Rock photographer Jay Blakesberg will speak and show slides of his work in “Chasing the Light,” at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 1, in Davis Auditorium in Palamountain Hall at Skidmore College.

The talk is part of the college's John B. Moore Documentary Studies Collaborative (MDOCS) programs. The free presentation will be followed by a Q&A and book-signing.

A photographer (and father of Skidmore student Ricki Blakesberg '18), Blakesberg has spent 35 years documenting America's top musicians and rock and roll bands, and now he has a new coffee-table book, *Hippie Chick: A Tale of Love, Devotion & Surrender*.

Blakesberg has photographed the likes of the Grateful Dead, Taj Mahal, and Grace Slick's Jefferson Airplane, as well as more contemporary artists such as My Morning Jacket and Mumford and Sons.

*Hippie Chick: A Tale of Love, Devotion & Surrender* is a fine-art coffee-table book featuring 445 images. With three short essays by journalist Edith Johnson, the book celebrates the free-spirited women who are inspired by, and help to inspire, live music. What the author calls “earth mamas and fairy princesses, hula-hoopers and whirling dervishes, front-row regulars and flower-crown makers,” are all presented, alongside anecdotes from scores of women whom Johnson interviewed for the book.

Iconic rocker Grace Slick provides the book's foreword, discussing women in the original hippie-era music scene. In the afterword, Grace Potter mentions those “rebel ancestors” and says her generation is “the living, breathing manifestation of every path they blazed, every war they protested, every song they loved.”

“I have felt for a long time that what I was doing is visual anthropology,” Blakesberg said. and “this is a unique tribe whose story should be told. These women have . . . forever changed the face of women in pop culture.”

Based in San Francisco, Blakesberg regularly contributes to *Rolling Stone, Guitar*
Rock photographer Jay Blakesberg speaks at Skidmore College - Schools

*Player, Relix,* and other magazines. *Hippie Chick* is his tenth book of music photography.
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