Lebanon Camera Club Newsletter

Club News

December Meeting

No meeting this Month

Have a wonderful holiday!!!

Educational Photo Series-Portrait Photography

What Is Portrait Photography?

Portrait photography is a style of photography that portrays human subjects. Portrait photography has been around since the dawn of photography, when Louis Daguerre invented the daguerreotype in 1839—the same year that Robert Cornelius aimed the camera at himself and took what is widely believed to be the first self portrait photograph (or "selfie" in modern parlance) ever, laying the groundwork for portrait photography to emerge as its own art form.

Cheap, fast, and portable, portrait photography soon replaced traditional hand-painted portraiture, allowing amateur and professional photographers more freedom in documenting the human condition.

What Equipment Do I Need for Portrait Photography?

To take great portraits, you'll need the following equipment:

• Camera. In theory, any camera, from a disposable to a smartphone to digital cameras, is suited for portrait photography. However, a DSLR or mirrorless camera is ideal since they offer manual settings, affording a photographer tight control over adjustments like exposure, aperture, ISO, and shutter speed.

• Lenses. For beginners, start with a lens between 85mm and 135mm before experimenting with zoom lenses or longer telephoto lenses for close-up photos.

2022 Assigned Subjects

To be announced

Inside this issue

- Tripod. A sturdy tripod enables you to set up your portrait shot and get your model in sharp focus. Then, you can concentrate on your model and capture multiple different expressions from the same vantage point.

- Lighting. At a minimum, you'll want a speedlight or flash attachment for your digital camera, particularly for interior and studio work. However, there are other lighting tools available for portrait photography.

- Backdrop. If you're taking your portrait photographs in a studio, you'll want a simple backdrop. In general, opt for a backdrop that's at least 6 feet long for ¾ length portraits and 10 feet long for full-height portraits. Photography backdrops come in a variety of materials, including vinyl, canvas, muslin, and even paper.

How to Choose Camera Settings for Portrait Photography

The dynamic nature of the subject, paired with a wide range of environments from professional studios to the great outdoors, means there is no one-size-fits-all setting for a camera. What is important to keep in mind, instead, is the relationship between your lens, your portrait subject, and your background. Shutter speed, aperture, and ISO are all related to the brightness, or exposure level, of the image.

Your portrait camera settings will depend on whether you're using a tripod, or holding the camera yourself.

- Tripod. When using your camera on a tripod, shoot in Manual Mode. This will allow the maximum level of customizability for your shots. Since camera shake is less of an issue with tripod photography, you can slow your shutter speed, helping you make use of all available light. When slowing your shutter speed, use a low ISO setting of 100-400.

- Handheld. When you're shooting portraits with a handheld camera, shoot in Aperture Priority mode. This will allow you to account for different angles and lighting by adjusting the amount of light entering into the camera through the lens. To compensate for the additional movement of handheld photography, increase your shutter speed to 1/200th or higher, then compensate for this by raising the ISO.

What Are the Best Lenses for Portrait Photography?

For experienced photographers, lens choice is a matter of personal preference. However, prime or fixed lenses in the 85 through 135 range are considered ideal for portraits because these focal lengths provide the sharpest result without widening or flattening the subject too much. Longer lenses also compress facial features slightly, resulting in a more flattering portrait.

Portrait lenses also provide some room to play with blurring your backgrounds. You can achieve this effect, known as a shallow depth of field, by using a wide aperture and maximizing the distance between your subject and the intended focus of the blur.

Avoid using wide-angle lenses, which can distort your subject's face and lead to an unflattering and unnatural photo.

What Are the Best Photoshoot Environments for Portrait Photography?

The environment you choose to shoot in goes hand in hand with your camera settings. There are two broad categories of environments: indoors and outdoors.

- Indoor. Indoor environments for portraits include homes and places of work, as well as professional photography studios complete with backdrops, a full lighting setup (flash and all), and other props.

- Outdoor. Outdoor portrait settings range from the urban, like city streets, to the natural, like gardens and parks.

How to Choose Lighting for Portrait Photography

You have a variety of options when it comes to portrait lighting equipment, including:

• Flashes and strobes to create bursts of light and fill any gaps in your ambient lighting.

• Reflectors and bounces can be used to absorb or redirect both ambient and artificial lighting.

• Remote flash triggers can help you trigger multiple flashes in specific combinations on the fly.

Umbrellas, softboxes, and diffusers to soften harsh artificial lighting set-ups and reduce the "staged" quality of a studio portrait.

How To Get Comfortable With Your Portrait Subject

Besides deftly handling a camera, a good portrait photographer is well-versed in the art of making people feel comfortable. Ideally, this relationship-building begins before a shoot.

• Meet your subject for coffee and learn more about them. What are their interests and hobbies? What do they do for work, and how does that make them feel? What are some places that hold meaning for them? Could they share any pictures of themselves that they love? This pre-shoot research demonstrates a thoughtfulness that should facilitate a more productive and comfortable shoot.

• Get their approval. There may be scenarios, however, in which you won't have time to do extensive research before taking someone's portrait. In this case, it is first and foremost important to obtain the person's approval. Be respectful in your approach and kind throughout the process. Fortunately, unlike buildings, roads, or even wildlife, human subjects have the added benefit of

offering a photographer feedback, whether consciously or subconsciously.

• Learn to interpret body language. Some people blossom in front of the camera while others become shy. Some might be willing to sit for hours while others might want to rush through the process. The portrait photographer bears the responsibility of interpreting the subject's body language and making tweaks to the process as they see fit.

• Share your process. Sharing parts of the process also helps people feel comfortable. If your subject is shy, try suggesting a handful of poses to warm them up. Show the result on camera and ask what the subject thinks, what they like and what they dislike. Offer advice for improving the shot. Making the process collaborative simultaneously empowers the subject and allows the photographer to get not just a great portrait, but also a true one.

Photo Contests

• **Weekly Photo Challenge:**
• https://www.facebook.com/groups/weeklyphotographychallenges

Various Photo Contests (Many Different Topics)
• https://www.photocontestinsider.com/
• https://photocontestguru.com
• http://www.voubs.com
• www.greatamericanphotocontest.com
• www.viewbug.com/photo-contests
• https://www.outdoorphotographer.com/photo-contests/
• http://www.photocrowd.com
• https://www.fanartreview.com

Landscape and Nature Forum Photography Challenge—monthly theme and critique: Click here

PSA Events

• **PJ Story Book Competition—The Photojournalism Division is hosting a digital Story Book Competition! Beginning June 1st,** https://psa-photo.org/index.php?divisions-photojournalism-photo-story-competition **for instructions**

4 Tips for Great Portrait Photography

Here are some tips for taking stunning portrait photography.

1. Diffuse your light source. When selecting an environment, consider that a soft, diffused natural light from an indirect source is best for shooting portraits. Direct, harsh light or a full sun can cast unwanted dark shadows or create unnatural skin colors.

2.Focus on your subject's eyes. If you're not sure where to focus your lens, look to your model's eyes. The human eye is visually interesting, and communicates more about mood than most other features.

3. Pay attention to height. Portraits taken from below the chin tend to be unflattering, while shots that are too high can diminish your subject.

4. Use setting to your advantage. While a studio can help you exert full control of your lighting, a more natural setting like an office or backyard can add personality to your portraits, as well as make your model feel more relaxed.

Source: https://www.masterclass.com/articles/ultimate-guide-to-portrait-photography#4-tips-for-great-portrait-photography and photzy.com

November 6 – January 2 Koziars Christmas Village Display, Bernville , http://www.koziarschristmasvillage.com/

November 13 – January 3 Hershey Sweet Lights

http://www.hersheypark.com/info/hours/sweet-lights.php

November 13 – January 3 (Select days) Christmas Candylane, Hershey

http://www.hersheypark.com/explore-the-park/christmas.php

November 19-January 10, Christmas at Longwood Gardens

LongwoodGardens.org

Christmas Village in Philadelphia—through December 24. Held in Love Park

Dickens of a Christmas in Wellsboro December 3-5

https://www.wellsboropa.com/index.php/dickens-of-a-christmas-celebration

Delaware Crossing Reenactment—December 25

https://www.washingtoncrossingpark.org/cross-with-us/

Photo Idea Calendar

365 Photo Challenge — **December** — EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHY

Silent Night 1	Shoes 2	Bracelet 3	D is for... 4	Candles 5	Wreath 6	Silver Bells 7
Red 8	Peace 9	Cookies 10	Gift Wrap 11	Twelve Things 12	Sweater 13	Mood 14
Transparent 15	Ornament 16	Lights 17	Tree 18	Winter 19	Decorations 20	Presents 21
Santa 22	Candy Cane 23	Christmas: Reflect 24	Christmas: Highlight 25	Christmas: Whishes 26	Food 27	Shiny 28
Joy 29	Flame 30	A Thought for Next Year 31				

Workshops

Apogee Photo Magazine
For more information log on to http://www.apogeephoto.com/photography_workshops.shtml

Wildlife and Nature Travel
www.wildlifeandnaturetravel.com

Art Wolfe Photography Workshops
www.artwolfeworkshops.com

Don Smith Photography
www.donsmithphotography.com

Brenda Tharp
www.brendatharp.com/

M&M Photo Tours
http://www.mmphototours.com/

Arizona Highway Photo Workshops
http://www.friendsofazhighways.com/

John Shaw 2-Day Nature & Digital Photography Seminar
http://www.photosafaris.com/

Jack Graham Photography
http://jackgrahamphoto.com/

Rocky Mountain Reflections
www.rockymtnrefl.com/photographyworkshops.html

Slonina Photography—Explore Wild America
http://www.sphotography.com

Photo Workshop Adventures
www.photoworkshopadventures.com

Michael Francis Photo Shoots
www.michaelfrancisphoto.com

Osprey Photo Workshops & Tours
www.ospreyphoto.com

Horizon Photography Workshops
www.horizonworkshops.com

Photo Editing Feature—How to Blur Waterfalls

Tutorials

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvQnAML5-p8

2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqG2ulAmb7I

3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPy9eUu2zOU

Random Idea of the Month-Photography Gifts for the Holidays

https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/12-of-the-best-christmas-gifts-for-photographers-in-2021

https://photographylife.com/gifts-for-photographers

https://expertphotography.com/67-gifts-for-photographers/

Officers

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Meetings are the first Tuesday of each month!

If you would like to do a program on anything digital related or know someone who would, please let us know.

Or

If you have something of interest for our members, please email them to the Newsletter Editor, Connie at Lebanon-camera@gmail.com.

Everyone is invited to attend our regular monthly meetings.

Unless otherwise noted we meet the first Tuesday at 6:30PM in St. Stephen's Christian Fellowship Church, 1100 Hunter Chase Lane, Lebanon PA.

The club is a member of the Photographic Society of American (PSA).

Cancellation or last minute changes of events will normally be sent to members via email and broadcast on radio station WLBR, AM 1270.

Only members may enter competitions. Dues are $25 per year and include the newsletter and monthly meeting minutes.

Digital Competition entries are due at least one day prior to the scheduled competition.

Competition Committee will keep winning Print entries for the end of year competition unless the member requests return of entries before then. In that case, the member would be responsible for re-submitting them for the end of year competition.

Directions: From Rt 72 N of Lebanon where N 12th St becomes Jonestown Road at the McDonalds, follow Jonestown Road north past the Turkey Hill. Jonestown Road will become Sandhill Road. Keep on Sandhill road until it branches to the left into Grace Avenue. Church is on the left 3/10 of a mile from the split *before* you pass Youth for Christ and Fisher Bus.

Products and services of interest to photographers are presented as a service without review or endorsement.

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Microsoft Corporation, the club, or as marked.

Dates and times of events may change. Please check local listings.

Below are links of online pdf files from past workshops and monthly meeting presentations:

http://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/newsletters

https://www.lebanoncameraclub.org/links