

Pablo looks back at 52 years & 35000 negatives

By Archana Khare in New Delhi

PABLO Bartholomew ties up the loose ends on the eve of his photo exhibition 'Outside In! A Tale of 3 Cities... 70s & 80s', he is a bundle of focused energy.

Once the curtains are withdrawn, you enter a world of black-and-white frames. These are pictures of a time when this photojournalist was growing up in the company of his friends, most of whom now have a colourful legacy, just like Bartholomew who clicked them.

There is an animated picture of his friends, whom he calls the theatre gang, dancing away at a party. The group includes a young Faisal Alkazi.

Another picture has a beautiful girl touching up her make-up moments before a shoot, while two young men stand on the boundary wall against which she is sitting. The young woman is former Miss India Aftab Mirza and one of the two men on the left is Naseeruddin Shah.

Then there's another portrait of a friend called Yusuf, posing a little coyly for the camera. He is record-breaking contemporary art master Tyeb Mehta's son. One of the cutest pictures is that of a father snuggling up with his infant son. The face of the father is not visible. Bartholomew informs it is his friend, the renowned Bengali actor and filmmaker Chatterjee, with his son, whom he named after his friend, the photographer himself. And from these negatives, a world we by has taken an attractive shape.

Many such nuggets from Bartholomew's life fill up the exhibition hall, chronicling a time when young India was not as it is today; it was very different from what it has become now. But some things don't change, like the rock music festival at St Stephen's College — same energy, same music, except that the young boys are in bell bottoms.

"On my 51st birthday, I decided to dig up the past pictures and out came 35,000 black-and-white negatives, which had been forgotten for the last 25 years," says the 52-year-old photographer.

This exhibition was earlier shown at the Les Muses Museum, France, between July and September 2007 and has travelled to India as part of the India Photo Now '08 initiative. Organised in association with Bodhi Art, this exhibition is likely to travel to the Delhi gallery in New York in May this year, around the same time. Bartholomew says, "I'm planning an exhibition of photographs clicked by my father."

The pictures from Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata in the present exhibition, however, only reflect the personal side of Bartholomew. The exhibition will be on at the National Museum between 10 am to 5 pm on January 27 to February 29.

archana.khare@mailtoday.in



Pablo Bartholomew's friend Ayesha Sayani



Actor Dhritiman Chatterjee with his son, whom he named after his friend, the photographer himself. And from these negatives, a world we by has taken an attractive shape.



His friend Chander strumming guitar



His friends Nommie and Bina Paul



Self-portrait

His parents Richard and Rati Bartholomew

Tip-off led to medical entrance scam exposur

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anged between Rs 15 lakh and 1 lakh from aspiring medical students to provide them with institutes who would appear on behalf. In return, there would assurance that the candidate would pass the test.

extent of the monetary action came to light after's arrest even though it could e immediately established



Illustration