



Traumatic: Henry E (Pre-op) and Henry De Lotbiniere, two of the subjects of Mark Gilbert's exhibition that raises funds for the Saving Faces charity

EXHIBITION REVIEW

He Shoots, He Scores ★★★★★



Capitalising of the country's current outpouring of patriotism, official FA photographer Simon Mooney's images from the autumn's highly emotive World Cup qualifying period are on show. They include He Scores! with David Beckham striking England's qualifying goal in the 83rd minute of the match against Greece at Old Trafford. Shot from a bird's eye view, Becks is remarkably surrounded by green turf, without another player in sight. Alongside this are such patriotic pictures as War Paint, a mass of red and white, and Early Bath, where the mascot puts his feet up in the tub. Panic Attack is particularly interesting, not simply for the way it freezes a spectacular David Seaman save, but also the anxious expressions on the fans' faces. Shots from training include The Passion with an ecstatic coach and The Game Plan with Sven Goran Eriksson addressing a concerned-looking squad. For the feel-good factor there is The Role Model, Beckham with a group of adoring kids, appropriate here as all proceeds from the sale of pictures will go to Francis House Children's Hospice (supported by David and Victoria Beckham) with a limited number signed by Becks.

Rich Jewson

Until Jul 1, Brahm Gallery, Brahm Building, Se Alma Road, Headingley, Leeds, Mon to Fri 9.30am to 5pm, free. Tel: 0113 230 4000

Patients a virtue for charity show

Chris Pavlou posed for his first portrait while he was unconscious in intensive care, with his skull caved in and an anaesthetic tube in his mouth.

For most people, this would not be their most alluring moment, yet Pavlou has the full-size image displayed proudly on his living room wall. It is, he says, a reminder of the lowest moment in his life when he was attacked by a gang of thugs with a baseball bat.

For artist Mark Gilbert, the piece was one of 56 works created over a year-long residency at St Bartholomew's and Royal London Hospitals. Invited by leading surgeon Iain Hutchison to help launch his charity, Saving Faces, which raises funds for the prevention and treatment of oral and facial diseases, 32-year-old Gilbert spent his time working with patients in the oral and maxillofacial department.

'Iain wanted the paintings to show facial disfigurement in a positive light,' explains Gilbert. 'He also had this nebulous idea that it would have a therapeutic effect on the patients.'

The disfigurements Gilbert was to encounter included cancer, genetic deformity, injury from car crashes, shotgun wounds and assaults.

'I've had models in tears because I've offended them with my work,' says Gilbert, a portrait painter since his graduation a decade ago from the Glasgow School Of Art. 'Normally, I would insulate myself from that and carry on regardless. Here, I was actively seeking the patients' opinions. I had to be sure from the beginning that

ART

Mark Gilbert's Saving Faces helps in more ways than one

they were confident with the project. Their confidence gave me confidence.'

Admitting that it took 'a year for him to feel convinced that the work was going to have a positive outcome, Gilbert became a confidant for many of the people he was working with.

'I was accessing some of the most traumatic moments of these people's lives,' he explains. 'They were telling me things they hadn't told anyone else. Through my painting, they were getting more and more knowledge of the treatment.'

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This extra information included close-ups from the operating theatre where, gowned up, Gilbert would be allowed in to shoot off a full roll of film while surgery was in progress. 'They wanted to see what they looked like, it was part of the coping mechanism,' says the artist. 'I thought I was squeamish, but when I got in there I just thought it was fantastic.'

It also gave him the opportunity to meet some incredible personalities: barrister Henry De Lotbiniere has had 15 operations in 13 years to stop the

spread of cancer which has cost him an eye and all of the bones on the left side of his head.

'Henry was the first person I met, and he was quite badly deformed, but within five minutes you forgot what he looked like,' recalls Gilbert. 'He would come up to sit for me in his gown and wig every morning before going to chambers. He'd have a joke about the fact that he always wanted to be James Bond, but it was always the baddies that had facial disfigurements.'

Many of the patients were better able to cope with what was put down on canvas than what appeared in the mirror. 'It was someone else's opinion of them and a confirmation of what they really looked like, rather than a mirror image.'

With psychologist Paul Farrant evaluating the effect of the pictures on the patients, it was discovered that Gilbert's way of representing the subjects - at home with family members or wearing familiar clothes - was helping them to view themselves as a whole person rather than just focusing on the face.

'A huge part of the process was seeing the effect of these pictures being shown around the world,' says Gilbert. 'Most patients felt that the more people who got to see them, the better. These people are not, in any way, shrinking violets!'

Karen Joyner
Thu until Aug 4, Leeds City Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leeds, Mon to Sat 10am to 5pm, Wed 10am to 8pm, Sun 1pm to 5pm, free. Tel: 0113 247 8248. www.savingfaces.co.uk

IN TOWN TONIGHT



DANCE

I Got Rhythm

Gershwin's melodies are brought to life in song and dance in the latest production (above) from Northern Ballet Theatre's David Nixon

Tonight until Sat, 46 New Briggate, Leeds, 7.30pm, mats Thu 2pm and Sat 2.30pm, £11 to £27, conc available. Tel: 0113 222 6222



THEATRE

Fame

Straight from the West End, the stage version (above) of Alan Parker's 1980s all-singing, all-dancing film drama features a 35-strong cast of real-life showbiz wannabes

Tonight until Sat, Alhambra Theatre, Morley Street, Bradford, tonight to Thu and Sat 7.30pm, Fri 5.30pm and 8.45pm, mats tomorrow 2pm and Sat 2.30pm, £6.50 to £20.50, conc available. Tel: 01274 752000

GIG

The Shining

Releasing their first post-Verve album, I Wonder How, yesterday, Simon Jones and Simon Tong have more than proved that Richard Ashcroft wasn't the band's only talent

Tonight, The New Adelphi Club, 89 De Grey Street, Hull, 8pm, £6, £5 conc. Tel: 01482 348216

BOOKING NOW

Levellers

The Brighton crusties (right) are back with a new album, Green Blade



Rising, due out in September, and a national tour peddling their subversive folk-punk

Nov 15, Sheffield University Students' Union, Western Bank, Sheffield, 7.30pm, £15. Tel: 0114 222 8777

Prague Philharmonia

The Czech orchestra's debut Harrogate International Festival appearance, which includes work by Suk and Mozart, features pianist Mikhail Rudy.

Jul 16, Royal Hall, Ripon Road, Harrogate, 8pm, £12.50 to £25, conc available. Tel: 01423 537230

RATINGS GUIDE

Excellent ★★★★★
Very good ★★★★☆
Good ★★★☆☆
Adequate ★★☆☆☆
Poor ★☆☆☆☆