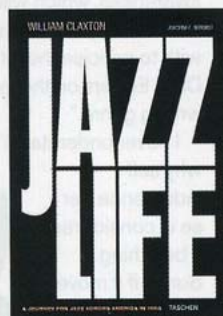




All that's jazz

Legendary lensman William Claxton's road trip captures a swinging age of Americana

Paul Newman aside, William Claxton is the coolest old man in the world. The 78-year-old photographer should really be resting on his laurels – half a century of album covers, celeb shoots, a Steve McQueen portfolio years in the making – but he's still calling the shots. Last year he snapped Jamie Foxx for *GQ*, and only now is his definitive work available. In 1960, on commission from a German publisher, Claxton accompanied jazz professor Joe Berendt on a tour that documented jazz in America: a "dream job," says Claxton, 35 years on. The *kartoffelkops* back in Berlin only used a few pics in the original *Jazzlife*, but now a lavish, 700-page, back-wrenching tome redresses that oversight. More than just a time capsule for the music, it's a visual and social document of its times, now particularly poignant for its photos of a New Orleans lost to the hurricane. PW



Jazzlife by William Claxton (Taschen, £100) is out now.
www.taschen.com



As scene in '60
From top: Chet Baker and his '32 Ford Hot Rod; the Ramsey Lewis Trio downtown at Chicago's Loop; Stan Getz and sax in the shadows, Cosmo Alley, Hollywood

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