



Platon

World-Renowned, Award-Winning Photographer; Founder, The People's Portfolio



[VISIT PLATON'S WEBSITE](#)

About:

- **Gender:** Male
- **Nationality:** United States
- **Languages:** English
- **Travels from:** United States

Engagement Types:

- Speaking

Topics:

- Corporate Social Responsibility
- DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)
- Future Skills
- Geopolitical Impact
- Innovation & Digital Transformation
- Leadership & Management
- Motivation and Inspiration

Biography Highlights

- Poignant and mesmerizing storyteller Platon captures the essence of humanity through the visual stories of his portraits.

Biography

A master photographer with a penchant for getting the world's most powerful people to showcase their humanity, Platon proves that an image is just the beginning of the story.

Platon is a gifted storyteller and master photographer, having photographed more world leaders than anyone else in history, including six American presidents. His evocative portraits showcase the stories of both the privileged and the deprived – to break down personal barriers and capture people's truth.

To him, taking one's portrait is an intimate collaboration and a visual interview, both in front of and behind the camera. "My job is to tell the truth and to capture someone's spirit on a certain day," he says. "And it's never the whole truth; it's the truth I experience in a very intense and intimate fashion."

The British-born Platon has produced stunning portraits of some of the world's most prominent figures – from Barack Obama and Mark

Websites:

- [Website](#)
- [Website](#)

Zuckerberg to Muhammad Ali and Hugo Chavez. His photographic works have graced the pages of an array of influential international publications, including *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Esquire*, *Vogue*, and *Vanity Fair*.

Over his storied career, Platon developed a special relationship with *TIME*, producing over 30 cover photos for the magazine. In 2007, he photographed Vladimir Putin for *TIME*'s Person of the Year cover. The image, featuring the inscrutable visage of the Russian leader, won him first prize at the World Press Photo Contest.

In 2008, Platon became the staff photographer for *The New Yorker*, where he has produced a series of large-scale photo essays, including President Obama's inauguration, the U.S. military, portraits of world leaders, and the civil rights movement. Additionally, he covered the emergence of civil society in Russia, which earned him a Peabody Award.

Platon also creates haunting images of everyday people - including grieving parents who've lost their children to war, human rights defenders around the world, and survivors of sexual violence in the Congo. It's this work that powers his nonprofit foundation, [The People's Portfolio](#), where he aspires to create a visual language that breaks barriers, expands dignity, fights discrimination, and enlists the public to support human rights around the world.

"I'm turning the lens away from power to the people who have been robbed of power, to try and create a new set of cultural heroes that will not make us feel guilty, but will inspire us to be better," Platon says.

His belief in the power of storytelling is rooted in a background in the arts. His enduring gift is his ability to communicate with everyone he encounters - seeing through the mask of leadership, celebrity, and even pain, to find the common thread that connects us all: our humanity.

Platon has published two monographs. The first, *Power*, is an unprecedented anthology of 120 intimate portraits of world leaders from across the political spectrum to create a profound portrait of global power. Shot over a three-year period at the United Nations, and captured with unique candor and insight, these photographs offer an intimate glimpse at the personalities behind the public faces of the world's most powerful decision-makers.

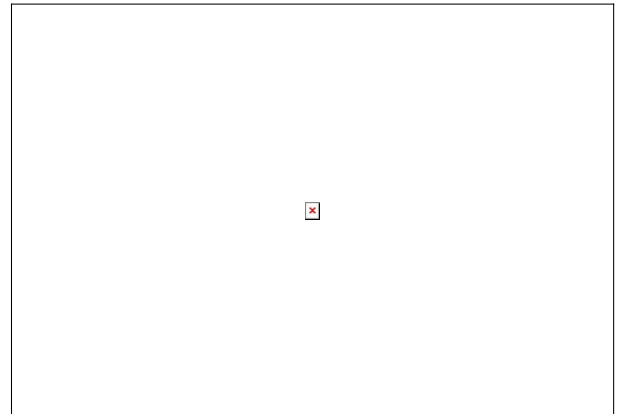
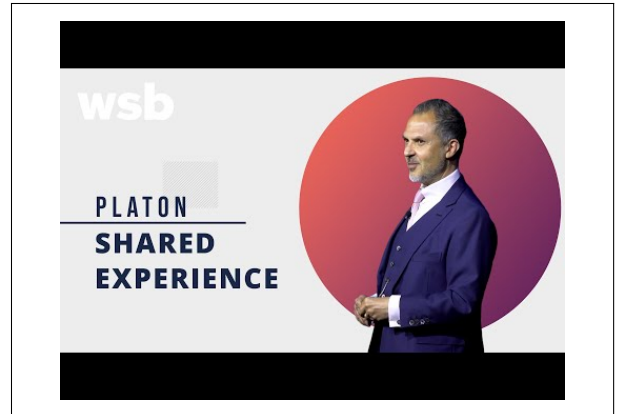
The other, *Service*, highlights the valor, emotions, and physical and psychological wounds of men and women in the U.S. military. His work has been exhibited at some of the world's most prestigious galleries and museums, including the Scotland National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

In his presentations, Platon also shares the stories from his photo essays on the civil rights movement, his work with Human Rights Watch featuring the leaders of the Egyptian revolution, his photoshoot for *TIME* of Aung San Suu Kyi, and, most recently, his experience photographing Edward Snowden in Moscow for his exclusive interview with *Wired* magazine.

With audiences, Platon is energetic, impassioned, and soul-stirring, as he explores the highs and lows of humanity through his portraits. Using his platform as a speaker, he explores what it means to be a great leader, using his famous and everyday subjects as examples. Tying in his message of empathy, open dialogue, and unity, Platon encourages listeners to connect deeply and challenge perspectives — in order to find

common ground and propel forward.

Videos



Platon's Topics

The Power Workshop

In this follow-up to “Powerful Portraits,” master photographer Platon shares a career’s worth of lessons learned from interacting with some of the world’s most prominent figures — including Donald Trump, George Clooney, Mohammed Ali, Mark Zuckerberg, Edward Snowden, Stephen Hawking, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege, and other heads of state and U.S. Military heroes.

Sharing the stories behind his iconic portrait sessions, Platon teaches audiences how to spot the opportunity to create a meaningful connection – revealing his near-foolproof way of breaking down barriers, especially in times of great division.

With massive disruption infiltrating industries, a looming recession, and growing filter bubbles, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is marred by complexities, discomfort, and change. Businesses, at the same time, are also being tasked with communicating purpose over profit, in order to drive employee engagement and customer loyalty.

“In a fast-paced environment with increased transparency, leaders need to spend more time thinking about people, and how we relate to each other,” says Platon. “We must dare to be transformative, instead of reactive,” he adds.

This presentation places a few members of the audience in the frame, as Platon emphasizes the importance of building teams and creating a sense of belonging, in order to propel people and organizations forward.

Using an anecdotal and interactive approach, he offers this workshop as a learning tool for those who are interested in strengthening their ability to create trusting, respectful, and productive business and personal relationships – as explained through the intimate meetings and experiences with various cultural icons.

Available: In person, Virtually

The Power of Unity: Rekindling The Spirit of Optimism

A master communicator and storyteller, Platon has photographed a unique mix of subjects across the globe — ranging from the world’s most powerful to everyday people.

Through his up-close-and-personal experiences with disparate figures, Platon pulls back the façade of our differences to reveal our common humanity. In a call for unity, he shows how we can wield mankind to rekindle the spirit of optimism and propel ourselves forward.

At a time of great transformation and extreme divisiveness, “we can create positive change,” he says. “Not in spite of our differences, but because of them.”

Platon leaves audiences enthralled as he explores the poignant and riveting stories behind his renowned portraits, showcasing his unique ability to penetrate the barriers of his sometimes-wary subjects. He reveals the lessons in leadership and compassion that he’s learned from some of the world’s most prominent figures— like Donald Trump, George Clooney, Mohammed Ali, Mark Zuckerberg, Edward Snowden, Stephen Hawking, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege, and other heads of state, U.S. Military heroes, and human rights champions — and how they can be applied to our everyday interactions.

“Something is fundamentally shifting in the values of our society,” says Platon. “It is time to celebrate a new set of cultural heroes: those who inspire us with their courage, and move us with their integrity and compassion for fellow men and women.”

Memorable and soul-stirring, Platon’s unique and emotive presentation promises to bring people together to embrace new perspectives, bridge divides, and create a stronger sense of belonging. Taking listeners on an emotional journey, from laughter to tears to reflection, he’ll leave your audience wanting more from this master of his craft.

Testimonials

“

Platon is one of those wonderful and most rare speakers where the audience arrives intrigued—but not quite sure what to expect—and then leaves completely blown away. He is a masterful storyteller, with his photographs and with his accompanying presentation. Simply one of the best.

Open-Ticketed

“

Platon was one of the best perspective on life speakers I have ever heard. Looking at life through an artist's eyes was an amazing experience.

Distribution

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Phenomenal, phenomenal, phenomenal. Absolutely amazing. He was a star and made our conference stellar. Thank you again!

Financial Services

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I was blown away by Platon - I and everyone else laughed, cried and truly felt inspired. One of the best speeches I've ever seen (if not THE best).

Financial Services

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Overall, I thought this conference was excellent. Platon was the best speaker I have ever heard and his presentation was life changing.

Financial Services

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Platon was amazing. Hands down the best speech I have ever heard. Moved me to tears!

Financial Services

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As you might imagine after 40 plus years in this industry, I have been to a lot of meetings and heard many speakers. My wife, Susan, is a retired exec. of AT&T and Convergis. She too has heard her share. Platon Antoniou brought tears to the eyes of both of us, and after his talk, we both felt the he was the best we have EVER heard.

Financial Services

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He was so wonderful! The feedback we received was 100% positive. We were moved, we cried, we laughed with him. Our guests were riveted, nobody moved or made a sound except to laugh or stifle a sob when we couldn't help ourselves. We listened intently and were taken on a journey. What a gift that afternoon was. We all got back to basics - human connection, empathy, love, humor, amazement... He was kind and patient during sound check and he stayed afterward, mobbed by our group who all wanted to meet him. It was a distinct honor to have met him myself and I can't wait until the next opportunity to hear him speak.

Financial Services

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Platon was excellent. It was obvious from the reaction of our participants that he had them thoroughly engaged with his photos and stories. The relevance of his presentation to the material we were presenting that day was also quite strong, and we found ourselves referring back to his stories quite often over the next two days to reinforce the central points of the training.

Financial Services

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Platon was spectacular! Yes, off the charts sensational! He was charming, funny, a wonderful story teller and the perfect ending to our meeting. It was really nice to feature something so visually exciting as well. Thanks for the good guidance that helped me select him.

Health Care

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Platon went over very well with our group—both during his presentation and later that evening at dinner. He was approached by many of our folks with questions or comments about his work. His presentation was insightful and thought-provoking, just what we were hoping for.

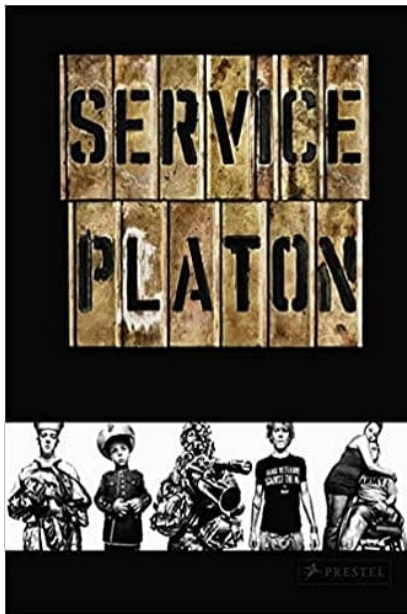
Insurance

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Platon was fabulous! Our audience LOVED him. He was exceptional!

Universities and Colleges

Books

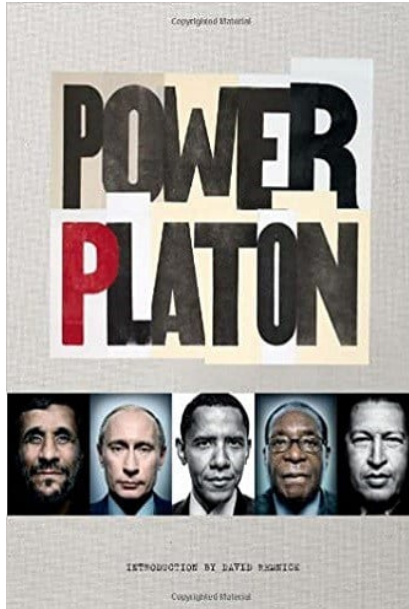


Service: Platon

Biographies, Memoirs and Autobiographies

In this powerful, evocative, and moving collection of images—many never-before published—Platon, one of the most acclaimed contemporary photographers, focuses on the effects of war on soldiers and their families. Having created over 25 Time magazine covers and succeeding Richard Avedon as a staff photographer for the New Yorker, Platon has become a household name. His evocative portraits of world leaders comprised a hugely successful previous book, *Power*. Now Platon has turned his lens to military service, embedding himself outside the battlefield in places where so much occurs that is so rarely mentioned. Given unprecedented access to U.S. military training facilities, Platon photographed soldiers preparing for battle in a staged Iraqi village. Aboard the USS San Antonio, he photographed soldiers the moment before they set sail. Platon's images capture both joy and grief, strength and vulnerability, support and dissent: a young man's t-shirt that reads "Iraq veteran against the war"; an African American woman stands proudly in full military regalia; a double-amputee stares directly from his wheelchair; and, in arguably the most important image of the 2008 U.S. presidential election, an American Muslim mother cradles the grave of her soldier son. Together, these photographs speak volumes about the lives and families of those who fight: their physical and psychological wounds, their extraordinary valor and often modest backgrounds, and the fierce emotions that surround their service.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)



Power: Portraits of World Leaders

Biographies, Memoirs and Autobiographies

Power brings readers face to face with the major world leaders of today. In this one-of-a-kind collection, Platon, World Press Photographer of the Year, turns his lens on 150 current international leaders from across the political spectrum to create a profound portrait of global power. Shot within a twelve-month period at the United Nations, and captured with unique candor and insight, these photographs offer an intimate glimpse of the personalities behind the public faces of the world's most powerful decision-makers. With an incisive text by New Yorker editor and Pulitzer Prize winner David Remnick, this comprehensive historical record of our time is an essential volume for anyone interested in world politics.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)



Platon's Republic

Biographies, Memoirs and Autobiographies

A collection of unique portraits by British born, New York based, fashion photographer Platon, which includes over 120 photographs constituting a unique and dynamic cross-section through the cult of fame and power. Platon's subjects are all leaders in their field and include Al Pacino, Bill Clinton, Vivienne Westwood, Leonard Cohen and David Beckham.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)

Speaker Bureaus And Talent Agencies

Platon is available to book via these agencies

✓ **Recommended**



Speaking Agency