The Times Square Gym

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GOODMAN  TEXT BY PETE HAMILL  DISTRIBUTED BY D.A.P.
Joyce Carol Oates's review of *the times square gym* monograph in DoubleTake Magazine

"Goodman's sympathy for these young athletes is apparent, and his skill at capturing what might be called aesthetic sympathy is riveting. John Goodman's technically brilliant *the times square gym* may well take its place as one of those works of memorialist beauty dedicated to boxing and the myriad ways it has gotten into our blood."

Joyce Carol Oates' review

Duane Michals's review of John Goodman's *the times square gym* monograph

"John Goodman's *'the times square gym'* is the best book about boxing that I've ever seen. It is very reminiscent of the great Brodovitch's book 'Ballet' in the way it captures the atmosphere of the boxer's world. You can almost hear the thud of the gloves hitting each other and smell the smoke and perspiration. All in all this is a wonderful accomplishment."

Duane Michals' hand written review

Toni Bentley's review of *Boxers+Ballerinas* at Rick Wester Fine Art

"Goodman's images do not capture the public moments of victory and applause, but he goes backstage with his subjects—the gym and the stage's wings—and his view would seem so intimate as to be voyeuristic, were it not for his evident respect, even awe."

New York Review of Books / April 3, 2014

Pete Hamill's introduction to John Goodman's *the times square gym* monograph

"The *times square gym*...represents that rarest of artistic achievements: a monumental homage to the lower working class. Its poignancy owes to its unflinching lack of sentimentality."

Pete Hamill's full introduction
The Times Square Gym has certain unique qualities that none of the city's current projects enjoy: it sits in the middle of Manhattan, has a rich, century-long history and is recognized internationally as the crossroads of the world. Even at the worst of times, tourists from England to Italy, Algeria to Japan came to New York to have their pictures taken in Times Square. But the often painful rebirth also took perseverance and a long-term approach, rare characteristics in a city obsessed with making things happen in a New York minute.

A boxing trainer, Mr. Glenn was the owner of the late Times Square Gym, located one floor above 42nd Street; boxers with names like Ali, Frazier and Tyson used to mount the long stairwell to his ring. This book is a true homage to a holdout establishment that finally succumbed to the wrecking ball in the wake of NY's Disneyization. The pictures in this book capture the look, feel and smell of what it was like to enter that rarely travelled circle of the serious boxer looking to make it to the big time.

"The Times Square Gym was a 'home' for many young boxers. There is almost a genetic connection between the older trainers and the younger boxers. It's beautiful to watch all the wisdom and love, which probably sounds surprising. That is what I was interested in, not necessarily the combat."
- John Goodman

A Few Rounds of Photography: A Conversation with John Goodman
Camera Arts August/September 1999 edited by John Paul Caponigro

View the full interview with John Goodman