

Power winders 'tell a story'

FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY



MONTE NAGLER

Many of the newer, automatic cameras come with built-in winders that advance the film automatically after each shot.

Film advance devices are also available as add-on accessories for more advanced 35mm cameras and can be a valuable addition to your camera gear. Called power winders and motor drives and frequently used by sports photographers and photojournalists, they can benefit you, too.

Film advance devices enable you to concentrate all your attention on your subject instead of being distracted momentarily to advance the film. After all, things sometimes happen so fast that you may miss the important

moment. Winders and motor drives will give you a better chance to catch the action at its peak whether it's the instant the diver enters the water.

Power winders can help in taking candid and portraits, too. When you don't have to remove your eye from the viewfinder for a series of shots, you're more likely to capture those unguarded moments when expressions will be more natural and spontaneous.

Even exhibiting a series of pictures in sequence that "tell a story" can be an exciting new way to display your shots.

Winders and motor drives easily attach to the underside of your camera and are powered by a set of batteries. Some cameras have both winders and drivers available as accessories. What are the differences?

Threefold... speed, cost and stability. Winders operate at a speed of one or two frames per

second, where some motor drives can crank out a roll of 36m shots in under four seconds without the photographer having to remove his finger from the shutter release! Because of this high rate of speed, motor drives are more complex, ruggedly built, and therefore, more costly. Most often, the less expensive power winders are adequate for the amateur's needs.

A word of caution. Winders and drivers can be seductive and you'll find it tempting to shoot frame after frame indiscriminately listening to the pleasant "Whirr" of the film advancing. So try to concentrate hard on your subject and compose carefully. Thoughtful use of a power winder will reward you with many exciting pictures.

Monte Nagler is a fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills. You can leave him a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. His fax number is (248) 644-1314.



Expressive: A power winder allowed Monte Nagler to concentrate more on the expressions of these five Russian women he chanced upon in Moscow.

Steve shares clues about Blue's party

BY KEELY KALESKI WYCONIK
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Years of watching *Blue's Clues* Live! with his nieces and nephews has made Roger Kraus a fan. Now he's on stage playing the part of Steve in *Blue's Clues Live! - Blue's Birthday Party* opening Wednesday, May, 22 at the Fox Theatre.

"*Blue's Clues Live!* has been a part of my life for a long time," said Kraus. "The TV show is very revolutionary. Steve asks kids questions and waits for their answers. To do that in a live theater is explosive. The show is very interactive."

Blue and her crew visited metro Detroit last year, and they're back with a totally new show. "Kids sing along and know all the songs," said Kraus. "This show is about Blue's birthday. There are new characters and

songs."

Kraus and the audience search for clues to figure out what Blue wants for her birthday. Each child attending the show receives a notebook and crayon to follow along as Steve finds Blue's clues.

Steve, Slippery Soap and Periwinkle talk about their presents for Blue. Steve begins to look for clues in the house and finds the first one there. He helps Mr. Salt and Mrs. Pepper make Blue's birthday cake with lots of confetti. Then Slippery Soap and Steve skidoo into the ocean where they meet sea creatures and find the second clue.

"It's a very joyful, colorful show," said Kraus who has been acting since he was eight. "The show embraces the idea of friendship and cooperation, and how important it is."

Although its target audience is kids ages 1-4, *Blue's Clues Live!* a show everyone will enjoy, said Kraus. "The costumes are beautiful, and the sets and light are

What: *Blue's Clues Live!* - *Blue's Birthday Party*

Where: Wednesday-Thursday, May 22-23; Saturday-Sunday, May 25-26, Curtain 7 p.m. Wednesday-Thursday: 10:30 a.m. Thursday: 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday.

Where: Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets: \$18.50, \$23.50 and \$29.50 at the box office, Ticketmaster locations, or call (248) 433-1515. For more information, call (313) 471-6611.

amazing. Everything is live, our singing, speaking. We imbue everything with character. It's an amazing spectacle."

He asked some of his friends to come to the show and said they wound up absolutely adoring it. One of the new characters, Periwinkle, is a preschooler kitten who moved to the neighborhood from the city. One of her favorite things is to perform magic shows for her friends.

The other new character is Magenta, a puppy who loves to dress up and paint pictures.

Kraus joined the show in January and is having a great time. Performing at Radio City Music Hall was a remarkable experience.

"It blew my mind," he said. "It seats almost 6,000 people, and is one of the clearest, most lovely places I've ever performed at."

Kraus was raised in Queens, New York and is a second generation Italian American. His experience playing the Owl in New York City's Magic Bridge Children's Theatre Company, and his non-Equity tour as Elmer the Engineer with Goldenshoe laid the blueprint for his new character, Steve.

He is a graduate of Brooklyn College, where he earned a bachelor degree in English and theater.

Ford Motor Company is a major sponsor. Visit www.elcine.com/safety for children's safety tips.

Birthday surprise: Steve (Roger Kraus) shares a happy moment with Blue in "Blue's Clues Live! Blue's Birthday Party."



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