

PRAISE FOR SHADOW BOXERS

“When I look at Jim Lommasson’s pictures I see myself as a young man working out day after day in that little PAL gym in Philadelphia where my career started. This book shows a side of boxing that most people don’t see—the dedication and discipline that it takes to be a champion in the ring and in life.”

—*Joe Frazier, from the Foreword*

“A triumphal procession of words and pictures such as no Roman emperor ever dreamed of. This is a book truly for those with a reverence for the traditions of the sport.”

—*Bert Sugar, from the Introduction*

“An insider’s vivid, surprising look at a world most of us never get a chance to see—a world of battle-weary veterans and bright-eyed newcomers, of surrogate fathers and ancient skills and sanctuary from the mean streets just outside the door. Not to be missed.”

—*Geoffrey C. Ward, author of Unforgivable Blackness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*

“Both up to the minute and timeless, [Lommasson’s] pictures are also affecting, intricate and sometimes just glorious. “

—*Richard Lacayo, Time magazine*

“In portraits and candid shots, of pros and amateurs and youngsters who can’t even reach the speed bag, Lommasson reveals not just the grit and toil of a disappearing world, but also an unexpected sense of community and even of sanctuary.”

—*Richard O’Brien, Sports Illustrated*

“The best sports pictorial of the year. Inside, photographer Jim Lommasson captures the insides of America’s urban boxing gyms and low-level training grounds the way Ansel Adams tackled Yosemite.”

—*Chris Sprow, Chicago Sports Review*

“Gritty, grimy and gorgeous. Lommasson’s images move beyond the easy, one-sided spectacle of boxing as a blood sport and toward a multifaceted depiction of the boxing gym as a unique and beloved American institution. Visceral and quietly dramatic, the photos are . . . a lively cross-breed of art and journalism.”

—*Victoria Blake, The Oregonian*

“As these gyms disappear . . . the essays . . . and photographs brought together in this documentary will provide a valuable portrait of this historic American institution.”

—*The Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University*

“Outstanding photography.”

—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“. . . a marvelously-produced coffee-table book.”

—*Thomas Hauser, Boxing Columnist, New York Sun*

“This book pays homage to any person who ever dared to dream big, and will serve as a veritable blueprint for depicting a slice of Americana that is all but forgotten by everyone but the most diehard gym rats and boxing aficionados.”

—*Bob Mladinich, TheSweetScience.com*

“A true portrait of what fuels a boxer’s dreams . . . We associated with the sport are indeed fortunate that such a talented ensemble of writers was brought on board to weave a text that complements the award-winning photographs of Jim Lommasson.”

—*Ron Gerrard, Straight Jab*

“. . . a vista of the human spirit . . . We see in the eyes of the fighters the elemental hunger for individual dignity and the simple chance to be better than the day before.”

—*Patrick Kehoe, Seconds Out*

“. . . gritty, beautiful, and, most of all, real . . . [Lommasson’s images] show a remarkable range of talent and an insight into his subjects.”

—*Bill Eidson, TakeGreatPictures.com*

“. . . a remarkable book . . . a journey into a subculture that most people do not know exists . . . [A] very special book for your personal library.”

—*Alan Caruba, Book Views, “Pick of the Month”*

“ . . . don’t be surprised if *Shadow Boxers: Sweat, Sacrifice & the Will to Survive in American Boxing Gyms* gets lots of attention.”

—*Dermot McEvoy, Publishers Weekly*

“As real and as honest and as raw as the paint peeling from the walls.”

—*Inara Verzemnieks, The Oregonian*

## SHADOW BOXERS

Sweat, Sacrifice & the Will to Survive

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