



Working Lives SarahPhotoGirl

Shooting bands in her own inimitable style, Sarahphotogirl is becoming something of a star herself, and found herself immortalizing the Kaiser Chiefs in front of the BBC cameras

Pictures & Words Sarahphotogirl

ANNEKA RICE would have wept at such a challenge, but trying to round up the Kaiser Chiefs for a photo-shoot was just another typical day in the office for me.

Today was a little less typical though, as the Kaiser Chiefs were not the only stars of the show this time; whilst I snapped merrily away, a cameraman from the BBC's Inside Out show was hot on my heels producing images (of the moving kind) for a 'Day in the Life of Sarahphotogirl' feature.

So the pressure was on. Not only did I have to take some great photos but I also had to refrain from tripping myself up or otherwise embarrassing myself on camera.

When the film crew and I reached the venue in Leeds, the usual bedlam set in. It seemed that the band was scattered anywhere and everywhere, and getting them in the same place (at the same time) was about as likely as getting a decent tune from The X-factor.

First there was Ricky, then there was Nick; then Nick went off to find Peanut. Meanwhile, Peanut turns up with Whitey, but no Nick, by which time Ricky...Ricky?... And so it continued, Benny Hill style, as we rushed back and forth attempting to round up the band until finally we had four out of five band members in the same place at the same time.

The sheepdog, although by no stretch a prize winner, would not be made into dog stew tonight.

As bass player Simon was nowhere to be seen we decided to go ahead with the shoot without him. Not ideal, but sand was fast slipping through the egg timer and myself, the band and the crew had other things to do. The bass player had other things to do too, only he was already doing them.

Armed with my trusty wide-angle lens, I chose a location on a series of stone steps in Leeds' Millennium Square, where I could stand higher than the band in order to angle the camera down on them. I always strive to find interesting angles and to challenge the rules of photography. I dislike seeing the typical 'five men leaning on a wall' pose; photography requires a pinch of imagination at the very least.

I arranged the band. Close in. Head tilted slightly to the left or right. Closer still - you are friends aren't you, so what are you so afraid

of? I spend time arranging my shot and I'm perceived as being bossy but 'in a nice way'. It's my photo shoot though, and if I'm not going to take control and direct where necessary then no one else will. There's no pussy footing around with me.

Suddenly Ricky has leapt out of shot and is bounding across the square. Maybe I have a little less control than I thought. This time though he is back within seconds and he seems to have made a new friend. 'Say hello to Simon!' he says whilst out-grinning a Cheshire cat.

Everyone laughs. For the dreadlocked youth in front of us does bear some resemblance to

the fifth Chief. We add him into the shoot for comedy value (no doubt encouraging talk of a split) and the shutter finally clicks merrily away.

Five minutes later and we are done. The whirlwind drops me down again. The band heads off to sound-check and the BBC crew give me a big thumbs up. Never a dull moment. Sarahphotogirl: Photographer, Director, Presenter and Shepherd. I'll give Anneka a run for her money any day. But you'll never see me in a bright yellow jumpsuit! ☺

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IMAGE LEFT
The final shot of the Kaiser Chiefs.