

Portrait photography session

The coming session on portrait photography is an opportunity to put into practice what we learnt at the previous session with Peter Jones.

The idea of the committee was to set up 4 (or more) window shoots with a backdrop of any fabric you wish to bring, that can be draped over a long table on its end. Therefore, you can bring your favourite drape although drapes will be provided. Four members can, therefore, work at once, giving everyone a chance. Also bring if available a piece of net curtain to soften the window light.

Here are some tips that Peter gave us:

Camera settings:

- Aperture - the suggested f number is 5.6 as this keeps all the head in focus.
- Exposure compensation - consider negative settings
- The focal length is ideally, but necessarily, around 90.
- A high ISO will be needed due to the low lighting (all turned off), I suggest 1000 to 1600 however the Automatic setting at 5.6 will adjust that. You could also try auto setting.
- A tripod is ideal but not necessary if you have a steady hand. However, it does enable you to carefully compose the preferred shot.
- White balance. The lighting conditions will affect this. Start with auto white balance and check on the camera live view. If it does not match the lighting on the model keep changing it (if available) until it does. I often use "cloudy" or tungsten if the lights are on.

Setting up your shot.

- Give space between the backdrop and the model.
- Position the model to your liking. Put the net curtain against the window.
- Possibly draw the curtains together slightly to focus the light on the model. If the far window view is too dark use a reflector or a white card.
- Try and avoid reflections in spectacles.
- Position level with the head, not above. Slightly below can also work.

TAKE THE SHOT and have fun.

Don