

MEAD CARNEY

Mead Carney presents
Rich Hardcastle: Dark Tales
24 January – 23 February 2014



Rich Hardcastle - *Hello Kids* – 2013, C-print

Mead Carney is proud to present *Dark Tales* - the first solo show of photographic works by internationally acclaimed celebrity photographer Rich Hardcastle, starring Ricky Gervais, Billy Zane, Tim Minchin, Rupert Grint and Michael Sheen among others.

Through the use of tight, claustrophobic film sets, *Dark Tales* is a series of cleverly de-contextualised photographic stories with each actor cast to play the role of the artist using ambiguous visual narratives with a single frame image that is left open to interpretation by the viewer.

Absurd, humorous and tragic, *Dark Tales* reveals itself as a series of multi-dimensional self portraits of the artist which communicate his personal feelings of insecurity, pathos and melancholy through the performance of accomplished actors.

Hardcastle's aesthetic originality has garnered the artist industry-wide acclaim for his editorial portrait photography harnessed by visual ideas, resulting in commissions from leading publications such as Rolling Stone, GQ, Esquire

and Harpers Bazaar. Several works by the artist also sit within the prestigious permanent collection of The National Portrait Gallery.

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors

Rich Hardcastle

With over 25 years experience in commercial photography, Rich Hardcastle holds a First Class Degree in Photography and a Masters in Fine Art Photography from Edinburgh College of Art.

Hardcastle holds the position as one of the elite BAFTA photographers, the prestigious role of shooting portraits for the BAFTA archive. Currently half way through a five-year assignment as the official backstage photographer at the BAFTA Film Awards, Hardcastle has shot Hollywood stars such as Kevin Spacey, George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Meryl Streep, Quentin Tarantino, Helena Bonham Carter and Martin Scorsese.

Other notable projects include a Ricky Gervais / Stephen Merchant commission to document the making of the award winning show 'Extras'. From conception to completion, Hardcastle was commissioned to shoot read-throughs, rehearsals and filming, culminating in the co-editing of series two. The resultant images were released within a book titled *The Illustrated Scripts*. Hardcastle also travelled the world as 'special photographer' on the hit TV series "An Idiot Abroad", which was also published in book form.