

Sandro Miller Biography



**Sandro Miller - Class of 1976 -
b. 1958 - d.**

Born in Elgin, Illinois and a graduate of Elgin Community College has been photographing people for over thirty years. He became interested in photography at the age of sixteen upon seeing the work of Irving Penn and has since devoted his life to creating expressive images.

With numerous award-winning campaigns to his credit, Sandro is one of today's foremost

photographers. He has photographed many national advertising campaigns for a long list of clients including: Allstate Insurance, American Express, Anheuser-Busch, BMW, Dove, Gatorade, Coca-Cola, Honda, Pepsi, Milk, Nikon, Microsoft, Miller/Coors, Motorola, Nike, Adidas, Pony, UPS, Champion, and the US Army.

In 2001 Sandro was invited by the Cuban government to photograph that country's greatest national treasure – its' athletes. This project was the first US/Cuban collaboration since the trade embargo was imposed in 1960. Sandro's editorial work has been featured in The New Yorker, GQ, Esquire, Russian Esquire, Time, Forbes, Details, Stern, Wired, Newsweek, Vibe, Communication Arts, Graphis, New York Magazine, Eyemazing, and ESPN Magazine and has been exhibited worldwide.

Sandro has a working relationship with the camera giant Nikon and is responsible for introducing the latest technology to the professional photographic world. He has worked on many award-winning projects with Nikon including a portrait session with actor John Malkovich in Croatia, a series of motorcycle racing shots in Brainerd, Minnesota, a still and video shoot of the roller derby team "The Windy City Rollers", a video of the world-renowned high-wire artist Philippe Petit, and most recently, a short cinematic video entitled "Joy Ride", featuring a motorcyclist racing through the early morning streets of Chicago on a mysterious mission.

Throughout Sandro's career, each year he has contributed his talents to both community based and national charitable organizations by creating powerful imagery and compelling campaigns soliciting contributions for such organizations as the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Food Depository of Chicago, Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Milwaukee, Evans Life Foundation, Arts for Life, Dance for Life, AIDS Chicago, AIDS New Jersey, and The Good City.

Sandro shoots all the promotional photography for Dance for Life, the Midwest's largest performance-based AIDS fundraiser. He also sits on the board of directors for the Museum of Contemporary Photography and is a member of the Chicago Arts Club.

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At the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity in July 2011, Sandro was acknowledged with a Saatchi & Saatchi Best New Director Award for his short video “Butterflies” featuring John Malkovich.

Sandro travelled to Morocco in November 2013 and shot portraits of 230 local tradesmen, nomadic people, snake charmers, fossil diggers, and Gnawa musicians.

In 2014 Sandro re-created 41 photographs paying homage to the world’s greatest photographers in a project titled “Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters”, using John Malkovich as the subject in each image.

On November 2, 2014, in Carnegie Hall, the Lucie Foundation honored Sandro with the “International Photographer of the Year Award” for his achievements in photography.

On October 27, 2015, for the 2nd year in a row, Sandro was honored with the Lucie Foundation’s “International Photographer of the Year Award” for his photography of the “Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters” images.

On October 23, 2016 in Carnegie Hall, The International Photography Awards named Sandro the 2016 Advertising Photographer of the Year for his “Advantage Humans” campaign shot for the American Cancer Society.

In November 2016, Sandro's short film "Hell" starring John Malkovich was named the grand-prize winner of the International Motion Art Awards at the annual AI-AP Big Talk event.

For the past five years, in juried competition within the industry, Sandro has been voted one of the top 200 advertising photographers in the world.

He is the author of nine books:

(2016) *Dance for Life* (ISBN 978-0-9962930-3-7)

(2016) *Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters* (ISBN 978-0-9962930-3-7)

(2015) - *Finding Freedom*

(2014) - *Eyes Of Morocco*

(2012) - *Sandro Raw, Steppenwolf*

(2009) - *El Matador, Joselito: A Pictorial Novel* (ISBN 978-88-8158-771-1)

(2008) - *Imagine Cuba 1999-2007* (ISBN 978-88-8158-692-9)

(2002) - *Sandro: Figure E Ritratti* (ISBN 88-8314-181-4)

(1998) - *American Bikers* (ISBN 3-88814-356-X)

(1994) - *I Can't Accept Not Trying* (ISBN 0-06-251190-4)

EXHIBITIONS

Between October 2002 and January 2003 Sandro had a solo retrospective exhibition of his personal work in the Scavi Scaligeri International Center For Photography in Verona, Italy.

In 2006 Sandro had a group show with Wesley Kimler at the Architrave Gallery in Chicago. Sandro showed a selection of his personal work titled Massa, which features nude bodies of large women photographed through Plexiglas.

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In July 2007 Sandro had a solo gallery show at the Alan Koppel Gallery in Chicago. This exhibition consisted of studio photographs of ballet dancers. Sandro donated all proceeds from the sale of prints to the Dance for Life Foundation.

From October 2 through December 2010 Sandro had a gallery exhibition of 36 of his Cuban photographs, including a previously un-exhibited series of black-and-white portraits of elderly Cubans, at the Chicago Cultural Center.

From November through December 2010 Sandro took part in a group show at the Stephen Daiter Gallery in Chicago, exhibiting prints from his American Biker series and portraits of women.

From October 2 through November 3, 2012 Sandro had a solo exhibition at the Safety-Kleen Gallery at Elgin Community College titled "Provocative Imperfections". The show featured Sandro's "Cuban Portraits", his "Massa" images and a selection from his "Butts & Fronts" project.

From February 7 through mid April 2013 Sandro had an exhibition of his portraits of Steppenwolf Theatre ensemble members installed in the lobby of the Willis Tower in Chicago. This exhibition featured a 24 by 24 foot grid in the lobby reception consisting of 25 portraits in addition to 34 individual framed prints hung throughout the lobby.

From March 21 through August 2013 Sandro had a solo exhibition titled "Seen/Unseen" at Loyola University School of Communications in Chicago. "Seen/Unseen" is a collection of Sandro's personal work spanning the last 25 years. Images from his projects American Bikers, Atropa, Cuban Portraits, Massa, and his latest project Peering In: Images of an Over Stimulated Society, were on view.

From November 7, 2014 through January 31, 2015, Sandro had a gallery exhibition of his project "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters" at the Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago. This show featured 41 iconic portraits that Sandro shot with John Malkovich as the subject in each one.

On February 12, 2015 Sandro's "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters" exhibition opened at the Fahey/Klein Gallery in Los Angeles.

On July 6, 2015 an exhibition of 41 images from Sandro's "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters" project opened at the Rencontres de la Photographie' Arles in the south of France.

From November 15, 2015 to January 15, 2016 Sandro's "Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters" images will be exhibited at the Tumult Gallery in Toruń Poland in conjunction with the Camerimage Film Festival.

From February 27 to April 9, 2016 Sandro's 41 Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images were exhibited at the Torch Gallery in Amsterdam. From May 12 to July 1, 2016 Sandro's Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters project was on exhibit at the Yancey Richardson Gallery in New York City.

From June 2 through August 28, 2016 Sandro had an exhibition at The Lumiere Brothers Center for Photography in Moscow, Russia. The exhibition will feature his Malkovich,

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Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images. In addition to the homage images, 3 short films and several other images that Sandro created of John during their 20-year collaboration will be shown.

From October 13 through December 4, 2016 Sandro had an exhibition at the Krasnoyarsk Museum Center, Krasnoyarsk, Russia . The exhibition will feature Sandro's Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images along with 3 of his short films.

From October 15 through January 29, 2017 Sandro had an exhibition at the La Térmica Gallery in Malaga, Spain. The exhibition will feature Sandro's Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images.

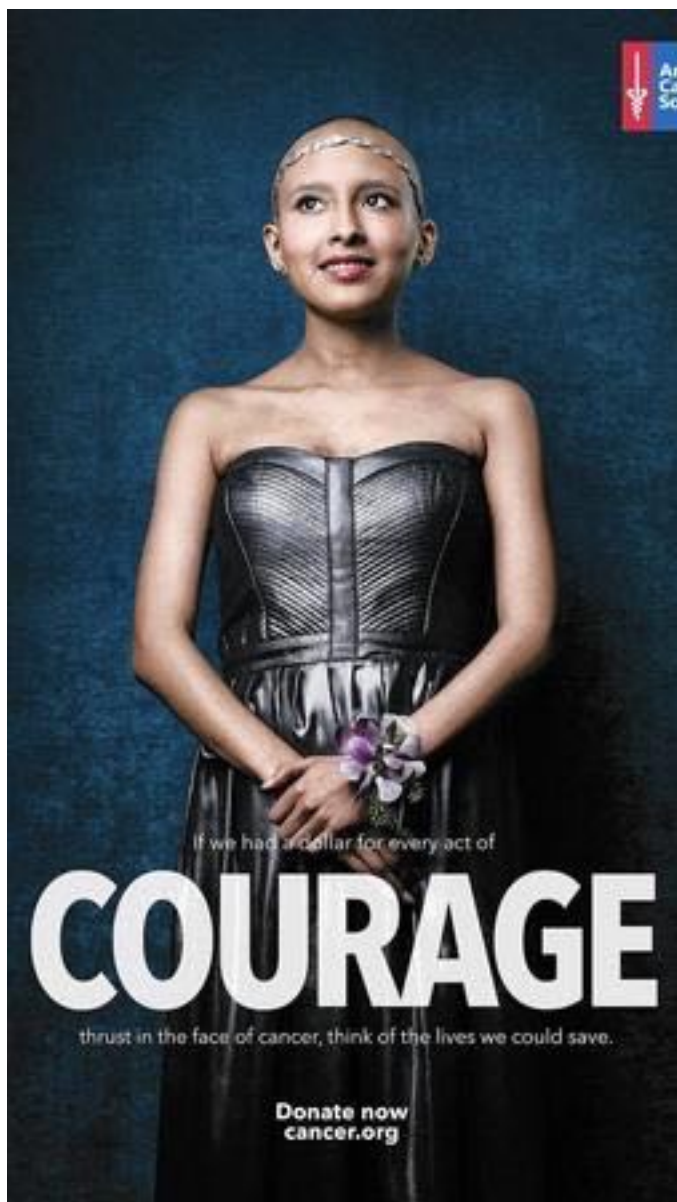
From October 28 through December 3, 2016 Sandro had a group exhibition along with four other internationally celebrated photographers at the La Photographie Galerie in Brussels, Belgium. The exhibition will feature Sandro's Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images.

From November 19 through December 9, 2016 Sandro's Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images were exhibited at the Lianzhou Foto Festival in Lianzhou, China.

On February 5, 2017 Sandro in collaboration with the Croatian Association of Fine Artists opened an exhibit of his Malkovich, Malkovich, Malkovich: Homage to Photographic Masters images at the Bačva Gallery, in Zagreb, Croatia.

Elgin native, cancer survivor takes photos for Cancer Society campaign

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The subjects of a new American Cancer Society awareness campaign were all photographed by Sandro Miller, an Elgin native and cancer survivor. (Sandro Miller / Handout) [Geoff Ziezulewicz](#) [Contact Reporter](#) Elgin Courier-News

Chicago photographer Sandro Miller shot a photo campaign for the American Cancer Society. Elgin native Sandro Miller was shaving a few years ago when he noticed some strange bumps on his neck.

The 57-year-old married father of two was soon diagnosed with stage 4 [cancer](#) in his throat and neck. After months of grueling chemotherapy and radiation, the photographer was given a clean bill of health.

Now, Miller is helping to give back to the fight against cancer. He recently provided his photography services for the American Cancer Society's "Advantage Humans" campaign, an outreach effort that seeks to highlight the shared humanity and range of emotions in the struggle

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against cancer. The ads feature cancer patients and messages that resonate across the emotional spectrum. There is a 15-year-old patient's portrait that reads "Courage: Cancer's worst enemy."

Other messages in the campaign include rage, hope, defiance and devotion. Miller, who now calls Chicago home but grew up in Elgin and attended area schools through junior college, felt a calling to be part of the project when he was approached a few months ago.

"I had experienced what they had gone through, and I had empathy," Miller said of his photo subjects. "I exchanged my story with theirs, and let them know there was a very positive light at the end of the tunnel. And that they were going to make it through this."

Elgin native and commercial photographer Sandro Miller survived stage 4 cancer a few years ago and recently photographed others battling cancer for a new American Cancer Society campaign. Miller said he was never a smoker and was not much of a drinker when he was diagnosed in 2011, and that the why behind his throat cancer remains a mystery. He recalled "heavy, heavy" rounds of chemo and radiation each day for months on end. Eventually, tests showed no visible, living cancer cells in early 2012, Miller said, but the recovery was only beginning. Surviving cancer exacts not only a physical toll, but an emotional one as well, he said. "They just about kill everything in your body," Miller said of the treatment. "I still feel symptoms...almost three years later. I still have aftereffects."

The American Cancer Society campaign is about humanizing the range of emotions that someone fighting cancer endures, he said. "You go through the rage period, you go through the courage period, you go through the hope period," Miller said. "And then you're given a second chance in life." Miller said survival changed his outlook. "Things change," he said. "The way you look at life, you know you are no longer that young, indestructible man. You see an end to things and you start living life much differently."

Cancer patients are often painfully aware of their diminished physical appearance during chemo and radiation, and Miller said he worked to let his subjects know they were beautiful and in a safe place.

"It's about me building this safe container around them," Miller said. "And they're going to give me that beautiful, beautiful moment."

Miller said he hopes the ad campaign can help the American Cancer Society raise more money for the expensive and necessary research to one day cure cancer.

"With knowledge hopefully comes empathy," he said of the awareness such a campaign can create. "And with empathy, hopefully comes the heart to give for research."

The campaign runs on all media platforms through December, according to a press release announcing the initiative. With knowledge hopefully comes empathy and with empathy, hopefully comes the heart to give for research. - Sandro Miller

It aims to break down barriers in the way the American Cancer Society talks about cancer, while highlighting the human traits and emotions that all cancer patients and their loved ones share. "Cancer is more than just one feeling, or one emotion," American Cancer Society CEO Gary Reedy said in the press release. "Cancer makes you feel many things, often at the same time... It is mankind's love, compassion, courage, defiance and many other traits that we all share that are giving us an upper hand against cancer."

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Miller likened the research against cancer to the incredible strides made in managing and treating HIV/AIDs in recent years. “We know there is an answer to cure cancer,” he said. “It’s come such a long way, but with that comes a tremendous amount of research.”

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