

JAC DE VILLIERS

Cape Town based photographer Jac de Villiers opened his photographic studio in the early 1980's. He has since photographed an exhaustive list of famous faces including world leaders. In 2004 Jac embarked on a worldwide trip to photograph celebrities for The Bishop Tutu Peace Trust. His subjects included guitarist Carlos Santana, tenor Luciano Pavarotti, singer Cesária Évora, world chess champion Garry Kasparov, world boxing champion Lennox Lewis, Queen Noor of Jordan, President Shimon Peres of Israel and designer Philippe Starck. The subsequent portraits were then exhibited as "Hands That Shape Humanity". In 2015 Jac collaborated with foraging chef Kobus van der Merwe on a book titled "*STRANDVELDFOOD – A West Coast Odyssey*". Kobus and Jac's complementary visual sense and attitude resulted in a glorious ode to the West Coast explored through food. Kobus' restaurant Wolfgat was awarded the prestigious title Restaurant of the Year 2019, awarded at the World Restaurant Awards in Paris.

Jac does not specialise in any particular photographic field yet his passion is portrait photography. He enjoys how one can spend a very intimate but brief time with someone who is, more often than not, a total stranger. Although the staging can be controlled, the liaison is sometimes unpredictable, often collaborative but always challenging to get under the skin of the subject.



Lampost, Parkwood, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Tel: +27 11 788 2609 | info@lampost.co.za

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