



# How to Make Your First Assignment -- *the Best*

By Gary Daniel IFPO, Bartlett, Tennessee

MY INTEREST IN PHOTOGRAPHY STARTED WHEN I WAS 17. I AM NOW 42. IT HAS TAKEN ME MOST OF THESE YEARS TO AFFORD SOME DECENT EQUIPMENT AND EVEN LONGER TO FIND IFPO. *Gary Daniel.*

I have had the desire to express myself through photography since I visited Nashville Tech more than twenty years ago and saw photographs that the students had taken for a project.

It was much later when I invested in my first camera, a Yashica FX3 2000 with a Carl Zeiss 50mm 1.7 lens. I spent a year experimenting and learning with it before I decided to get a more automatic camera. Wanting something basic, I chose the Minolta Maxxum 5 with a 50mm 1.7 autofocus lens and a Sigma 100-300 4.5 to 6.7 zoom lens.

After spending another year with this set-up, I learned about IFPO and joined. I was excited and ready to cover my first NBA basketball game only to learn from the Memphis Grizzlies public relations office that they do not allow freelance photographers to cover their games.

I was really disappointed until I read about the Gold Press Program in *Today's*

*Photographer Magazine*. I joined the program and sent in my letter of assignment to cover the Memphis Grizzlies versus the LA Lakers game at the Pyramid Arena. I was approved!

I was very excited and began to prepare for the game. First I bought some 1600 speed Fuji film, then I reviewed the Photographer's Code of Ethics from the Gold Press Program. I also kept in mind much of what I had learned in *Today's Photographer Magazine*.

When I arrived at the game I introduced myself to the Media Director and learned that I had access to the locker rooms before and after the game as well as the coaches' press conference after the game.

I met Isaac Hayes

who sang the National Anthem at the opening of the game and found myself standing next to Phil Jackson while he was being interviewed by news groups from around the country.

After I left the game, the police stopped traffic for me as I left the the media parking lot. This was a night I will never forget.

I owe it all to the Gold Press Program and IFPO. I am confident now that I can cover the kind of events in the future that I had only dreamed about in the past. Ω



LOS ANGELES LAKERS' SHAQUILLE O'NEAL TAKES THE REBOUND FROM MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES' SHANE BATTIER IN THE NBA GAME AT THE PYRAMID ARENA IN MEMPHIS.

Photo by Gary Daniel IFPO, Bartlett, Tennessee.

## 2002 Contest Winners continued from page 37

August  
Certificate Winner  
*Spokes of Time*  
Cinderella Morff, Lohman, Missouri

Honorable Mentions  
*Inside Ellis Island I*  
Edgardo Cardinal, North Bergen, New Jersey  
*The Spring Flowers*  
Craig Rubin, Lincoln Park, Michigan  
*Constructing the Leonard Zakin Bridge*  
Elizabeth Della Piana, Winchester, Mass.

September  
Honorable Mentions  
*Strolling the Beach*  
Claudia Murray, Jamestown, NC

October  
Honorable Mentions  
*Dream*  
Lyudmila Fedossov, Skokie, Illinois  
*Pretty Woman 6*  
Carleen Bragg, Chicago, Illinois  
*Swimsuit Glamour by Little Miss*  
Claudia Murray, Jamestown, NC

November  
Honorable Mentions  
*Sawston High Street*  
Dawn Burns, Riverside, California  
*Wyoming Fireman Respond to Disaster Drill*  
Arlo Abrahamson, San Diego, California

December  
Certificate Winners  
*A Beautiful Ending*  
Claudia Murray, Jamestown, NC  
*Peacock*  
Malcolm G. Smith, Westborough, Mass.

Honorable Mentions  
*Alexandra*  
Dean Sfikas, Port St. Lucie, Florida  
*My Girl*  
Andre' Amory, Sandys, MA02, Bermuda Ω

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