in 2012 at the United Center.

His portfolio features legendary acts such as Patti Smith, Tina Turner, David Bowie, Paul McCartney, Bob Dylan, Metallica, Fleetwood Mac, Sade, Madonna, The Cure, Black Sabbath, Roxy Music, Kiss, and Van Halen.

While he enjoys capturing the extravagant productions in arena concerts, his passion lies in the underground, where he loves discovering new bands.

He shot The Jesus and Mary Chain when they played their first Chicago show at the Cabaret Metro (now known as Metro Chicago) in 1985; Nine Inch Nails opening for Skinny Puppy in 1988; and Dead Can Dance's first US tour in 1990.

In addition to live performances, Bobby documented meet-and-greets with bands at the legendary Wax Trax! Records in Chicago, such as Front 242, Laibach, Ministry, and My Life with the Thrill Kill Kult.

As the only photographer at many of these early shows and events, he has a unique photo archive of Chicago concerts that no one else in the United States possesses.

Throughout the decades, Bobby has captured musicians at huge festivals, such as Lollapalooza and Riot Fest; at small Chicago venues like Bottom Lounge and Empty Bottle; and at everything in between—Metro Chicago, Thalia Hall, The Vic Theatre, Riviera Theatre, Salt Shed, and the Aragon Ballroom. You name it, and he has been there with his cameras.

He gives up-and-coming bands the same respect as bigger bands, shooting approximately 2,000 photos for bands in big arenas and the same number for newcomers in small clubs.

When he's not at a venue, he serves as the chief photographer at JBTV, the longest-running music television program in the United States dedicated to introducing the world to new artists.

His work has appeared in the *Chicago Reader, Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, New York Times, Rolling Stone, B-Side Magazine, The Big Takeover, Alternative Press*, major TV news stations across the country, and international music media outlets.

More than 40 years since he started shooting concerts, Bobby has no plans of stopping. He eats, breathes, and sleeps music. He can still be found at a club, theatre, or stadium show four or five nights a week, capturing the concert experience on film. There's a good chance he is at a concert tonight, making his way to the photo pit to capture the shot that makes you feel like you are in the venue.