

Chuck Stewart

PHOTOGRAPHY

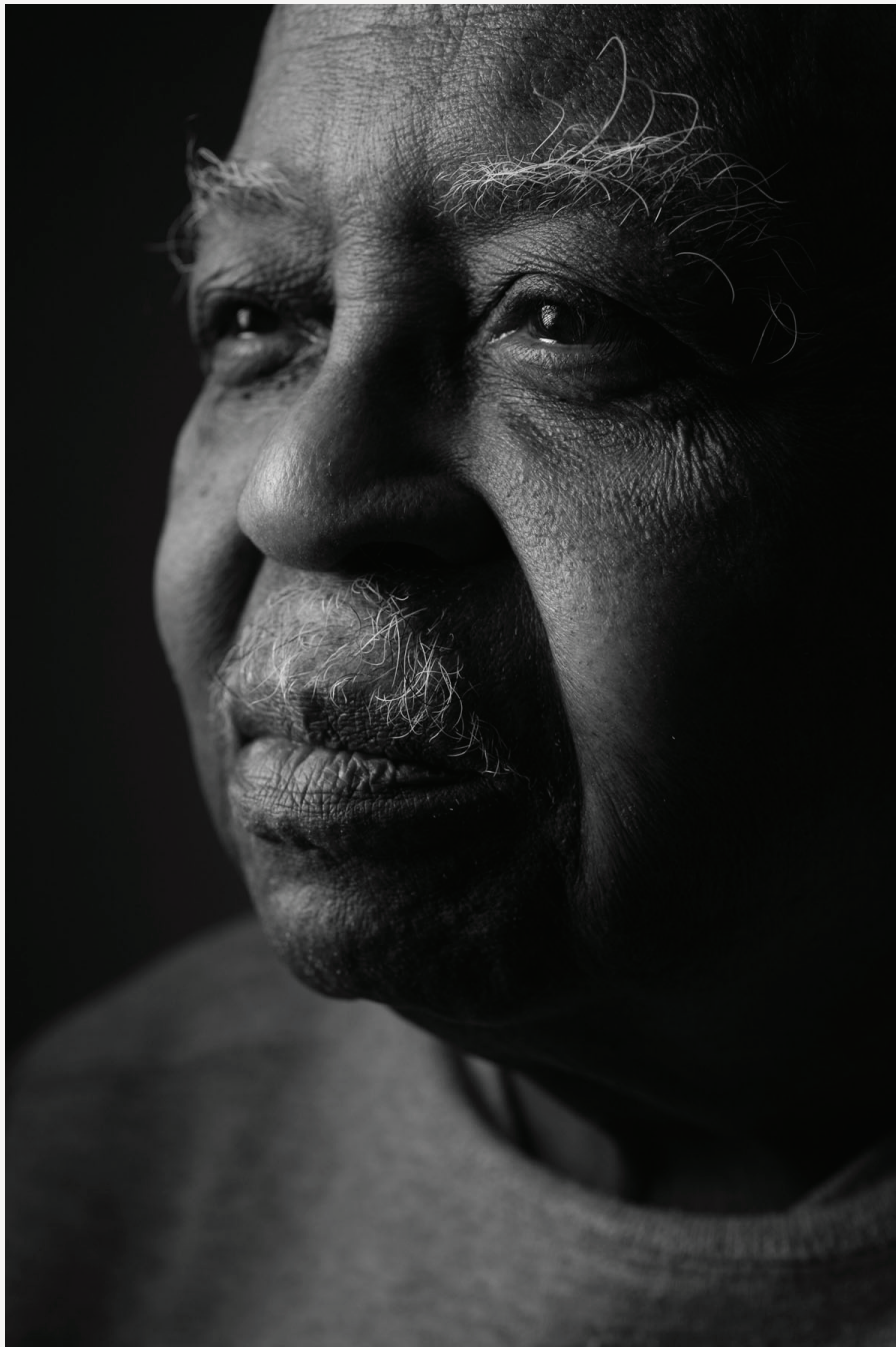


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Chuck Stewart

Contact

Chuck Stewart Photography

chuckstewart521@aol.com

Education

Ohio University, Athens, OH

Bachelors in Fine Arts (Photography) 1949

Professional Photographer

1951-1953 US Army Signal Corps

Part of film unit responsible for Dept. of Defense documenting atomic testing in the early 1950s.

1953-1956 *Our World* magazine

Principal photographer for *Our World*, a premier full-size nationally distributed African-American magazine covering contemporary topics, black history politics and social awareness based in New York Photography (1946-1957). The story "Negroes and the Atom Bomb," featured Cpl. Chuck Stewart with an Army photography unit documenting an atomic test at Yucca Flats Nevada, Apr. 22, 1952.

1953-1956 Leonard-Stewart Photography

Joined OU classmate Herman Leonard, to co-produced photos for New York Jazz Clubs, studio portraits and freelance publicity photography.

1956 Established Studio

Chuck Stewart Photography, NYC

1956-1960s Photographer

Chess, Argo, Verve, Riverside, Reprise Records

1956-2017 Major Photographic Work

More than 2000 album covers, numerous exhibitions, films, as well as contributions to magazines, newspapers, and books including: *New York Times*, *Life*, *Paris Match*, *Esquire Jazz Book*, *Down Beat*, and Leonard Feather's *Encyclopedia of Jazz*

1960-1970s Principal photographer

Impulse! Records – LP cover photography for two decades including milestone recordings by John Coltrane, Oliver Nelson, Lionel Hampton and many others.

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1961-1970s Photographer	Mercury records, including eight Quincy Jones LPs, and principal photographer for Dinah Washington's Mercury recordings.
1964 Beatles first US Tour	Principal photographer for the British group's first US tour.
1978-1991 Photographer	United Negro College Fund

Teaching and Professional Associations

1986-1998 Faculty	Adjunct Faculty, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City
1963-1978 Board member	Board of Governors, N.A.R.A.S. (National Academy of Recording Artists and Scientists)

Publications

Chuck Stewart's Jazz Files, by Charles Stewart and Paul Carter Harrison (Da Capo Press, 1985)

Museum Catalogs: *Jazz: The Photographs of Chuck Stewart*, Introduction by Steve Roach
Vampin': A conversation between Chuck Stewart and Paul Carter Harrison
The Tundra, British Museum 2019
Treasures, New York Public Library 2020

Films/Documentaries

Photos appeared in the documentary films:

- *James Brown - Mr. Dynamite: The Rise of James Brown* (HBO 2014), produced by Mick Jagger and Alex Gibney
- *The Amazing Nina Simone* (2015)
- *The Lady that Swings: Mary Lou Williams* (2015)
- *I Called Him Morgan* (Netflix 2016)
- *Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary* (2017)
- *Life in 12 Bars Eric Clapton* (Netflix 2017)
- *Maya Angelou - And Still I Rise* (PBS, 2017)
- *Quincy: Quincy Jones* (Netflix 2018)
- *The Black Godfather* (Netflix 2019)
- *Miles Davis: Birth of Cool* (PBS/Netflix 2019)
- *Ron Carter: Finding the Right Notes* (PBS 2021)

2023 (Upcoming)

- *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes* (TBA)
- *James Brown Docuseries* (TBA)

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Awards

1981 International Black Photographers 3rd Annual Outstanding Achievement in Photography

1984 National Council for Culture and Arts, Inc. – IV Annual Monarch Merit Award

1988 United Negro College Fund – Distinguished Service Citation Award

1989 The Bergen County AD HOC Committee of Black Women’s Community Service Award
Contribution to the Chronology of Jazz History through Photography

1994 NAACP NYC – Outstanding Service Award – Photography

1989 The Jazz Journalist Association – Critics’ Choice Award for Excellence in Photography

2001 The Jazz Journalist Association – Critics’ Choice Award for Excellence in Photography

2008 The Milt Hinton Award for Excellence in Jazz Photography

2014

- Smithsonian National American History Museum
Honored for donation of photographs: *John Coltrane 50th Anniversary “A Love Supreme”*
- George Washington University
Honored for Artistic Contribution: *John Coltrane “A Love Supreme”*
- Honored by Teaneck Council of Teaneck Township
Outstanding Resident Award and Proclamation of Achievements

2015 Mayor Lizette Parker’s 7th Annual African American History Month Cultural Arts Award

2016

- New Jersey Jazz Society – Jazz Advocate’s Award
- State of New Jersey and the Senate and General Assembly
Joint Legislative Resolution to Photographer Chuck Stewart
- WBGO, FM Radio Honors Jazz Photographer Chuck Stewart
- Newark Municipal Council, City of Newark
Issued Resolution and Proclamation of Photographical Accomplishments

2022

- County of Bergen – Certificate of Commendation
- U.S. House of Representatives – Congressional Certificate of Recognition

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Exhibitions

2026 (Upcoming)

- Harvey B. Gantt Cultural Center, Charlotte, NC – *Jazz Greats: Classic Photograph from Bank of America Collection* (TBD 2026)
- The 9th Triennial of Photography Hamburg 2026, Hamburg, Germany – *Alliance, Infinity, Love: In the Face of the Other* (June 4-September 22, 2026)
- Nashville Symphony, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Nashville, TN – *John Coltrane: Legacy for Orchestra* (January 15-16, 2026)

2025

- Cheekwood Estates and Garden, Nashville, TN – *Jazz Greats: Classic Photographs from Bank of America Collection* (July 12-October 5, 2025)
- Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA – *Alice Coltrane Monument Eternal* (February-May 2025)
- Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston, MA – *Coltrane Legacy for Orchestra* (March 21-22, 2025)
- Contact Photography Festival - Outdoor Installation, Toronto, Canada (May 1-31, 2025)
- Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. (TBD)

2024

- Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba, New York, NY – *Long Journey Forward Black Men in Passage* (January 2024)
- Upcountry History Museum, Greenville, S.C. – *Vision & Spirit: Black Artists*, Bank of America Collection (February-June 2024)
- Louisiana Art and Science Museum, Baton Rouge, LA – *Improvisation: The Art & Healing Power of Jazz* (February-November 2024)
- Puffin Cultural Center, Teaneck NJ – *Jazztown, Teaneck* (March-July 2024)
- Newark Symphony Hall, Newark, NJ – *A Chuck Stewart Tribute Exhibition, "SASSY" THROUGH THE LENS* (April 2024)
- Severance Music Hall, Cleveland, OH – *The Magic Lens: A Photographic Journey by Chuck Stewart* (April-May 2024)
- Bergen Performing Arts Center Englewood – *NJ Jazztown, Englewood through the Lens of Chuck Stewart* (July-November 2024)
- National Arts Club, New York, NY, *Jazz Greats*, Bank of America Collection (September-November 2024)

2023

- National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington D.C. – *Afrofuturism: A History of Black Futures* (March 2023)
- Harvard University Black Art Collective, Harvard University, Boston, MA – *In the Shadow of Giants: Chuck Stewart* (April 2023)
- In the Nef of Radio France, Paris, France – *"Ladies and Gentlemen"* (September 2023)
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, Baltimore, MD, *Vision & Spirit: African American Art Works*, Bank of America Collection (October 2023-January 2024)
- Le Kiosque, Vannes, France – *Exhibition: Jazz Story 1954-1974*, from the archives of Jazz Magazine (December 2023-January 2024)

2022

- Photography Museum at University of California at Riverside, Riverside, CA – *Jazz Greats*, Bank of America Collection (January-April 2022)
- Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, Baltimore, MD, *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (February-September 2022)

(2022 Exhibitions cont'd)

- Athens Public Library, Athens, OH – *Ohio University Chamber Jazz Concert in Honor of Music Photographer Chuck Stewart* (March 2022)
- Athens Public Library, Athens, OH – *Memorabilia Exhibit Honoring Chuck Stewart* (April 2022)
- Newark Museum of Art, Newark, NJ – *Jazz Greats: Classic Photographs*, Bank of America Collection (June-August 2022)
- Guinness Cork Jazz Festival, Cork, Ireland – *We Got the Jazz: Chuck Stewart Photographs* (October 2022)
- The Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI – *Jazz Greats*, Bank of America Collection (October 2022-January 2023)
- Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture and Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, SC – *Men of Change: Power. Triumph. Truth.* (October 2022-March 2023)
- African American Museum of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA – *Vision & Spirit: African American Art* (December 2022-February 2023)

2021

- Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture and Levine Museum of the New South, Charlotte, SC – *Vision & Spirit: African American Art Works*, Bank of America Collection (February-August 2021)
- San Francisco Jazz Center, San Francisco, CA – *Photography of Chuck Stewart - Exterior Installation*, Exhibition in SFUSD Building (June 2021)
- African American Museum, Dallas, Texas – *Men of Change: Power. Truth. Triumph.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (June-September 2021)
- Arles, France, and Marseille, France – *Les Rencontres d'Arles "Jazz Power!"* (August 2021)
- Highpoint Museum, Highpoint, NC – *A Love Supreme: Jazz of John Coltrane Through the Eyes of Chuck Stewart* (September-December 2021)
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH – *2021 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductee Exhibition* (October 2021)
- New York Public Library, New York, NY – *Treasures Exhibition* (September 2021 - Permanent Collection)

2020

- Karshan Center of Graphic Arts, Daytona Beach, FL – *Billie Holiday Sugar Hill*, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (January-August 2020)
- Hamlet, NC – *Mural Installation: John Coltrane* – Riley Street side of the Opera House (June 2020 - Permanent Installation)
- Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland, OH – *It's Been Said All Along* (July 2020-2023)
- California African American Museum, Los Angeles, CA – *Men of Change: Power. Truth. Triumph.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (July-November 2020)
- The British Museum, London England – *Tantra* (September 2020-January 2021)
- The Cleveland Museum, Cleveland, OH – *Mix: Amplify* (virtual), (October 2020)
- Anacostia Community Museum, Washington, DC – *Men of Change: Power. Truth. Triumph.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (December 2020-March 2021)

2019

- Snap! Orlando, FL – *Eye of an Era: Chuck Stewart* (April-July 2019)
- National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, Ohio – *Men of Change: Power. Truth. Triumph.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (August-December 2019)
- Museum of African American History, Boston, MA – *Jazz Greats*, Bank of America Collection (September 2019)
- Washington State History Museum, Tacoma, WA – *Men of Change: Power. Truth. Triumph.* Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service - S.I.T.E.S. (December 2019-March 2020)

CHUCK STEWART - Biography

Chuck Stewart was a professional cultural photographer for more than 70 years; an eyewitness to many great moments in 20th century history.

Chuck was born in Henrietta, Texas and raised in Tucson, AZ where his family moved to seek more opportunities. On his 14th birthday, his mother gave him a Six-16 Box Brownie camera to try his hand at photography. Several months later, the famed mezz-soprano wMarian Anderson visited Dunbar School where Chuck attended. He took pictures of the event and sold them to students and teachers and earned \$2.00. This was a great financial leap from a 25-cents a week allowance. His career was born.

Chuck earned a Bachelors in Fine Arts degree in Photography from Ohio University ('49) during a time when it was rare, if not impossible, for African Americans to study fine arts at white institutions. Chuck was active with the Camera Club, member of the Photographic Society of America, played baseball and was a Los Amigos member. There he met mentor and lifelong friend, photographer Herman Leonard.

Immediately after graduating from Ohio University, Chuck joined Herman in NYC. Chuck did a lot of the grunt work, where he learned to set up a shot and understand what the photographer tries to translate to an audience. He and Herman assisted world renowned portrait photographer Yousuf Karsh for the photo shoot of Albert Einstein in Princeton, New Jersey.

Drafted by the Army in 1951, qualified as a military photographer based on his Fine Arts Degree at Ohio University, he applied and qualified for a position at the Army's Signal Corp Photographic Center (Army Pictorial Center) and was the only African American with a Q Clearance to shoot still shots of early tests of the nuclear bomb in Nevada 1952.

After his discharge from the Army, he became a staff photographer for *Our World Magazine* and worked the New York City music scene capturing notable jazz luminaries representing Latin jazz, big band, bebop, cool jazz, and more, as well as bands and vocalists representing rock n' roll, rhythm and blues, pop, country, Broadway, film and television. He continued to work with Herman at the Sullivan St. studio in NYC and took over the studio in 1956 when Herman moved to France.

When the Beatles first toured America, Chuck toured with them but asked to be reassigned after being pinched and poked too many times by fans. He was then assigned to Guy Lombardo.

Chuck was the only photographer at the historic recording session of John Coltrane's album "A Love Supreme." Oddly, his photos weren't used for the album cover. However, rare and unseen photos from that session now reside in the jazz archives of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History for anyone to see. The majority of the images used in the John Coltrane's "Chasing Trane" Documentary and James Brown HBO Documentary are from Chuck's collection.

Chuck held photography workshops at WNET/PBS broadcasting, worked as a contracted photographer for the United Negro College Fund New York Chapter (1978-1991), was an Adjunct Faculty PT at Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC for 12 years, served on the Board of Governors for the New York Chapter of N.A.R.A.S. (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences) beginning 1963-78, and was a voting member for the Grammy's just shy of half a century.

Chuck's photographs have illustrated more than 2,000 album covers and liner pages for some of the nation's leading and niche record labels. His photographs have been used in Motion Pictures, TV shows, over 50 documentaries, and publications both national and international. There has been a growing demand for Chuck's images to be shown in textbooks at Stanford University, Yale University, Oxford University and Cambridge University to name a few. His jazz images appear in over 100 jazz books globally, published in many languages.

Currently, Chuck's images are gracing the silver screen, eight documentaries are on Netflix, PBS Masters and Prime Video. Bank of America has a collection of Chuck's images that are exhibited in their Arts and Culture section on their website. In collaboration with The Studio Museum, Bank of America will use some of these images in an upcoming 8-minute video which will air on the bank's YouTube channel. Several exhibitions were cancelled during the pandemic and are being rescheduled for 2023. A coffee table book is in the making authored by Journalist and Author Herb Boyd.

Observations from Chuck Stewart:

"It's probably easier for you to ask me whom haven't I photographed then to have me tell you whose photographs I have. But if there's a historic moment in American music, social or cultural history that you're curious about, chances are I was there or have photographs of someone who was." (2014)

"You see, a camera is just a tool that helps to communicate what the photographer wants the subject and the public to see. It's the photographer's eye that gives a picture soul and tells a story." (2014)

"I was trained as a photographer. I just happened to do a lot of work for record companies. In America everybody needs to be labeled. So as far as people are concerned I'm a jazz photographer. But what does that have to do with anything, because I've also photographed Bo Diddley and Leopold Tchaikovsky." (2015)

"The digital thing would have put people like me out of business, because I had to know every aspect of what I was doing. My eyes said there is the picture the picture is here. Once I take the picture, how do I improve upon it if I have the time? Then I go into the dark room and improve some more. The final result is a picture I want people to see." (2016)

Chuck Stewart

& MARIAN ANDERSON



When opera singer Marian Anderson (contralto) visited Dunbar Junior High in 1942, a 14 year old student named Chuck Stewart took a photo of her with his Box Brownie camera. He sold the prints to his teachers and classmates, thus beginning his illustrious career as a professional photographer.

Chuck Stewart was a member of the Board of Governors for the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (N.A.R.A.S.). In 1965, he was the lead photographer for all of the Grammy events. Here he crossed paths once again with Marian Anderson who was on stage with Duke Ellington and Count Bassie.



Once again, Chuck Stewart and Marian Anderson crossed paths in 1987 when Leontyne Price (soprano) bowed to greet the legendary opera singer at Carnegie Hall, NYC.



CROSSING PATHS

Chuck Stewart



Pee Wee Russell



Dave Brubeck



John and Alice Coltrane



Eric Dolphy



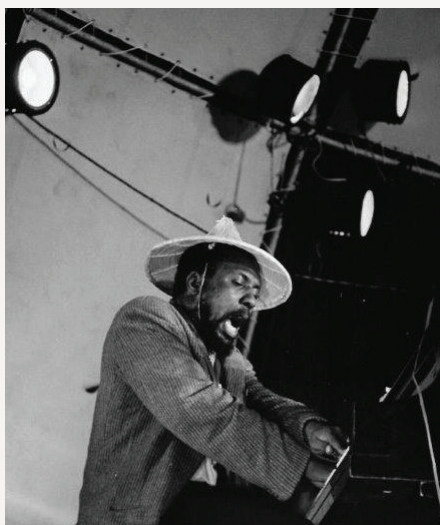
Dizzie Gillespie



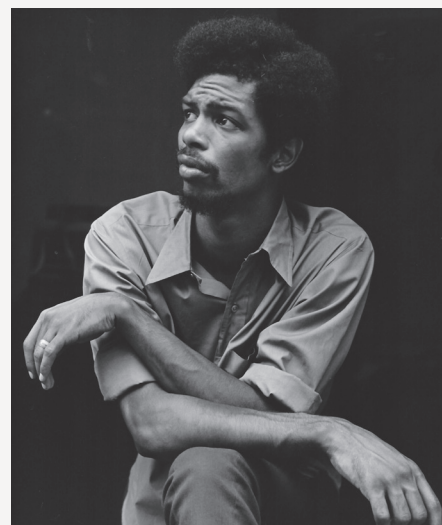
Billie Holiday



Hand of John Coltrane



Thelonious Monk



Gil Scott-Heron

ALL THAT JAZZ

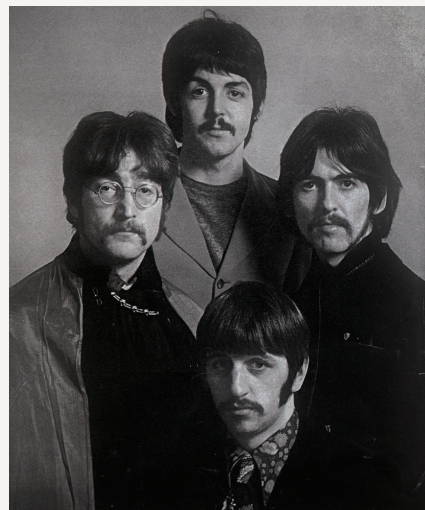
Chuck Stewart



Harry Belafonte



Tony Bennett



The Beatles



Eric Clapton



Frank Sinatra



Nat King Cole



Bob Dylan



Lena Horne



Tiny Tim



Ginger Baker



The Lovin' Spoonful



Grace Jones



Janis Joplin



Patti Paige



Quincy Jones

MIXED MUSIC GENRES

ALBUM COVERS

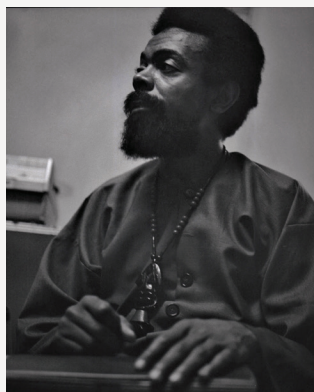
Chuck Stewart



Cicely Tyson



Patti Labelle & Coretta Scott King



Amiri Baraka



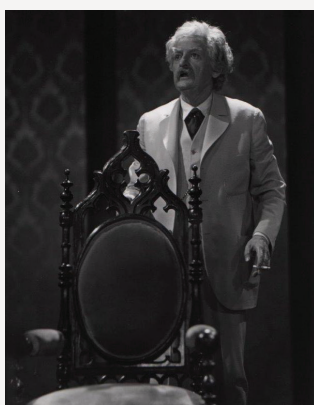
Dom DeLoise



Godfrey Cambridge



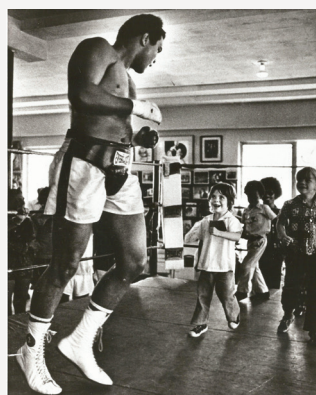
H. Rap Brown



Hal Holbrook



Langston Hughes & Maya Angelou



Muhammed Ali



Toni Morrison & Jackie Kennedy Onassis



Peter Falk



Maya Angelou & Betty Shabazz



Elizabeth Taylor, Liza Minelli, Michael Jackson & Whitney Houston at the United Negro College Fundraiser, 1988



Redd Foxx



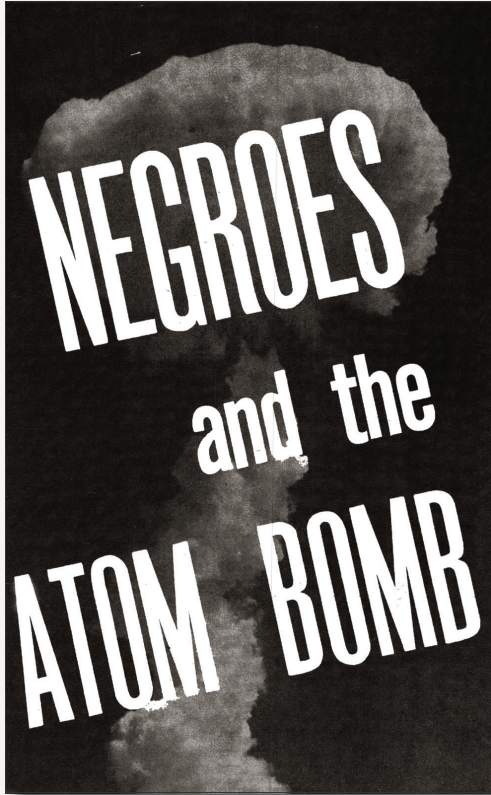
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LEGENDS

Chuck Stewart



STORY TELLER



For 8 Million Negroes

SEVEN years ago (August 6, 1945) a single plane dropped an atom bomb on Hiroshima. The result was over 70 thousand dead and missing. That many more suffered injury from the blast effects, burns and acute radiation.

The pictures on these pages were taken by one world photographer, Wilbert Blancher, of the 27th United States atomic explosion on Yucca Flat at the Nevada proving grounds last April 22nd. The bomb was larger than those exploded either at Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

If it had been dropped on an average American city probably 40 thousand people would have been killed outright or died the same day. Within five or six weeks 20 thousand more would die. There could be another 60 thousand non-fatal casualties.

Any day from now on you and your city face the danger of a surprise attack. Since September 1949, when President Truman announced the occurrence of an atomic explosion in Soviet Russia, that danger to American security has existed. Russia has enough bombs now to wreak havoc on a score of American cities.

Our chief military authorities agree that in a mass air attack at least 70 per cent of the enemy planes would get through to drop their bombs on key cities in the United States.

Yet despite this grim reality, your greatest danger lies in panic and fear; in ignorance of simple steps for self-protection. The next two pages of this article may save your life.

Who Live in Cities The Atom Bomb Presents A Grim Threat To Their Survival.



Trigger-Men For America's 1952 Atom Bomb Tests
(l. to r.) Gordon Dean, chairman, Atomic Energy Commission,
Carroll L. Tyler, brig. Gen. K. Fields, and Dr. Alvin C. Graves.

Cpl. Charles H. Stewart (standing) from Tucson, and Sgt. Joseph Yancey of N.Y.C. (with camera) shot pix of A-bomb.



A magazine spread from the September 1952 issue of *Our World Magazine*. Stewart is pictured on far right with camera in hand.