

The Wells Point as filmmaker

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thewellspoint

July was great! Among other things, I started the month with time in New York City with my daughter. While she has not chosen to work in photography (probably a wise choice considering the business climate in the photography business), I am so proud that she has chosen to work in the costume field, currently doing so at the famed Public theater in NYC. Yes, that Public theater which incubated HAMILTON and many, many other important and politically thought-provoking plays. The play she is currently working on, HAMLET, garnered a [rave review in the NY Times](#).



In July, I also learned that my first feature length documentary, Echoing Histories, was honored with two small grants, one from [The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities](#) and from The Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. Below is my grant application's summary description of the movie:

A humorous and intimate documentary film on the journey of a female, immigrant, artist-of-color whose experience living between cultures continually

shapes her. While pursuing her career-defining art-work, she wrestles with the immigrant's uprootedness, her creativity, and the horrors of India's partition. All this happens amidst today's debate over the place of immigrants and refugees in America.

In the future, I will share images from my grant winning documentary. Images from previous Morocco adventures are interspersed throughout this newsletter.



Amidst the good news of July was the sad news that Jack Shaheen had died. I met Jack (and his wife Bernice) while producing a video on them and their important work researching, writing, and battling stereotypes of Arab-Americans and Muslims in pop culture. I strongly urge you to watch and share [the video that I made on the Shaheens](#). Not because it is such a great video, but because it raises important questions about ethnic stereotypes.

Speaking of battling stereotypes, an old friend, gifted photographer, master teacher, and fantastic social entrepreneur, Shahidul Alam, recently posted a lovely video about a photographic exhibition of his work. He turns tradition on its head by holding the exhibition in the last place you would expect - a mosque! In the movie, with Shahidul's narration, the [images](#) and [video](#) of the mosque itself go a long way to combat, stereotyping, Islamophobia, and extremism.



NEWS YOU CAN USE:

The title, [The Photographer's Guide to Instagram Hashtags](#), says it all. PhotoShelter partnered with the web-site, Feature Shoot, to create a very useful list of some of the best searchable and submittable hashtags for photographers. Regardless of whether your work is travel, street, black and white, landscape, fine art or other kinds of photography, proper use of Hashtags is the key to getting exposure for your work. Reading the guide has changed the way I use Hashtags on my Instagram.



WORKSHOPS NEWS:

By the time you read this, I will be in the midst of teaching my [Narrative Videos for the Storytelling Photographers workshop](#), at the world-renowned Maine Media Workshops, August 6 - 12 of 2017. In that class, you can learn how to take the storytelling skills that we already have as photographers and apply them to creating short videos for personal or professional projects.

At the end of the summer, September 6 - 11 of 2017, I will be teaching my [Photo-Essay Class at the Wooden Boat Festival](#) in Puget Sound, Washington through the Pacific Northwest Art School.



For those of you living near Providence, Rhode Island, this Fall I will offer an extraordinary opportunity to immerse yourself in my favorite subject - the photo-essay (or the multi-image personal project). That class has five meetings spread over almost two months, which is why the class is aptly called, [From Personal Project to Professional Gig](#). It runs from late September through early November at the recently-established [Providence Center for Photographic Arts](#).

From October 5 - 16 of 2017, I return to [Morocco for a fabulous adventure](#), which is also a great opportunity to hone your photography skills alongside me in one of the most visually striking settings on the planet.



Though it may seem far away, I have fixed the dates for my 2018 workshop in Sicily, where I spent much of the month of June. The class, on "[The Island of Light](#)" will maximize not only the best photography opportunities at a glorious time of year, but it will also allow us to savor the most exquisite Sicilian cuisine, culture, and history.

I hope you enjoyed my monthly newsletter. I welcome your feedback. If you know any photographers who would be interested in getting these updates, please encourage them to sign up using [the newsletter sign up on my blog](#).

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