

BY NIGHT AND DAY

Photographer **Jim Grover** tells Jenny Conlon about his unique project that captures the story of Clapham High Street



I met Clapham resident and photographer Jim Grover at the café in Clapham library. His most recent project *48 hours on Clapham High Street* involved spending 48 hours taking photographs to capture life on the street as it unfolds.

As we sifted through each of the 48 photographs in this collection, he explained how this intriguing idea came about. "I like local stories, I like people and I am trying to develop as a photographer and in particular, social documentary photo essays. I've lived here for 30 years and I've never really explored the High Street, I just walk up and down it occasionally to buy something. I thought, you know what, I'm going to give myself the challenge to try and bring Clapham High Street to life as a photo story, which is actually damn hard".

It's clear to see that the High Street is extremely quiet during the day, which led Jim to the realisation that this was only going to work by telling the omniscient story of the

street by both day and night. "There's not much happening on the street in the middle of the day, there's almost nobody here so it's a pretty tough subject. One thing I knew of course, the nightlife here is madness, it's wild and everyone has heard of Infernos nightclub, people come from all around London to Infernos".

As Jim talked me through each of the 48 photographs, it became clear there was a very distinctive dichotomy between the photos taken during the day and the photos taken at night. "I only photographed the south side of the High Street in daytime hours working exclusively in colour and limited myself to the north side at night, working exclusively in black and white as I wanted to amplify the difference. There's a little twist or secret in each photo and you've got to find it."

Jim discovered a lot more than nightlife during his time on the High Street. "What I hadn't realised when I started this project is that there's a bunch of people who have been here for a long, long time. There are ten



independent businesses that have been here for at least 30 years on the High Street. I spent about 25 days over two months observing and chatting to people on the High Street, however, I limited myself to 48 hours of shooting time".

Not only did Jim spend time getting to know local people but he also carried out an analysis of the street which can be viewed on the website. A truly fascinating piece of work that reveals there's more to Clapham High Street than meets the eye!

■ **48 Hours on Clapham High Street: A Photo Essay** is on at Omnibus Clapham, Monday 3 April to Sunday 30 April. www.omnibus-clapham.org
Visit www.48hoursonclaphamhighstreet.com for more about the exhibition

