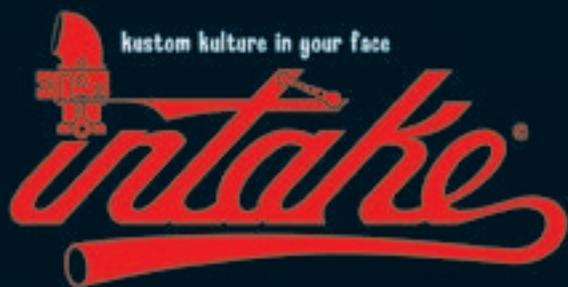


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kustom kulture in your face



# Intake

rods, kustoms, bobbers, cruisers & art



#2



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# David Biene



Story: Ingo Heinzmann  
Photos: David Biene

**T**he man in black said: “I pray you don’t look at me, I pray I don’t look back”. Take a look at the man with the camera. I’m sure, he will look back. But don’t move, ’cause he might shoot. David Biene is a passionate, sensitive and maniac photographer. During his studies at the Lette Verein technical school for photo design in Berlin, he specialized in people

and music photography. After finishing Lette, he got his own studio and started working for various music & fashion magazines, as well as car mags and artists. Music still is one of his priorities. „I don’t have any idols or Gods, but some musicians really mean a lot to me. Taking portraits of them is a great honor to me. But during a shooting there’s no use to treat them as something special. I guess my wildcard during a session results from true respect, appreciation & passion“, he says. His instinct, credibility and passion have opened him a few doors that remained shut for many others. When Orange County punk rock legends Social Distortion made their triumphal comeback-tour two years ago, guess who did the job. “Shooting Mike Ness combined the best of both worlds: attitude of a credible musician and true-hearted outlaw hot rod spirit.” When he portrays musicians, the atmosphere that emerges from the images is almost scary sometimes. Just take the portrait of Mike Ness: him sitting in a fucked-up, flat black hot rod, left eyebrow up in the air, you can almost feel the contempt spitting back out of the exhaust. „For me, music photography is the best combination of all the things I’m crazy about. It’s the maximum of creative freedom that you can possibly get in professional photography. If you have a good idea and you manage to assure that the artists can trust you, you can get them to do pretty much everything. And I mean this in the most innocent of ways.” he



# David Biene

winks. It was Biene's enthusiasm for the music from the 40's and 50's that drove him to his first hot rod weekender. But what he found there was more than that. Even more than the desperate tunes, it was the atmosphere that immediately got him by the balls and fuelled his passion. „There's something in the air – besides oil and gasoline – it's the spirit, it's people's real, honest passion which fires competition while offering great dynamics and challenging one's creativity. Especially during quarter-mile races and car-meetings, I almost feel like I fall into some kind of trance or something... Just running around, being in my own world of amazing images, searching for THE photo, you know.“ It's hard to ignore the spark in his eyes, suddenly I think of ghost flames... Fortunately for us, this search he is speaking of has been successful more than once. Currently, David is about to finish the work on his first book, an intimate view on retro cults. The book will be out in early 2008. If you look at David's photos in this issue, you'll see his passion for all the good ole stuff. And what you'll also see is that for him it is more than a job. The man shoots photos like Cole Foster kustomizes cars: chopped and channeled, lowered and dechromed, nosed and decked, hope and glory, rise and fall, rock and roll: David Biene knows them all. He loves it. He shoots it. And he lives it. David Biene lives and works in Berlin.

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# David Biene

