

PORTRAITS!



WHAT IS PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY?

Portrait photography or portraiture is photography of a person or group of people that displays the expression, personality, and mood of the subject. Like other types of portraiture, the focus of the photograph is usually the person's face, although the entire body and the background or context may be included.

What to plan for:

Purpose: WHAT DO YOU WANT THE PORTRAIT TO SHOW ABOUT THIS PERSON?personality trait? Quality? Interests?

You can use 3 main visuals to illustrate your purpose:

-Outfits/color schemes - Poses -Backgrounds / Props

I know what a portrait is! How do I make mine unique?

1. Alter Your Perspective

Most portraits are taken with the camera at (or around) the eye level of the subject. While this is good common sense – completely changing the angle that you shoot from can give your portrait a real WOW factor.



2. Play with Eye Contact

A. Looking off camera – have your subject focus their attention on something unseen and outside the field of view of your camera.

-Create a feeling of candidness

-Create a little intrigue and interest as the viewer of the shot wonders what they are looking at. This intrigue is particularly drawn about when the subject is showing some kind of emotion (ie 'what's making them laugh?' or 'what is making them look surprised?').

WARNING!!!!!! YOU RISK LEADING YOUR VIEWERS EYE OFF THE PHOTO! BE SURE THE GAZE IS INTENTIONAL!



B. Looking within the frame

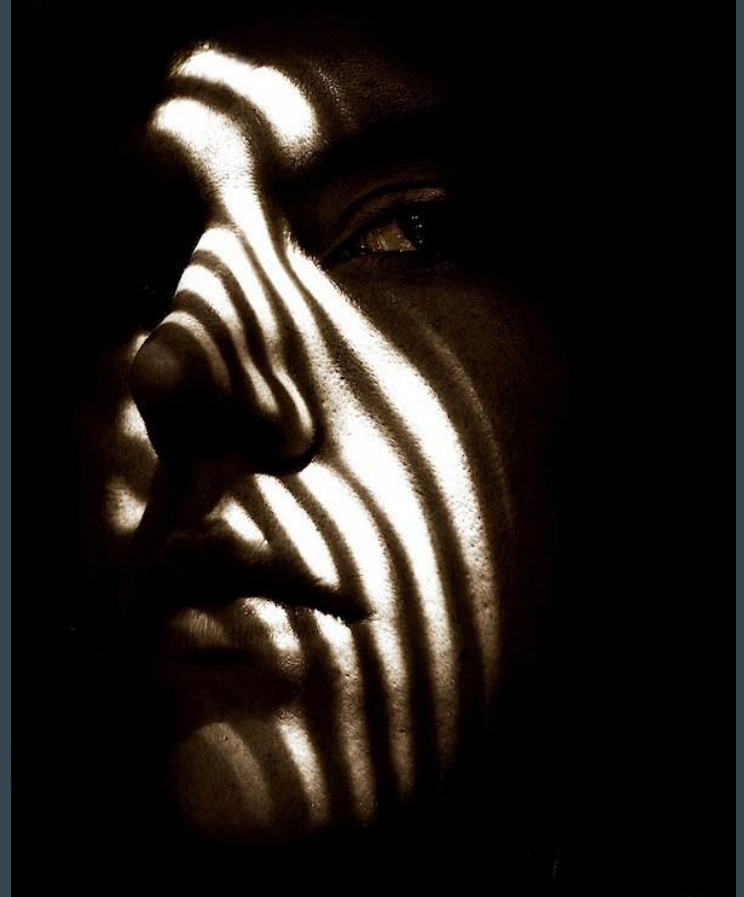
When you give your subject something to look at that is inside the frame you create a second point of interest and a relationship between it and your primary subject. It also helps create 'story' within the image.



4. Experiment with Lighting

Another element of randomness that you can introduce to your portraits is the way that you light them. There are almost unlimited possibilities when it comes to using light in portraits.

Side-lighting can create mood, backlighting and silhouetting your subject to hide their features can be powerful.



Shoot Candidly

Sometimes posed shots can look somewhat.... posed. Some people don't look good in a posed environment and so switching to a candid type approach can work.

Photograph your subject at work, with family or doing something that they love. This will put them more at ease and you can end up getting some special shots with them reacting naturally to the situation that they are in.

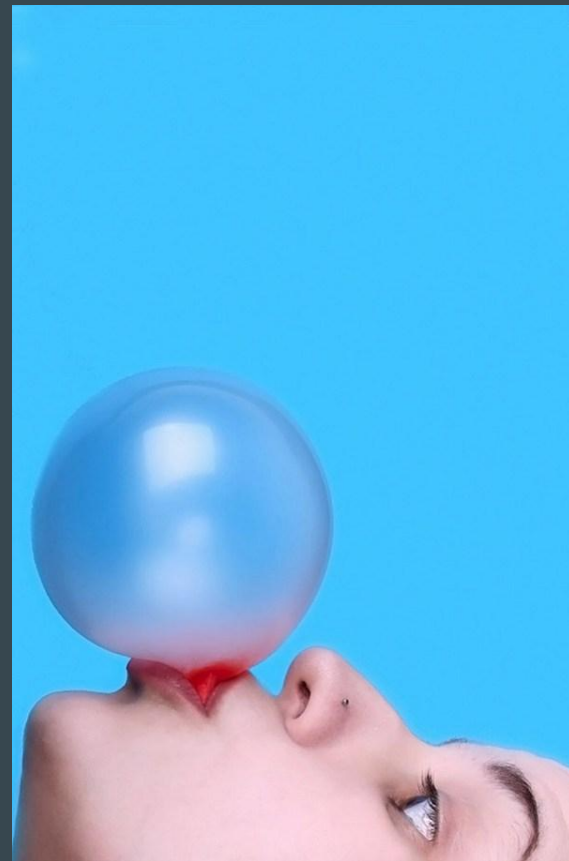


Introduce a Prop!



Add a prop of some kind into your shots and you create another point of interest that can enhance your shot.

Yes you might run the risk of taking too much focus away from your main subject but you could also really add a sense of story and place to the image that takes it in a new direction and gives the person you're photographing an extra layer of depth that they wouldn't have had without the prop.



Camera Settings and Tips:

VIDEO ON THE BASICS:: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jq9KQ4lwab0>

COMMON MISTAKES: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zI9T0moRaM>

APERTURE: When shooting portraits, it's best to set a **wide aperture** (around **f/2.8-f/5.6**) to capture a shallow depth of field, so the background behind your subject is nicely blurred, making them stand out better.

RECOMMENDED FOR BEGINNERS: Shoot in **Aperture Priority mode** to control depth of field

SHUTTER SPEED: The shutter speed should be equal to or faster than the focal length, so make sure your shutter speed is faster than your focal length. For example, at 200mm you will want to shoot at 1/250 sec or faster.

Increase your ISO In order to give your aperture and shutter speed choices a boost, you can always adjust your **ISO**. Also consider that kids, pets, and even adults tend to move around while being photographed. To combat these wiggly subjects, and to prevent motion blur appearing, you can bump up your shutter speed by bumping up your ISO.

In low light (indoors and outside), you may need to increase it to ISO 400, 800, 1600 or even 3200. The offset will mean a little grain, but that's certainly better than a blurred image.

Resources for POSING YOUR SUBJECT:

101 portrait ideas:

<http://www.zarias.com/portrait-photography-tips-and-ideas/>

Feminine Pose ideas:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/21-sample-poses-photographing-female-models/>

Masculine Pose Ideas:

<https://digital-photography-school.com/21-sample-poses-to-get-you-started-with-photographing-men/>