



‘Teenage Clicks’ at Fellowship House

IVAN BERG

Being a keen photographer from the age of 12, it was natural for me to take a decent camera when I joined the British Merchant Navy in 1953. I was just 16 at the time and bored with drab and miserable post-war London. I wanted to get away in search of adventure and glamour.

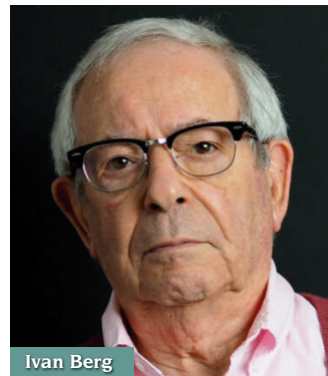
I was working in a camera shop in Threadneedle Street in the City, home to the offices of the shipping companies and to the British Shipping Federation. In my lunch hour wanderings I would walk past its windows. It had a poster display that offered boys of 16 and over entry into the Merchant Navy via free training at a sea school. That was it. I went in. I had a bit of a job persuading my parents to sign the

authorisation form, but in the end it was reluctantly signed. I gave in my notice to the camera shop and bought the best camera I could afford, a German Voigtlander Perkeo.



In my almost five years at sea, I travelled to the Canary Islands, South Africa, Portuguese East Africa, Brazil, Ecuador, and Argentina. I joined Cunard and sailed on the iconic Queen Elizabeth, Mauretania and Queen Mary ocean liners visiting New York and cruising the Caribbean, all the while with the shutter of my Perkeo clicking.

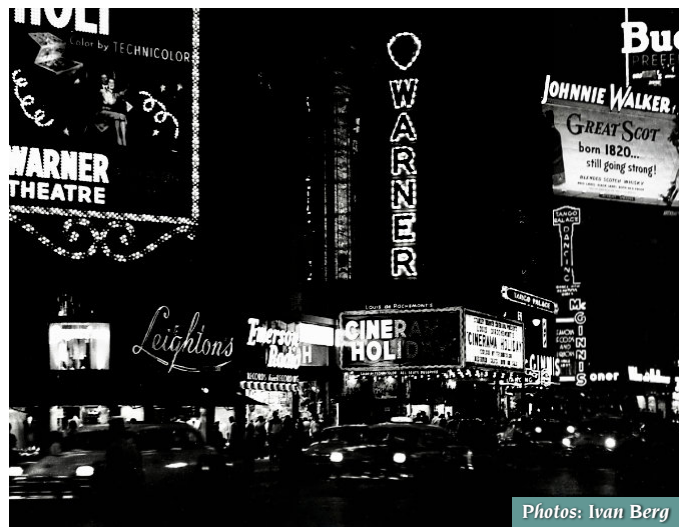
During the Covid lockdown I dug out my archive of negatives, scanned them in high resolution and printed a selection of them in exhibition sizes for the first time. I was wowed. When Sally Botterill from the Suburb’s Fellowship House phoned to say there was a space for another one of my photographic shows I knew I had something interesting and different. Hence ‘Teenage Clicks’ on show through February and March in the Eileen Whelan Gallery. Viewing is free on Tuesday and Friday afternoons between 2 and 4pm.



Ivan Berg

It is my third show in the Fellowship House gallery – the other two featured series of photographic portraits. My ‘Teenage Clicks’ Show Guide can be seen online at teenageclicksphotos.com.

My links to the Suburb go way back to 1944, when I attended the Garden Suburb Junior school. I photograph and film many of the Garden Suburb Theatre shows and now live in Parliament Hill.



Photos: Ivan Berg



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