

# Melanie Smith

Mel is a freelance photographer, who has been involved in the music industry since 2008. Regularly contributing as a house photographer at the O2 Ritz Manchester for Academy Music Group, Head of Photography at John Robb's Louder Than War website and the Official photographer for the annual Louder Than Words (music literacy) festival in Manchester. She has contributed to various online and print magazines, photos in books, band flyers, CD covers, promo work and more. She loves drama, colour and alternative styles, whether this be in fashion, music or events.

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## Experience

House Photographer

### O2 Ritz, Manchester

I am a house photographers for Academy Music Group, supplying images for O2 Ritz, Manchester. Providing images for their social media and website gallery, promotional and advertising.

Manchester UK  
Dec 2015 - Present

Official Photographer

### Louder Than Words Festival

From day one of this amazing annual music literary based festival I have been involved as the Official photographer.

Principal Hotel, Manchester  
Nov 2013 - Present

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Head of Photography

worldwide  
Jan 2014 - Present

<http://louderthanwar.com>

I've been working for the online magazine since Mudkiss Fanzine closed its doors and was made Head of Photography. This means I oversee the photographers, give authorisation for reviewers to request guestlist and photo passes, keep a spreadsheet for live reviews. Keeping abreast of PR requests and liaise as necessary.

I also contribute to live reviews, festivals and to the print publication Louder Than War Magazine.

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Freelance Photographer

North West  
Jun 2008 - Present

## Mudkiss Photography

I began to shoot live shows in 2008, as part of my role within my online music magazine - 'Mudkiss Fanzine' and also produced several photoshoots to accompany interviews. My photos have now been used in some of the following print publications: Louder Than War/Powerplay Magazine/NME/Daily Mirror/ The Cornishman/ West Briton Newspaper/ Ilford Recorder/Warrington Guardian/ Guitar Bible/ The Sunday Times (Culture Section)/ Bury Times// Vogue/ Liverpool Echo/ Viva Life!/ Hit Music (China)// Digital Camera/ WAM Magazine/ Viva Le Rock/ Rebellion Festival Programme 2012/ Book cover 'AAA' by Teddie Dahlin/ (Painting) inspired by my portrait of Nina on the cover of '13 Knots' by Nina Antonia.

Also used in a variety of online magazines and websites, including Mudkiss Fanzine/ Gladstone Magazine/ Focus Wales/ The Chester Chronicle/ Flazed Magazine/ The Quietus/ Louder Than War/ Penny Black Magazine/ Gig Slutz/ Louder Than Words// CRACK// Nick Cave Online/ Rocks Backpages// The Brundell Social Club/ Punk Globe// Rocksucker// Muso's Guide// Suspect Device Zine/ ENS 24// Subculture/ The Ringmaster/ Hot Press/ Urber Rock// Talk Talk Net/ IMDB// John Maher Racing/ Think Baby Music/ Pearls & Swine (accessories) Classic Rock/ B&S Magazine/ Theatre Royal Windsor website/ OXHX Magazine/ [SoGlos.com](http://SoGlos.com) Magazine.

Plus other various band websites, used for promotional posters, flyers, CD artwork, books Johny Thunders (French edition) Gary Barlow Autobiography 2018 (A Better Me - live photo) and advertising.

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Editor In Chief

North West  
Jun 2008 - Dec 2013

## Mudkiss Fanzine

Editor In Chief for the multi faceted music based Mudkiss website since June 2008, also responsible for the social networking sites - MySpace, Twitter and Facebook.

My work involved overseeing contributors work, editing and uploading to the site, with monthly updates to members of the site and blogging on the network sites.

Generating interviews and conducting live show reviews, liaising with PR companies and distributing ideas to team members. I prided myself on being pretty damn good at computer skills, organisation, communication and web-literate.

We became globally recognised and received thousands of hit per month. We completed our fourth interview book, which can be found here: <http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/mudkiss> - although due to work loads we no longer have time to produce anymore. I created a Mudkiss calendar each year with photos shot by myself, featuring either live shows or portraits.

Mudkiss closed its revolving doors in December 2013 so I could continue with my photography.

### Education

Advanced College Diploma

Salford, Manchester  
Sep 1984 - Jul 1986

## Salford College Of Technology

I studied Fashion Design for two years at an advanced level, as a mature student, which included pattern cutting, marketing, business studies, designing.

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