

# Celebrities REDEFINED

Influenced by popular culture, cult movies and pop art, David Studwell produces the kind of prints that make you think: "Christmas present? Sod that! I'm having one of these for myself..."

What is the main criteria I look for when buying a piece of art? Something that speaks to my inner soul? Something that provides socio/political comment? Something that offers a punch in the face of dry conceptualism? Yes, yes, and yes; but the most important thing I look for is something that will look utterly fabulous on the wall. And it's this aspect that particularly appeals about David Studwell's art. Combining traditional printmaking techniques with a modern approach, his dynamic and vibrant work examines all aspects of pop culture from its stars to those who've strayed onto the wrong side of the tracks. Icons include the likes of Marilyn Monroe, Madonna and a *Chinatown* era Jack Nicholson, as well as Michael Caine (looking his best in full, glasses on, Harry Palmer mode), Bob Dylan and Greta Garbo. The murky side of celebrity is represented by shots of Bonnie (of Bonnie & Clyde fame) and Al Capone; and stardom and notoriety collide with police mugshots of Prince, Bowie, Jane Fonda (giving a clenched fist salute) and more. Other prints of interest include car bumpers, street signs, cityscapes and a fab poster for the 1961 twistpolitation movie, *Twist All Night*. All of them are limited edition prints and all of them will look utterly fabulous on your wall. RM

Seek: [davidstudwellgallery.co.uk](http://davidstudwellgallery.co.uk)



## C'mon Kes!



Not many directors have depicted working class life as sensitively as Ken Loach (not least in his current, Newcastle-set, *I, Daniel Blake*) but his 1969 masterwork *Kes* remains perhaps his greatest film.

Barry Hines' 1968 novel, *A Kestrel for a Knave*, once piqued the interest of Disney who wanted to give it the full-on Disney treatment. Thankfully Barry Hines batted away their approaches, opining: "I write about real people and show a section of their life, without the Hollywood endings which rarely happen outside of Hollywood. Disney offered to make *Kes*, on the condition that [sound the Spoiler Alert Klaxon] the hawk recovered. Should we have sold out? I know which way would always be right for me." Thankfully the cinema adaptation was handed over to Ken Loach who ended up producing one of the most beloved and iconic British films ever made. The story concerns the day-to-day existence of a working-class 15-year-old boy in Barnsley (an unforgettable turn by David Bradley), and the profound change that the rearing of a kestrel brings to his otherwise troubled home life. A rich, gently poetic work, it stands as a high-point among Loach's output and is filled with his trademark respect for his characters and astonishing skill at eliciting outstanding performances from his actors. He may have improved it by making the kestrel a wise-cracking know-it-all, Disney style, but I sincerely doubt it. RM

*Kes* is released on Blu-ray as part of Eureka Entertainment's Masters of Cinema series on 7 November.



A Season of Love, Laughter and Light

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