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Bliss: Transformational Festivals & The Neo Hippie



Synopsis

In Bliss: An Exploration of the Current Hippie Counterculture & Transformational Festivals, Steve Schapiro, famous for his photographs of the 60s--including Haight-Ashbury and the hippies of that era--documents the hippies of today and their lives in and out of transformational festivals. With a specific focus on a subculture of the current hippie counterculture known as "Bliss Ninnies," these individuals are focused on meditation and dancing as a way to reach ecstatic states of joy. The book features images from festivals across the country and provides an overview of a new contemporary hippie life within America. The 60s are still here. You just have to find where.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Steve Schapiro turns on, tunes in and drops out on the trail of the neo hippies." -We-Heart.com

Steve Schapiro is a distinguished journalistic photographer whose pictures have graced the covers of Vanity Fair, Time, Sports Illustrated, Life, Look, Paris Match, and People, and are found in many museum collections. He has published five books of his work, American Edge, Schapiro's Heroes, The Godfather Family Album, Taxi Driver, and Then and Now In Hollywood.

One thing about this book, is that it captures the pure bliss that every person in every photo is clearly experiencing. These are faces of truly, TRULY happy people, radiating love. If one day everyone on the streets looked as utterly pleased and content as the people in these photographs,

the viewer would stand perplexed at the wonder of it all. What is it about these people, this culture that gives people such a feeling of complete joy? They live in a world where everyone helps each other survive, they make no negative impact on the environment or other living beings, eat vegan diets, meditate, do yoga, and listen to music and dance with their friends regularly. Such simple lives, yet they've discovered a world and a happiness that most westerners only dream of having, where buying the coolest material item and taking more antidepressants seems to be the answer to their unhappiness but they never quite get there. Bliss gives you a first hand look into the lives of simple, happy hippies living in peace with one another and emanating joy wherever they go and in every aspect of their life. I found myself wondering how they got there, and wishing I was a part of it. Just look in to the faces of the people in the photographs. The look of pure joy and true happiness. How often do you see smiles like that in your everyday life?

fun photos but very little information of any substance

What a gorgeous book! Not to wear out that old phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" - but here it is true. In this large volume you will find every page is a beautiful photo of people smiling, laughing, meditation, and generally having an experience of Bliss at a "Transformation Festival" such as Rainbow Gathering and Burning Man, among many others. These are photos of "neohippies" - those who still resonate with the soul of what Hippie has always represented - oneness with each other and the Universe. There are no words with these photos - there doesn't have to be. At the end, there are a few short stories of experiences from people who go to these festivals. Many of the people in this book go to as many festivals as they can, keeping in touch with their "family" and their sense of "being home". It's awesome to know that people still have that sense of Bliss, and Hope, and devotion to saving the Earth and loving each other and all of humanity with all of its beauty and flaws. This book is a joyous celebration. It is truly beautiful. A bit of a warning - there are several pictures with full and partial nudity (people meditating, dancing, etc) but no sexual situations. Just real, beautiful, free people. It will take you back, it will take you forward. There are no words, because "There are no words".

Awesome to be inspired by such beautiful photos and stories. It brings continuous feelings, of which, the title implies.. AWESOME!!

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