



WILD DOG DAWN

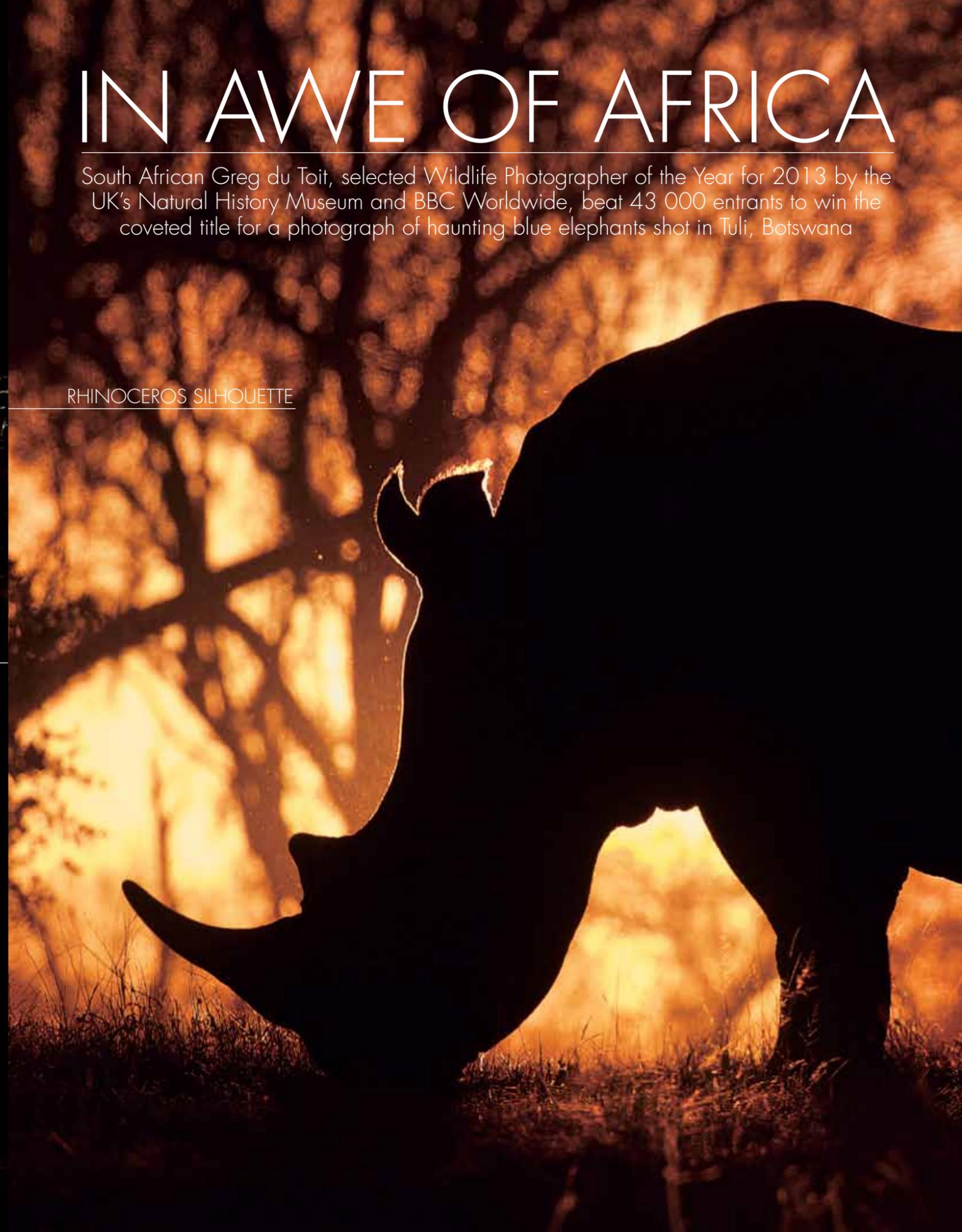


STALKER OF THE NIGHT

IN AWE OF AFRICA

South African Greg du Toit, selected Wildlife Photographer of the Year for 2013 by the UK's Natural History Museum and BBC Worldwide, beat 43 000 entrants to win the coveted title for a photograph of haunting blue elephants shot in Tuli, Botswana

RHINOCEROS SILHOUETTE



BAT BLIZZARD



HIPPO CAULDRON

CROCODILE POOL



ESSENCE OF ELEPHANTS

The image that won Greg
the coveted title of Wildlife
Photographer of the Year.





CHIMPANZEE SIESTA

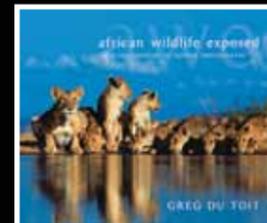


STORK AT DAWN

GREG DU TOIT

"I'm proud," says Greg. "Proud of Africa, proud of South African photographers, proud of our wildlife and our heritage." This was the 10th year he'd entered the prestigious awards and he says the win couldn't have come at a better time – the exact same week he launched his acclaimed coffee table book, *AWE – African Wildlife Exposed* (HPH Publishing).

Greg's photographic journey began long before he picked up a camera. "I trained as a wilderness trails guide and every day I approached big game on foot. All the time I was actually preparing to be a photographer, because understanding animal behaviour is essential to get good shots." In 2001 he



bought his first camera – a second-hand Pentax MZ30 – because he wanted to share his bush experiences with friends and family. Now he's doing it for a global audience.

Completely self-taught, Greg says he has a deep spiritual connection with the bush and wildlife. "For me, every aspect of the bush is stimulating and my camera is the tool to capture and convey the awe I feel. I only photograph what I'm passionate about, so my camera is sacred to me."

He believes wildlife photography has a subtle, but important conservation role too. "My job is to get people to appreciate wildlife through my photographs, because we all protect what we care about. This is the real purpose of my book, *AWE*. It's my mission to show that Africa isn't ruined or gone: it's alive – but it's also a reminder of what there is to lose if we're irresponsible."

The win is the Oscar of photography, but Greg says it won't change his life much. He still wants to photograph a hippo underwater and a leopard with cubs. "Life's always been about the bush for me. There's no plan B. I just have to do it," he says.

• To purchase signed copies of *AWE – African Wildlife Exposed*: www.gregdutoit.com

– Keri Harvey

