



## My favourite shot

Photojournalist Adam Hinton reveals the story behind his colourful and spontaneous travel portrait of these laughing girls in a South African slum

“ I took this photograph at the township of Khayelisha, near Cape Town, South Africa. It forms part of a long-term project I'm working on about the lives of people in urban slums. These are one of the fastest-growing types of habitats people have to live in as they seek work and opportunity.

I had a fixer who accompanied me. He knew the area and introduced me to some people and families he knew. The girls in the photograph were squatting in an old apartheid-era administration block. Several hundred people now lived there and it had become a community in itself. The girls were sitting and chatting in the hairdressers that the woman on the far left ran. What I like about the image is the energy and positive vibe that the girls have as they all laugh out loud. The bright orange of the walls shows how people will always work to

make the best of what they have, and also shows the hope they hold for better times.

This was shot on my Canon 5D Mk II with a Canon EF 50mm f/1.2L USM lens. I shot at 1/50 sec and f/2.8 to make the best of the low interior light levels, with the ISO pumped up to 500. I always travel light, just two bodies and four prime lenses (24mm, 35mm, 50mm, 85mm). The 5D Mk II packs in an incredible amount of quality and versatility for its size; it truly has opened up a whole new world for me with the beautiful video it can capture, and has elevated my work to a new level of documentary. Now I can take photographs of these communities and then show video interviews from the people living there, telling us about their lives. It gives us a deeper understanding of the issues these people face, all in one small package.”



**Adam Hinton**

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**Location:** Southwest London

**Pro for:** 25 years