



# *Outdoor Portraits*

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# Be Inspired

- A wise man once said that we usually forget what we hear, remember what we see, but completely understand what we do. You will never learn a dance step sitting on the side lines. Find inspiration from books, other photographers, classes, and then get out and shoot!



# Photographing Children

- Younger children really can't be posed.
- Having fun with them and letting them do what they enjoy
- Look for interesting backgrounds
- Shoot close and then closer
- Older kids: body at an angle to the camera, head tilt, head resting on either one or both hands
- Boys hand in pockets
- Natural expressions = great portraits

- Talk about whatever interest them. Don't say smile, give them a reason to smile.
- Get down on their level
- Use fast shutter speeds to freeze action (small kids on the move)
- Use rules of thirds to create balanced and beautiful compositions
- Shoot in soft, natural light near a large window or open door
- Peek a boo with small kids and trees
- Be safe, have a second person to make sure everyone stays out of harm's way

# Things to remember about your camera

- Never select all of the focus points for portraits, pick one
- Cameras are usually designed to focus on whatever is closest to the lens
- Using one focus point gives the photographer control



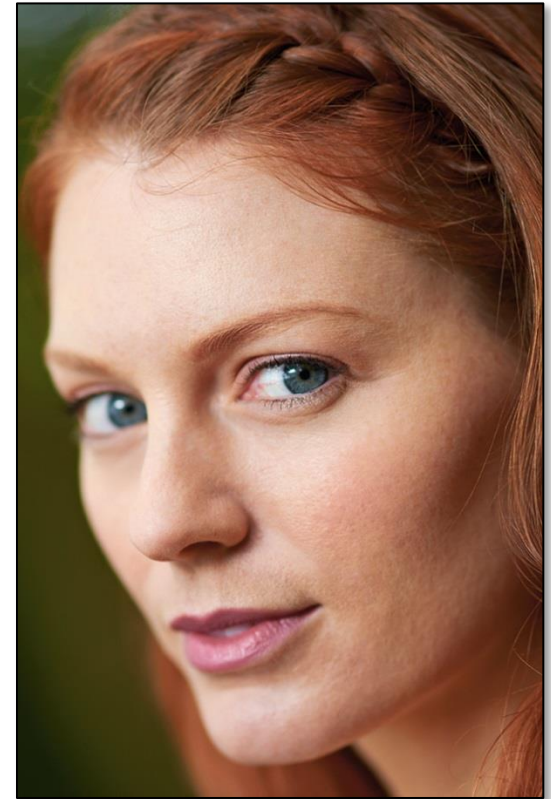
# Main Focus is on the Eyes in a Portrait

- Always focus on the eyes
- Eyes are the sharpest element on the face
- Most fantastic natural light portraits are from wide aperture values and it is all because of the wonderful smooth background blur we call “bokeh”.





Using 2.8 gives a shallow depth of field, simply getting closer has reduced the depth of field



As there are three things that determine the depth of field in your shots  
– aperture,  
focal length,  
and your distance from the subject –

- Choose you location (make a test run) and best time of day
- Check weather
- Prepare gear (have a check list)
- Water





# Composition and framing

- Try to position either your subject's face (on a half or full-length portrait) or eyes (on a head-and-shoulders or close-up shot) using the rule of thirds. This gives a much more balanced composition than if they are in the center of the frame.
- When shooting closer than full length, you'll need to think carefully about framing. A good rule of thumb is to avoid cropping the portrait so that any joints such as knees or elbows come too close to the edges of the frame.



# Location

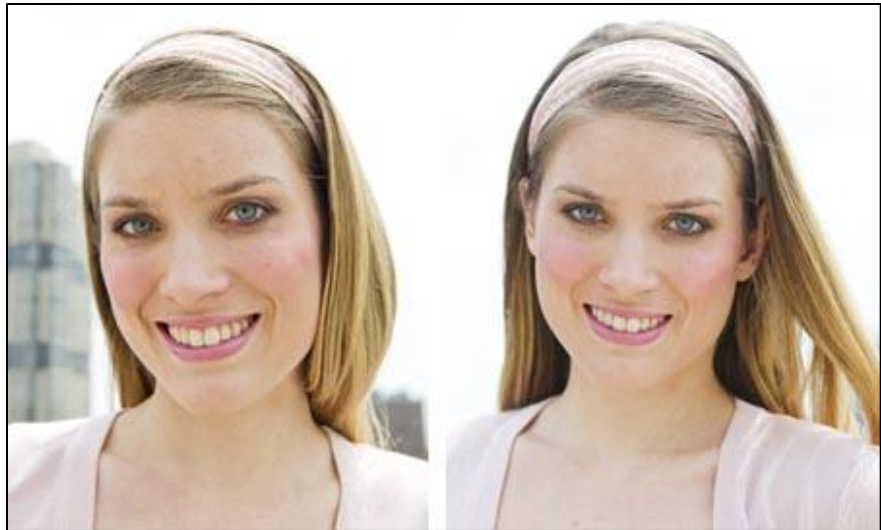
- If the location adds to your portrait, you can include the background, but if the location isn't particularly photogenic, try using limited depth of field or tight framing to concentrate attention on your subject.
- For the most striking portraits, it's often best to keep things simple, so try to shoot against uncluttered backgrounds such as the sky, a wall or foliage. This will help your subject stand out.
- However, like most rules, there are times when it's best to break them – particularly when you're shooting environmental portraits where you want to show the surroundings almost as much as the subject itself.

Show background and subject



- Shoot a portrait more than 50mm.

Notice the distortion of the model's chin on the left using a wide focus of less than 50mm.



- **Always shoot in RAW**
- **Always bring a gray card or a piece of a gray card for white balance.**
- **Shoot in the shade (Avoid direct sunlight)**



# If you must use Hot, Hard, Bright Light...

- Control the direction, use some kind of reflector
- Use an existing reflector
- A cheap sheet can be used as a diffuser



# Cloudy Day

- The light is still directional
- Use a compass and put your back to the sun
- Silver reflector was place on steps below person. Person was turned toward reflector. Catch lights at the bottom of eyes.





# Check you background

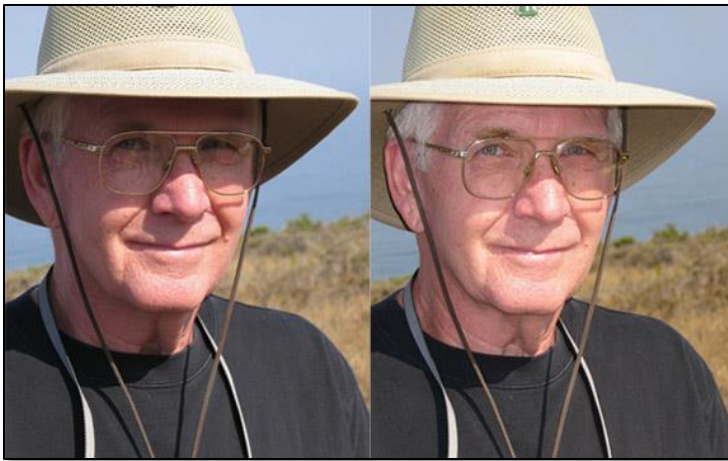
- Focus on the person or group you are photographing and keep out distractions



# When to Use Flash



- To fill in shadows, such as under hat brims





## **When background is brighter than subject**

Backlight

Camera meters the scene as having enough light

Need flash to make subjects bright than background



**To add sparkle to eyes**

No flash natural  
light

Not a bad image



## Balanced Flash

A little flash adds extra life.



## A little too much flash

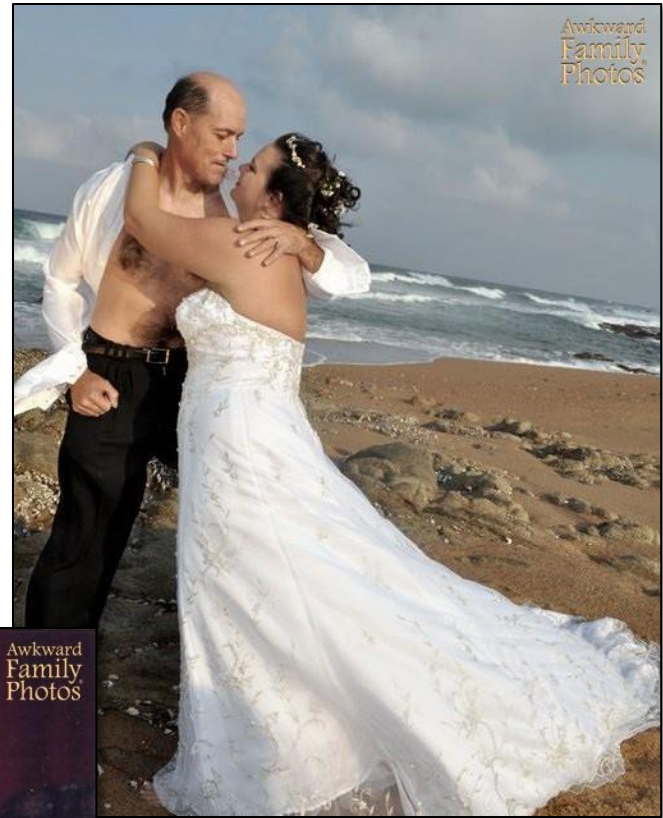
Shadows become more noticeable and too much flash your shots can look artificial and overexposed.

# Check list for subject

- Clothing comfortable, usually favorite color, wear shades of same color, please no patterns (hate white)
- Ladies wear makeup, at least a little and lipstick, but not shinny
- Brush teeth! And clean glasses
- Now let's have some fun for a moment



# Clothing and such...



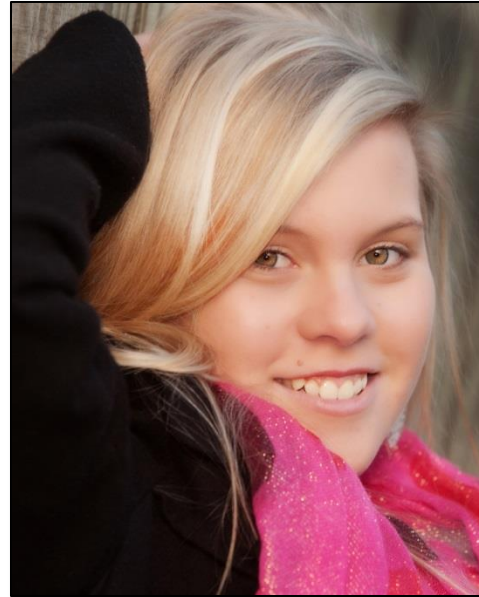
# Have a good relationship with subject



Always a good idea to make sure everyone is on the same page

I was all for same outfits until I saw these...





Time to get out and shoot

