

SCOOP

PHOTOGRAPHY

Stylist exclusive: Marilyn's unseen photo album

This month a new book featuring unpublished photographs of Marilyn Monroe is released in the UK. *Stylist* reveals the moving story behind the images

Forty-nine years after her death, Marilyn Monroe's legacy is as powerful as ever. Indeed, it's even seeing a resurgence, with a host of A-listers clamouring to play the woman whose name alone is a byword for retro femininity. Oscar-nominee Michelle Williams will play history's most famous blonde in her next film, *My Week With Marilyn*, while Naomi Watts will take the plum role in *Blonde*, a second tale based on the film star's life.

However, it's the memoirs of André de Dienes, Marilyn's first photographer, that aroused the most interest in the *Stylist* office. Released this month, the book from cool arts publisher Taschen is full of unseen photos of the star taken when she was a fledgling model, and *Stylist* has had an exclusive glimpse.

André de Dienes, Marilyn, is a scrapbook of their time together. It's packed with candid unposed snaps with hand-scribbled 'asides', vividly coloured snaps of Marilyn playing in the surf and stylised black and white prints.

Together they tell the story of how the fashion photographer

discovered Norma Jeane during a casting in 1944 and helped turn her into a star, falling in love with her in the process and even asking her to marry him.

Most interesting though, are de Dienes' revelations about Monroe's psyche. "Reader, she was just a 19-year-old girl, not Marilyn Monroe," he says, hinting that the person she became wasn't the Norma he knew and loved. He takes us through their road trip across the USA in 1945, from meeting her mother in a mental hospital, to hiding under a bed in New York while Monroe dealt with a jealous suitor.

But what most fans won't know are Monroe's last words to him, on a calm June evening a year before she died, "I need rest André, please forgive me...".

Reading it feels incredibly personal. What at first seems like an old-fashioned love story becomes a tragic tale of a man who loved someone who didn't quite love him back. A must-read for Marilyn fans.

André de Dienes, Marilyn (£24.99) is published by Taschen. Available at taschen.com. Out 25 Feb



AGED ONLY 19, THIS WAS MARILYN'S FIRST PROFESSIONAL SHOOT



PHOTOGRAPHER ANDRÉ DE DIENES DESCRIBED HIS SUBJECT AS "JUST AN UNKNOWN GIRL"



MARILYN AND DE DIENES REMAINED FRIENDS UNTIL HER TRAGIC DEATH IN 1962