**MICHAEL PUTLAND**

(1947, Harrow on the Hill)

Born in Harrow on the Hill, near London, in 1947, Putland started taking photographs at age 9, encouraged by his uncle. At 16 he left school to work in a London photo studio as an assistant in advertising, fashion and architecture shoots. One particularly important experience dating back to this time is his collaboration with Louis Klementaski, the legendary motorbike racing photographer. For a short period he worked as assistant to Time Life photographer Walter Curtain before deciding to set up his own studio with two friends. But times were hard and Putland started working with “Disc & Music Echo” magazine, where he took his first photograph of Mick Jagger. He photographed John Lennon, Elton John and many others before moving to “Sound Magazine”, where he continued to take portraits of great names in music. He worked for major record labels and started travelling all over. After visiting the United States, in 1977 he decided to stay on in New York, where he worked for major record labels and music magazines, photographing artists as different as Billie Joel, the Clash and the Bee Gees. In New York he founded the RETNA photography agency, opening a branch in London in the early ’80s. He continued taking music photographs, portraying personalities such as Madonna and George Michael, and left management of RETNA up to his partner Julie Grahame to go back to taking photographs full time. Putland now lives and works in England.