

An Introduction to Portrait Lighting

An Introduction to Portrait Lighting is a two-day weekend workshop that looks at a range of approaches to lighting and contemporary photographic portraiture. Through the use of studio strobes and digital image capture, you will receive comprehensive demonstrations and discussions of essential portrait-lighting techniques as well as invaluable opportunities for practical application. The price of the workshop includes the provision of a photographic model.

Topics Covered

INTRODUCTION

- › An introductory history of photographic portraiture
- › A survey of contemporary photographic portraiture
- › The evolution of lighting technology
- › Contemporary and historical approaches to portrait lighting

SAFETY IN THE STUDIO

- › Avoiding trip hazards
- › Stabilising booms and stands with shot bags
- › Avoiding fire and electrical hazards

STUDIO FLASH EQUIPMENT

- › How electronic flash works
- › Using Monoblocs or Floor Packs
- › Adjusting power levels
- › Controlling the modelling light
- › Triggering the flash
- › Flash duration
- › Sync cables and wireless transmitters
- › Using portable speedlights in the studio

CAMERA TECHNIQUE

- › Handheld or tripod based shooting
- › Minimising lens flare with hoods and flags
- › Manual or Auto Focus
- › Choosing an appropriate focal length
- › Film or digital?

METERING FOR ELECTRONIC FLASH

- › Operating a flash meter
- › Flash synchronisation speeds
- › Ambient metering for flash: hemisphere or flat disc
- › Spot and reflected metering of flash exposure
- › Eliminating ambient light from measurements
- › Assessing general exposure using the RGB histogram
- › Assessing skin-tone exposure through the red histogram channel

EVALUATING COLOUR TEMPERATURE

- › The Kelvin scale and studio flash
- › White-balancing methods: raw conversion using a colour reference chart
- › Using colour temperature meters in TIFF or JPEG mode
- › Predicting and adjusting for colour temperature shifts caused by flash power adjustment

STUDIO WORKFLOW

- › Untethered shooting straight to Compact Flash card
- › Tethered capture using Capture One pro
- › A brief discussion of raw processing

USING A SINGLE, HARD LIGHT SOURCE

- › Controlling contrast and light falloff using the inverse square law
- › Using barn doors to control spill
- › Feathering light with a bare reflector
- › Using flags to soften edges and sculpt light

ESTABLISHING A LIGHTING PATTERN

- › Paramount, Loop, Rembrandt, Split, Edge and Back-Lighting
- › Adapting Lighting patterns for frontal, three-quarter and full profile portraits
- › Short & Broad lighting

MODIFYING AND SOFTENING THE KEY LIGHT

- › Using diffusion materials
- › Bounce lighting
- › Umbrellas: white, silver and translucent brollys
- › Soft boxes
- › Altering the size of the light source in relation to the size of subject
- › Controlling contrast through the size of the light source
- › Feathering a diffused light source

CONTROLLING CONTRAST WITH REFLECTORS

- › Positioning and feathering a reflector for a natural fill light effect
- › Choosing a reflector surface: white, silver or coloured reflectors
- › Establishing a basic lighting ratio with a single reflector
- › Using multiple reflectors to accentuate form
- › Adjusting the degree of reflected fill for soft and hard light sources
- › Creating catch lights with reflectors

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

- › Determining an effective approach to lighting your subject
- › Developing an individual style through experimentation
- › Deconstructing and adapting the lighting techniques of other photographers

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