

## Andy Summers' revealing photos tell the hidden tale of The Police

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"It became a shield between me and the dynamics of the group," says Andy Summers of the photographs he has published in *I'll Be Watching You: Inside the Police, 1980- 1983*. "It provided me with autonomy outside the group, which is a failed democracy, and gave me another creative outlet."

The photographs -- on display for the first time in Canada and available in the US\$400 Taschen book-- show Summers and his bandmates, Sting and Stewart Copeland, as they evolve from a bar band to the world's largest group, selling out Wembley and Shea Stadiums in the process.

"The camera, like my guitar, became a sustaining instrument, and I chose to stick by it through all the trials and tribulations," says Summers, reached at his Toronto hotel room after finishing the second of two sold-out shows. Whether it's pictures of adoring fans or Sting and Stewart Copeland fighting on the tour bus, there are all the groupies, drunken nights, sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll that you'd expect from a band like this.

"The first premise was that I had to be very honest, and it's going to be brutal here and there, but that's the way it is," says Summers, who is also photographing the current Police reunion shows. For the 600 photographs in the book -- 38 of which will be displayed at the Edward Day Gallery in Toronto through Aug. 14 -- Summers edited down from a backlog of over 25,000 pictures. "I think of photography as a guitar chord, like trying to create a visual experience with all the odd notes and extensions, which makes it become something interesting and off-kilter," he says. His bandmates ultimately accepted their guitarist's twin Nikons in their faces.

"It's just further mythology for the band," says Summers, who adds that the band's drummer and world-famous singer enjoy seeing their young, pouting faces captured in enormous frames at tony art galleries all over the world (the travelling photo exhibit was last in Los Angeles and heads to Boston next).

"I was in a very volatile situation with a group that is somewhat legendary for its chemistry," Summers says, with a laugh. "It does get sensitive, and there were high moments and low moments, but I think the photographs tell the truth." - The Police tour returns to Toronto at the Air Canada Centre on Nov. 9. Tickets go on sale July 31 at 10 a.m. Call 416-870-8000 or visit [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca) for details.

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