

DANCING UNDER THE MOON

A PHOTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH THE MEXICAN SIERRA TARAHUMARA



By
RICHARD SPEEDY

Dancing Under the Moon

A Photographic Journey Through the Mexican Sierra Tarahumara

Photographs by Richard Speedy

The Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico is named for the people who have lived there for centuries. The Tarahumara to outsiders, in their own language they are the Raramuri, or foot runners. The largest indigenous, tribal group north of Mexico City with the exception of the Navajo, they are also the least affected by the outside world - perhaps because they can run so fast, so tirelessly far. For centuries they have run from countless invaders who would dismantle their culture, "civilize" their uncommon view of the world they live in, also known as Las Barrancas del Cobre. The Copper Canyon. Here, in southwestern Chihuahua, three rivers have cut four massive gorges that are in places more than 6,000 feet deep. These canyons, or barrancas, are connected to some twenty additional secondary canyons creating the most complex system of deep canyons in all of North America.

Within this immense landscape the Tarahumara live much like their ancestors in modified caves, cliff overhangs and simple stone and timber dwellings, growing their crops and herding their goats. Originally inhabiting the more desertous flatlands and highlands of central Chihuahua, they began their withdrawal south and west into the remote and more protective terrain of the deep canyons in the late 16th century when the Spanish arrived in search of silver and gold, bringing with them a threat to Tarahumara freedom and way of life.

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Many are still seasonally nomadic, living in the high country from April to October and wintering in the warmth and lushness of the barrancas below.

On numerous expeditions photographer Richard Speedy has traveled by foot and horseback to explore and photograph the many layered world that exists here. His black and white photographs are an artistic and passionate homage to the Tarahumara and their sacred homeland. His intimate portraits, dramatic images of traditional ceremonies and exquisite landscapes portray the the inner and outer world of the Tarahumara with respect and photographic mastery.

In Mr. Speedy's own words:

"It has always been my goal to represent the Rarámuri as the people they are – proud, tenacious, vital and free. It is my hope that this work will convey a powerful and lasting impression of this unique world and help to preserve the magic and beauty that abides here. I will be forever grateful for the privilege of photographing the Rarámuri and their Mother Mountains and these images are my tribute."

His work takes on increasing relevance as the Tarahumara and other indigenous cultures around the world face, more every day, a challenging and questionable future.





























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SHOW SPECS~

- ~ Traveling show. Securely crated for transport.
- ~ A core show has been created which consists of 36 black and white prints.
26 - 9x12 with 17x22 8-ply matte. 10 - 13.5x18 with 21x26 8-ply matte
- ~ No two exhibition spaces are the same. Often shows are customized to fit a particular space.
- ~ Requires approximately 96 linear feet hung in one row.
- ~ 36 individual labels. 2 – 30x40 info/illust.panels and 2 - 21x26 text panels available on disc.
- ~ Tarahumara artifacts are available if space permits. Masks, musical instruments, pottery, textiles, etc. Pieces are not mounted or framed.
- ~ Slide show of 116 images with minimal text available in Power Point format.
- ~ A 15 minute documentary “Semana Santa in the Sierra Tarahumara” is in the works. Available approximately 6/1/12.

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Venue Fulfillment~

- ~ Shipping paid by venue.
- ~ Insurance, in transit and length of show, covered by venue.
- ~ Installation responsibility of venue.
- ~ Publicity/advertising is the responsibility of venue. Richard Speedy Studio will do all in their power to get the word out.
- ~ Security requirements: Moderate.
- ~ Exhibition Fee: \$5000.00.
- ~ Musuem/Gallery Talk Fee: \$500.00 plus travel.

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Museum/Gallery Talk~

~Powerpoint presentation of 125 images including landscapes, images of traditional ceremonies and intimate portraits of the Tarahumara people. Mr Speedy's talk will include description of terrain, flora and fauna, background and history of the Tarahumara from the 16th century to current time and discussion of present day life including challenges they now face as the outside world brings more pressure to bear on there traditional ways. He will also share some of his personal experiences and thoughts regarding photographing a remote, tribal culture and the issues he considers to be important relating to this endeavor. Forty-five minutes in length plus time for questions.

Fee: \$500.00 plus travel.

Bio

Richard Speedy grew up in Princeton, New Jersey where he attended elementary and high school. After finishing his college studies at Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara in 1972 he moved to New York City where he worked as an assistant to many of the best advertising photographers shooting everything from fashion, to still-life, to automobiles. During this period he also worked on several personal projects including a series of photographs of the New Jersey Pine Barrens which was supported by two fellowships from the NJ Council on the Arts. This project culminated in several shows, one of which was reviewed favorably by David Shirey in the Sunday New York Times. In that review Mr. Shirey stated:

“Were we to visit the Pine Barrens we might not see the same things Richard Speedy saw. Most of us do not have his poetic vision or his instantaneous grasping of the beautiful in nature, or his fantasy ... as in one photograph of mushrooms with their long stalks and umbrella caps amidst a blur of plants, they are creatures of another world.”

In 1980 he founded Richard Speedy Studio and for the next 22 years he devoted his time and energy to running a 5,000 square foot studio with a staff of 6-8 people. The studio produced many award winning images for ad campaigns, annual reports and catalogues for clients such as Sony, J&J, Bennetton and Mobil.

In 2002 he decided it was time to pursue the more personal goals he had been putting off for years and closed the studio. Recent projects have included landscapes of the Southwest, “Flora – Studio Still Life Project”, “Passage – Landscape In Motion”, “Remains – Biodiversity In Decline” and an in depth photographic portrait of the Rarámuri people of the Sierra Tarahumara in Chihuahua, México.

He divides his time between Hopewell, New Jersey and Alamos, Sonora, México.

RESUME

Exhibitions

- ~October 2011 – June 2012
“Dancing Under the Moon” Photographs by Richard Speedy
New Mexico State University Museum
Las Cruces, New Mexico
- ~November 2011 – January 2012
Photographs from the Sierra Tarahumara by Richard Speedy
Arts Council of Princeton
Princeton, NJ
- ~September – December 2009
Center For the Arts, University of Sonora
Hermosillo, Sonora, México
- ~November 2008 – January 2009
Sonoran Cultural Institute
Alamos, Sonora, México

RESUME (Cont.)

Exhibitions

~June – August 2008

Richard speedy Photographer – Photographs from Mexico's Sierra Tarahumara
Lyndsay McCandless Contemporary
Jackson Hole, Wyoming

~May - July 2003

Phillips Mill Photographic Exhibition -- Lambertville, NJ
Sponsored by Epson
Juror: Katherine ware

~April – June 2003

Trenton City Museum
Trenton, NJ

~May – July 2002

Phillips Mill Photographic Exhibition -- Lambertville, NJ
Juror: Jeff Hurwitz

RESUME (Cont.)

Exhibitions

~February – April 2002

Illuminance: 2002 -- Exhibition of Photographic Works

Buddy Holly Center, Lubbock, Texas

Juror: Judy Dater

~October – December 2000

American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP)

“Best In Show”

Juror: Nancy Ori

~September – November 1998

Morpeth Gallery

Princeton NJ

~January – March 1990

The Art of Aids Awareness – Bands to Beat Aids Campaign

Photographs by Richard Speedy

The Gallery at Bristol Myers Squibb – World Headquarters

Princeton NJ

RESUME (Cont.)

Exhibitions

~December 1981 – March 1982

New Jersey Pine Barrens – The Photography of Richard Speedy
The Gallery at Bristol Myers Squibb – World Headquarters
Princeton, NJ

~May – August 1980

New Jersey State Museum, Trenton NJ
New Jersey Artists, Juried Show

~October 1978

Annual Photography Exhibition
Princeton University -- Princeton, NJ
Juror: Naomi Savage

~February 1975

New Jersey Photographers
Rutgers University Gallery -- New Brunswick, NJ
Juror: Peter C. Bunnell

RESUME (Cont.)

Permanent Collections

- ~Wittliff Collections
Southwestern & Mexican Photography Collection
Texas State University, San Marcos
- ~New Mexico State University Museum
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Fellowships

- ~1974
New Jersey State Council On the Arts
Artists Fellowship
- ~1978
New Jersey State Council On the Arts
Artists Fellowship

RESUME (Cont.)

In Print

~Sunday New York Times --
December 28, 1981
Review by David L. Shirey
New Jersey Pine Barrens – The Photography of Richard Speedy
Bristol Myers Squibb Gallery

~Texas Monthly Magazine
May, 1999
“Let’s Get Lost – Crossing Mexico’s Copper Canyon”
Text by Joe Nick Patoski
Photographs by Richard Speedy

~Cowboys and Indians Magazine
March 2008
“Dancing under the Moon -- The Photography of Richard Speedy”

~US 1 Central New Jersey
October 26, 2011
Review
“Dancing Under the Moon – With a Camera”
By Ilene Dube

Current Shows

University Museum
New Mexico State University

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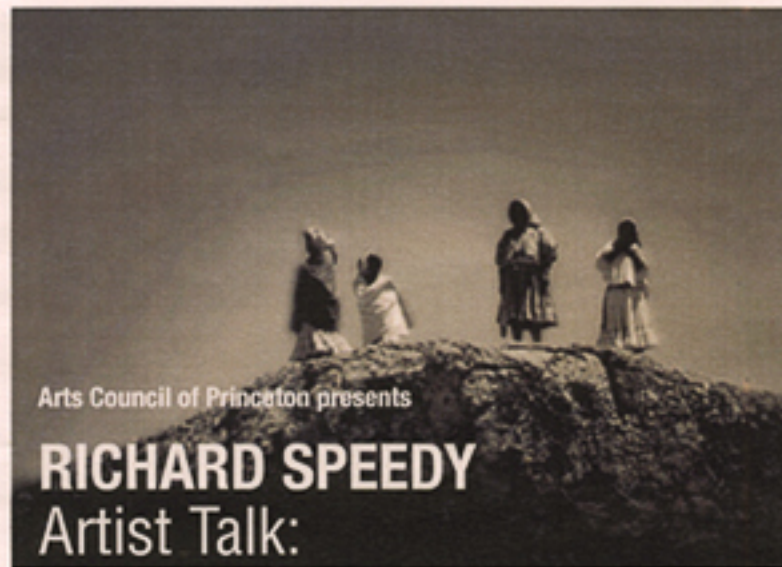


PHOTOGRAPHS
BY
RICHARD SPEEDY

UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
OPENING RECEPTION THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH 2011, 6 - 8 PM

www.richardspeedyphotographer.com

Arts Council of Princeton
Princeton, New Jersey



Arts Council of Princeton presents

RICHARD SPEEDY Artist Talk:

Dancing Under the Moon A Photographic Journey Through the Mexican Sierra Tarahumara

Join us for a special slide talk with photographer Richard Speedy. On numerous expeditions Speedy has traveled by foot and horseback to explore and photograph the many layered world that exists in southwestern Chihuahua. This artist talk is in coordination with the exhibition *El Día de los Muertos* and the Princeton ArtWalk on November 3, from 5-8 pm.

Thursday, Nov 3, 7:30 | Solley Theater | free



**ARTS COUNCIL OF
PRINCETON** Paul Robeson Center for the Arts
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artscouncilofprinceton.org | 609.924.8777

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