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LGBT: San Francisco: The Daniel Nicoletta Photographs



Synopsis

Glittering drag queens, gay politics and alternative theater: Nicoletta was at the heart of the gay mecca that was 1970s San Francisco. Daniel Nicoletta (born 1954) has been a leading chronicler of the LGBT civil rights movement in San Francisco over the last 40 years. This is the first book dedicated to his powerful photographs documenting the journey of the burgeoning lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender mecca that was San Francisco in the 1970s through to the present. Nicoletta is best known for his iconic images of Harvey Milk, one of the world's first openly gay elected officials, who was assassinated by a homophobic colleague in 1978. Nicoletta portrayed glittering drag queens, the alternative theater world and the steadfast bravery of same-sex couples trying to live their lives amid often adverse cultural sea changes. Today, Nicoletta continues to document the reverberations of Milk's legacy. He serves as a key point person for LGBT civil rights and Milk-related research. In 2014, one of Nicoletta's photographs was used on a US Harvey Milk Forever stamp. **LGBT: San Francisco** is an essential gay history and a stunning photographic work that is not to be missed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The collection showcases Nicoletta's fine sense of composition, not to mention his sharp editorial eye and evocative visual aesthetic. (Lew Whittington New York Journal of Books) A self-described "Richard Avedon of the gay community," [Nicoletta] turned his lens on all of the Radical Faeries present during the 70s. (Trey Taylor Dazed) **LGBT: San Francisco** is a

joyous, poignant and occasionally sombre record of the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people, taken from an extraordinary archive. It is at once a celebration, an exercise in visibility and a timely reminder of how recently the battles for gay rights were won and how fragile those rights remain. (Chitra Ramaswamy The Guardian) It's rare you leaf through a book of reportage and portraiture that makes you want to know what happened to every single person captured in every single frame. With photographer Daniel Nicoletta's LGBT San Francisco a remarkable, transfixing record of the gay, lesbian, and trans communities from the very early 1970s to today, you're compelled to think just that. (Mark Holgate VOGUE.com) Daniel Nicoletta's photobook is the ultimate celebration of LGBTQ pride from history to present day | an indelible archive of the struggles and successes of the LGBTQ community (Hunger) captures the LGBT Civil Rights movement in a way no other photographer has (Ian David Monroe Paper Magazine) LGBT: San Francisco is a first ever collection of the work Nicoletta has put into capturing the portraits of the community across an always moving and ever-changing socio-political climate. (Michael Valinsky Out.com)

Gorgeous photos shot by an absolute expert eye transport you right into the scene that was the delicious insanity of 1970's and beyond SF in the Castro! While I was lucky enough to witness some of this, I wish I had moved to SF at 18 myself to work alongside Dan at the Castro Camera Shop. This opus showing us so much of the crescendo of the Queer Rights movement explodes on each page in marvelous detail and with loving tenderness. I can't wait for more volumes!!

Daniel Nicoletta's LGBT SAN FRANCISCO is a treasure trove of photographs from the early 1970s to the present. There are roughly three hundred pages in this large book filled with both black and white and color photos that capture this city that so many of us love from a distance and certainly even more so when we visit. I first became aware of Mr. Nicoletta's work when I saw his most famous image, that of Harvey Milk with that great smile and necktie flapping, in a photo exhibit in a gay bar here in Atlanta. It had to have been the early 80s. (I see a framed print every day of that same photograph that now hangs in an honored spot in my home.) The photographer at one time worked in Milk's camera store in the Castro, so many of these wonderful images are of Harvey, his campaign and election as a San Francisco supervisor and the people involved in his life and campaign. Of course we also have photographs of the filming of "Milk" as well. Chuck Mobley is dead on in his introduction about Mr.

Nicoletta's photo of Josh Brolin as Dan White (p. 62): He describes it as a "moody portrait. . . saturated in menace and pathos." I recognized a few well-known individuals in these many photos: Lily Tomlin, Mae West, Arthur Tress, John Waters, Divine, Allen Ginsberg, Harry Hay, Vito Russo, and a very young humpy Armistead Maupin. Most of the people, however, are ordinary people from San Francisco. And if the city did not invent drag, surely it was raised to an art form there as these photographs demonstrate. There is so much sorrow here, so much anger, but much, much more joy. And a lot of attitude and tattoos in the later images. Some of my favorites, at least for today: certainly the famous shot of Harvey in front of his camera store (p. 72), the heartbreaking photo of him and Mayor Moscone lying in state in San Francisco City Hall Rotunda, December, 1978 (p. 63), the White Nights riots demonstration after the verdict on Dan White (pp. 64-65), the tremendously moving photo of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in a performance at the dedication of the Harvey Milk postage stamp on May 28, 2014 (pp. 70-71). I love the photo on page 271 of Jade and Nakita Ramsey as Veda and Vera and that of Mayor Willie Brown officiating at a huge group ceremony of a same sex marriage (p. 288). And I am much taken with the photograph of Scout, Castro Street, June 20, 2015 (p. 298). Of course there are dozens more to savor over and over. Finally I was reminded once again why e-books will never replace the real thing. This great coffee table book, weighing in at four and a half pounds, that is printed and laid out so beautifully smells wonderful too. A fantastic book.

I placed this book with *Pride* on my coffee table for all who enter my domain to see. It is the most amazing portrait of a community, a city and its people from the streets, to the political pulpit and to my personally beloved flamboyant stages. Dan Nicoletta's eye captures it all and demonstrates the power of love and the commitment, the LGBT communities of San Francisco lived with in these critical times of our collective lives.

A treasure...authentic talent Daniel had access to people and places that not one will ever again...if you were there, as we were, you will make all sorts of wonderful sounds as you turn the pages...if you were not there, well, then you'll wish you were because Dan captured the spirit with his amazing talent. Yay Danny!

Nice collection of photos of gay life in San Francisco, primarily from the middle to late 70's and mostly of the Castro. If you have lived in San Francisco for any significant time and been part of the gay community, you may be amazed to see some of our elder statesmen when they were young.

This is, of course, also a record of many people who are no longer with us. I would have preferred that the pictures had been presented in chronological order. Some photos were not captioned and I was left wondering when they had been taken. IMHO, it was a mistake to mix the recreations of the 70's for the movie "Milk" with the actual photos from the 70's. It left me wondering as I paged through the book what was a historical photograph and what was fake. It would have been better to have published a separate book about the making of the movie "Milk" and another book about "The Castro in the 70's" rather than trying to cover the entire LGBT San Francisco experience / history in one book. As it is, the book overemphasizes the making of one movie and barely touches on life during the AIDS crisis or after AIDS became a more manageable disease. Perhaps the author didn't take as many from the 80's to the present as he did in the 70's.

Daniel has been documenting the gay community in San Francisco since the 70s. Wonderful, seeing friends in the book. I was brought to tears many times because so many didn't survive AIDS.

Mr. Nicoletta is an amazing human and I am so glad he put this collection together. Took a stroll through my youth and enjoyed it through his lens.

Beautiful and nostalgic book. I have known Dan Nicoletta since he was a teen working for Harvey Milk. Have always loved him and his work. Thanks Danny!!

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