



Imaging Partnership

CHANGING THE WORLD THROUGH OPTICS

Portrait & Wedding

LESSON ONE

What you will learn:

- What is meant by 'focal length'
- How to compose for portrait photography
- How to focus and re-compose
- The use of natural light and flash for portraits
- That background needs to be considered in compositions.
- What is meant by the term 'talking space'
- How to compose for groups

What you should be able to do:

- Demonstrate how to operate camera using correct techniques required
- Demonstrate ability to look at background to subject and appreciate how to decide when its best to take photograph
- Capture photographs at different focal lengths
- Demonstrate use of different lighting techniques
- Take photograph using correct techniques as required

Social Photography



- If you are artistic and love taking photographs, this could be a perfect career for you. As a photographer you would use cameras to take still photographs. You would use your technical skills and artistic ideas to take images of people and products. You will also take pictures of places or events.
- A photographer is usually a creative person. You'll also need to be able to make people feel relaxed.
- Most professional photographers take a college or university course to develop their technical skills.

Social Photography

To become a photographer, you will need to have:

- creativity and a good eye for shape, form and colour
- practical and technical photography skills
- excellent communication and 'people' skills
- the ability to make people feel relaxed
- patience and concentration
- reliability, and good organisation and time-management skills
- computer skills, for using digital imaging programmes like Photoshop
- good business sense and the ability to market yourself (if self-employed)
- motivation and determination

Social Photography

With most types of photography, your day-to-day work would include:

- discussing the project with the client, or receiving instructions from them (known as a brief)
- choosing and getting locations ready for the photography session (the shoot)
- selecting the right cameras, lenses and accessories
- setting up lighting and equipment
- composing and taking shots
- checking image quality

Social Photography



Post Shoot Activities:

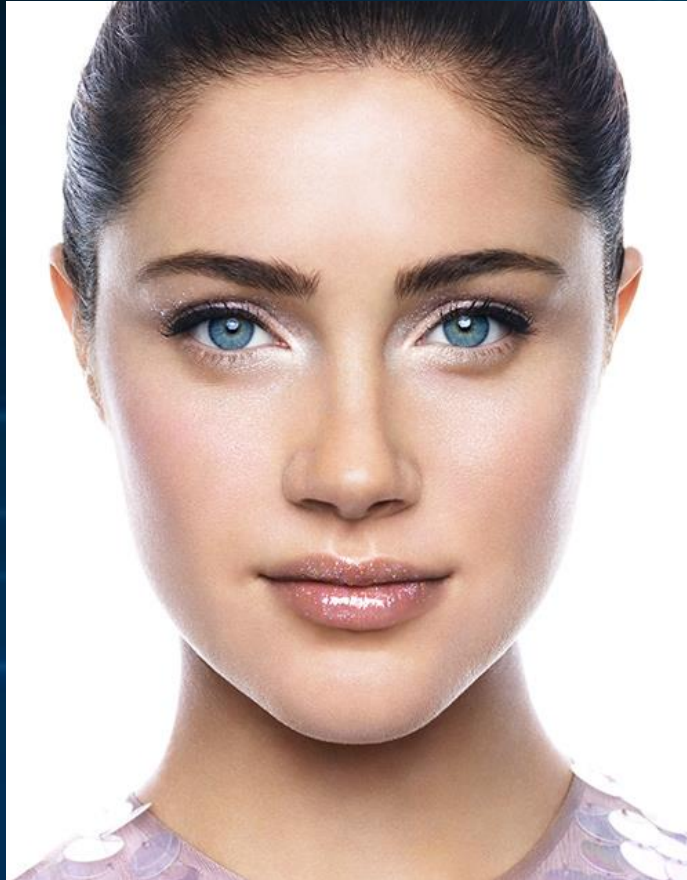
- retouching images - with digital software such as Photoshop
- processing and printing photos
- marketing and running your business if you are self-employed
- In some cases you might employ an assistant to help a shoot run smoothly. Assistants set up equipment, prepare sets and props, look after clients, keep records and help with printing and administration.

Focal Length



- So what does **FOCAL LENGTH** mean?
- The **focal length** of a lens determines its angle of view, and thus also how much the subject will be magnified for a given photographic position.
- The **focal length** of the lens is the distance between the lens and the image sensor when the subject is in focus

Focal Length - Activity



- When you first turn your camera on, it's in WIDE ANGLE
- Try taking a close up photograph of someone, so that their face fills the frame
- Now do the same thing but zoom in 4 or 5x and compare the results

Focal Length



- So why is **FOCAL LENGTH** important?
- Wide angle view is useful for landscapes, or when you want to get as much of the view into your photograph
- But your portraits show that used for close up portraits, you have to push the camera right into the person's face!
- But worse than that, their face is distorted.
- Believe it or not, both portraits are of the same person!

Focal Length



- It's better to use zoom for portraits as the picture won't be distorted
- You can stand further away from the person, so they don't feel so uncomfortable.

Focus



- To get the best quality photographs, you must have your subject in focus
- To do that, using a friend as the subject, set up a portrait shot.
- Then, lightly press the shutter button so the box (or cross) on your screen turns green
- Now you can press the shutter all the way down to take the photograph
- Practice this a few times

Focus/Re-compose



- We don't always want our subject in the middle of our photo – perhaps we want to show some scenery in the background
- There are two ways of doing this:
- First, Face Recognition software in your camera can often solve this problem for you – try it and see
- You can also focus on your subject in the centre of the screen, then, with the shutter button still held halfway, move the camera sideways to re-compose – try it

Portrait with 'talking space'



- Next, we're going to capture a portrait in $\frac{3}{4}$ view, as in the photo shown here.
- This image makes use of 'talking space'

Talking Space

- Talking space, lead room, or nose room, is the space in front, and in the direction, of moving or stationary subjects.
- Well-composed shots leave space in the direction the subject is facing or moving.
- When the human eye scans a photograph for the first time it will expect to see a bit in front of the subject.

Lead Room



- For example, moving objects such as cars require lead room.
- If extra space is allowed in front of a moving car, the viewer can see that it has someplace to go; without this visual padding, the car's forward progress will seem impeded.

Lighting

- The two most important things for photographers to consider are composition and lighting
- They can either work with natural or artificial light
- Natural light is often good for portraits as softer light can show off the skin to best effect
- Sometimes though, there isn't enough light and we need to use flash, or studio lighting



Lighting



- Try taking portraits using both natural lighting and flash
- Re-take some of the earlier portraits, thinking about the use of light, both natural and flash.

Posing for groups



- MAKE SURE THE HEADS ARE AT DIFFERENT LEVELS
- MAKE SURE NO ONE IS COVERED UP
- POSE THE SUBJECTS ON UNEVEN FOOTING
- LIGHT WITH CARE
- DON'T LEAVE AWKWARD SPACES
- USE A TRIANGLE AS A COMPOSITION TECHNIQUE

Background



- Simple, plain backgrounds can lead to some stunning portraits, but if you want to show more, then there are a couple of rules:
- Make sure there are no trees or lampposts growing out of peoples' heads!
- Also, make sure that the background isn't too busy as this will distract your eye from the portrait

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