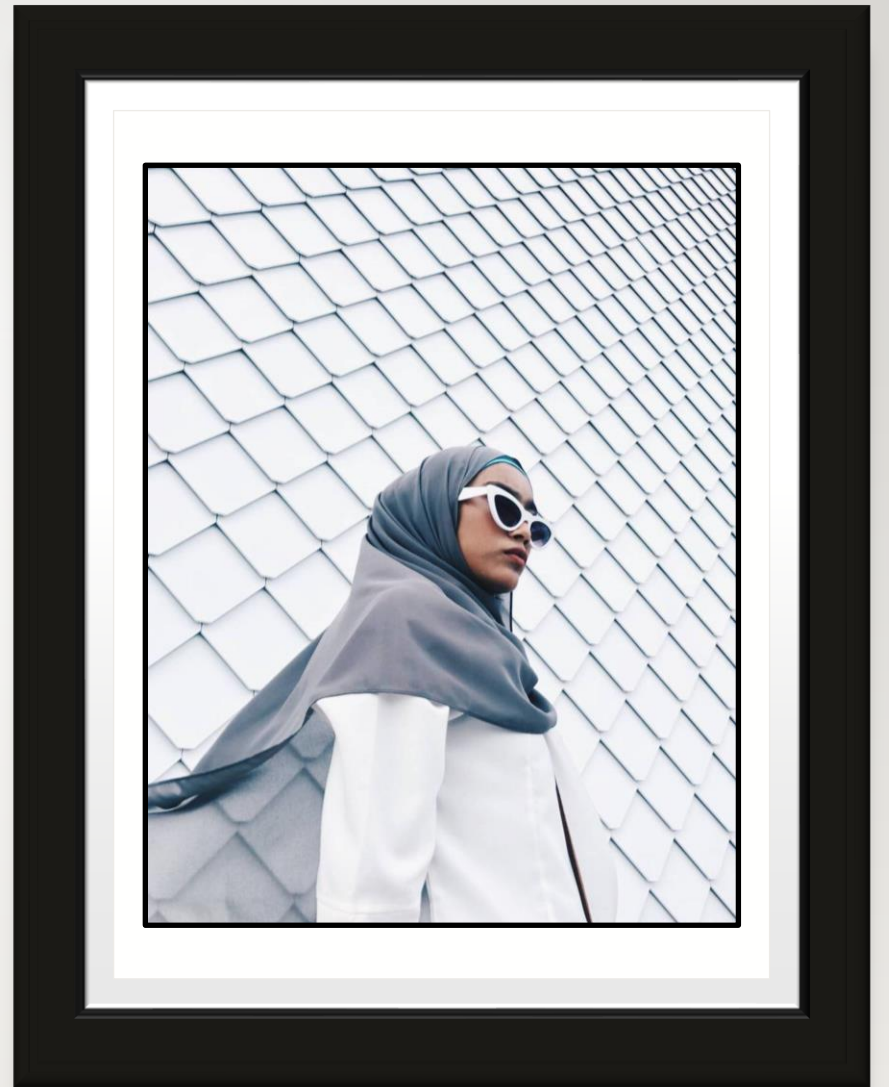

Portrait Photography

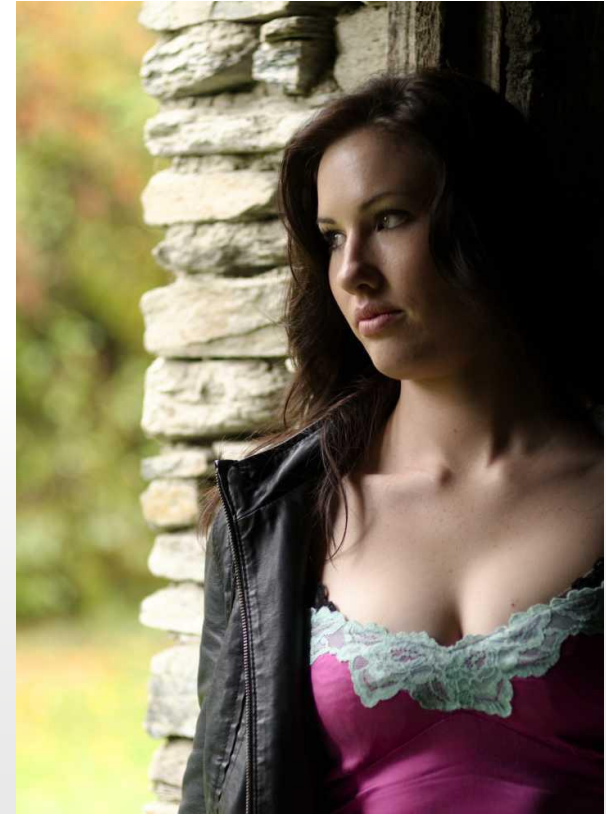
PAUL BIANCO

WAYNE POLLARD



Introduction

- What is a portrait? According to APJA definitions a portrait is –
- PORTRAIT/PEOPLE: (1.1) A photograph of a person or persons that may range from a head study to full body length. This includes candid photographs and formal portraits.
- PORTRAIT: (1.2) An image of a **living person** that accurately represents their anatomical features in which the face or profile is predominant. The intent is to meaningfully reproduce the recognizable appearance, personality, character, mood or qualities of the person or group of people. It is not just a recording or 'snapshot' and its purpose is to memorialize an image of someone for the future.



Portrait Workshop

PORTRAIT: (1.3) A portrait, in the broad sense, is a recognisable image of an individual person or group. The photograph must be taken from life (i.e. a physical, living person or group of people). The subject of the portrait may be anyone. Group portraits and self-portraits will be accepted. The original must be created using either traditional photographic emulsion or digital process in two-dimensional format. (National Portrait Gallery, Canberra)

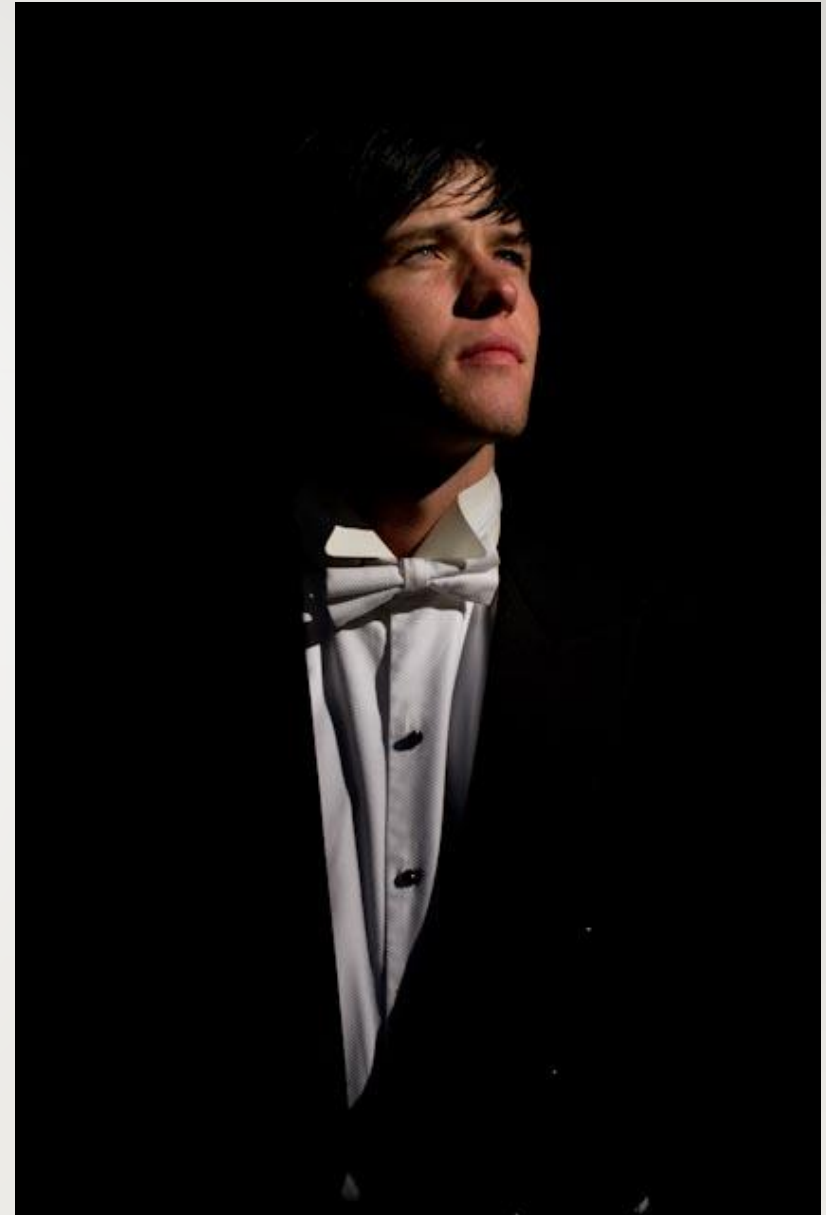
PORTRAIT: (1:4) CHARACTER STUDY: Where the character of the subject or the character being portrayed by the subject is made evident by suitable lighting, pose or expression. Costume, props or scenery are acceptable aids. (SAPF)

PORTRAIT: (1.5) CHILD STUDY: This may range from a formal head and shoulder shot to the whole child – either passive or engaged in some form of activity. (SAPF)

PORTRAIT: (1.6) SELF PORTRAIT: A portrait of the photographer in which he/her has arranged the lighting etc and posed himself/herself within the picture. The shutter release must be under his control i.e. remote, electric etc. (SAPF)

PORTRAIT: (1.7) A portrait is defined as a photograph of a human in which the face and its expression is predominate. The intent is to display the likeness, personality, and even the mood of the person. Portraits may be formal or candid, ranging from head and shoulders to full length. Animal portraits will not be considered. (Detroit International Salon - USA)

Natural Light Pentax K-7 (APSC) Pentax DA 50-15 F2.8
50mm F4 ISO 200 1/3200 sec



According to the APJA definitions, there are essentially five approaches to portraiture:

1. Constructionist (Maybe studio based where the photographer builds an idea or theme around the portrait to communicate about the person, for example, a musician in action)
2. Candid (These are observational images of the moment, rely on ambient light and the person is unaware the image is being made.)
3. Environmental (Shows the surrounding living conditions and reveals a lot about the person)
4. Inventive (Imaginative but true to reality where post-production manipulation is used)
5. Experimental, as distinct to inventive, where human features are not distinguishable such as a disguise, pretence, simulation or fabrication of a human face do not qualify as portraits.



So, is an image of a deceased person not a portrait?

What about an image of a dog, cat, horse?



Pentax K-5 Pentax APSC ISO100
Pentax SMC 50-135 F2.8 @ F2.8 50mm
1/100 sec. on camera flash



An image of deceased Joe Burn
after the siege of Glenrowan.

Why do we take Portraits?

- To record a moment in time. E.G, To record what a person looked like at that instant.
- For official documents. E.G, corporate headshots, passport, ID cards, etc
- Advertising of skills, E.G, dancers, acrobats, show dogs, etc.
- Art E.G, lighting, costumes, makeup, scenery, expressions.



Camera choice.

- Any camera can produce a Portrait, from high end Hasselblad and Phase One beasts, all the way down the expense and convenience scale to smartphones. The best camera is always the one you have with you.
- Of course, the quality of the resultant file and the ability for it to be manipulated also varies.
- There is a world of difference between the subtle detail of a file from a 150mpx camera with a \$10,000+ lens attached and a jpeg capture from a tiny sensor in an iPhone.
- Quality can be expensive, but for small reproduction sizes, these extremes are never going to make a big difference.



Lens Choice

- Short/medium telephoto lenses in the 50-200mm range (for FF camera's) are used for classical portraiture.
- Wider angle lenses can be useful for environmental portraits but will distort facial features if used at close range (this could be a deliberate artistic choice.)
- Zoom lenses are very good these days but are generally limited to an aperture of F2.8. Fixed focal length 'prime' lenses are commonly used to gain narrow depth of field through a more open aperture of 1.8 or even 1.2
- Specialty lenses with ultra shallow depth of field are used for subject isolation and 'bokeh' in the background

Nikon z mount 85mm F1.2
Sells for upwards of
\$3700.00!!



Tamron 70-200 F2.8
Sells for under \$1700



Pentax FA77 F1.8
Sells new for \$1150



Lighting options

Natural Light



Strobe/Flash/Studio



Continuous Light



Other Equipment

Light shapers

Umbrella's, soft boxes, reflectors, grids, gels

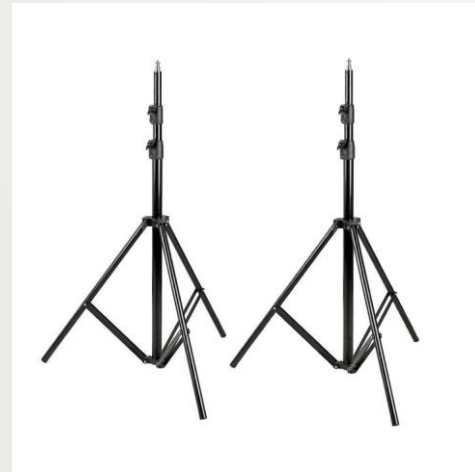


Light blockers

Snoots, barndoors, gobo's



Light stands, booms



Backdrops & greenscreens



However,... you can create great portraits without expensive camera equipment.

Cameras and lenses

- Full frame – approx. 35mm sensor
- APS (Advanced Photo System) 23mm sensor e.g. 28mm equiv to 35mm full frame (28 x 1.6)
- Micro 4/3rds - 17mm sensor e.g. Olympus OM-D, 14mm equiv. to 28mm FF.

Lighting - Don't have commercial lights for inside/studio work?

- Natural light from a window, doorway, etc
- On and off camera speedlights – esp with remote flash triggers
- LED – strip, bank.
- LED globe e.g. 13W (920 lumens), 18W (1330 lumens) Cool is best. Need a lamp base (screw in) and make your own snoot
- Inexpensive constant lighting kit
- Candles, fireplace, etc



Doorway Light
Pentax K-7 (APSC)
Pentax FA77 F1.9 @ F4.5
ISO 200 1/15 sec



Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 STM Lens
Sells new for \$189

It does not need to be expensive or complicated



45

2PCS 135W 5500K 220V E27 Photography Daylight Photo Video Studio Lamp Bulb

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2

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✓2x 25W LED Bulb✓2x 50x70cm Softbox✓2x 2M Stand✓AU Plug

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Lighting Styles



Split Lighting



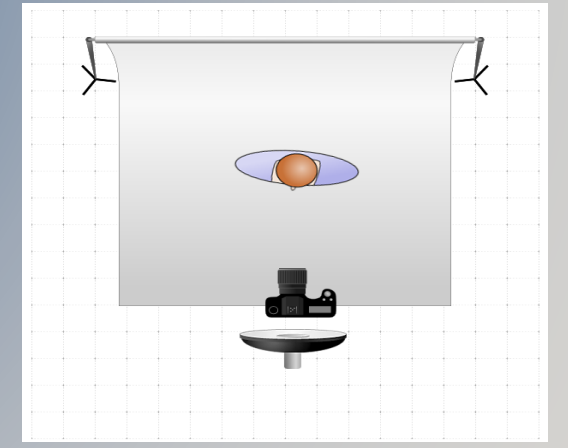
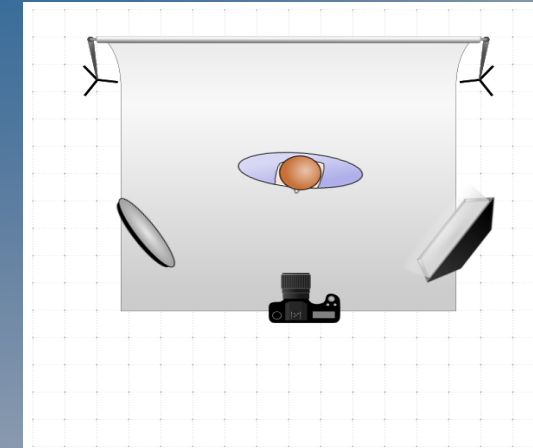
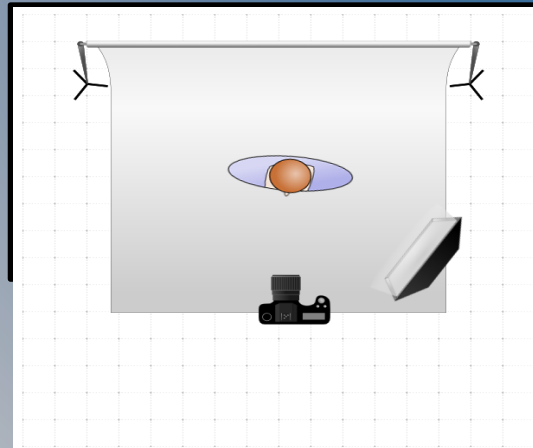
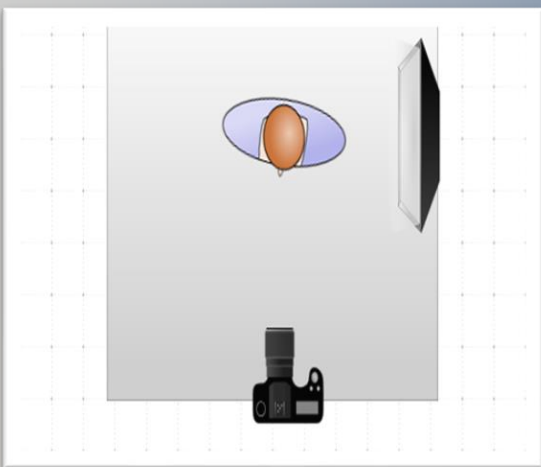
Loop Lighting



Rembrandt Lighting



Butterfly Lighting



Lighting Styles



Clamshell Lighting



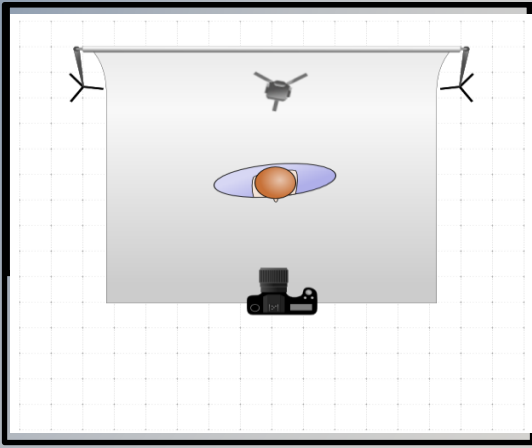
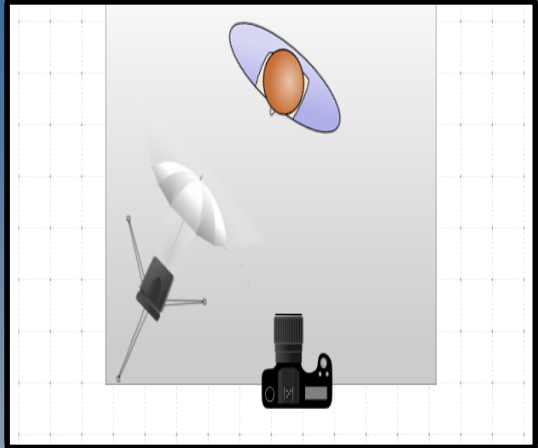
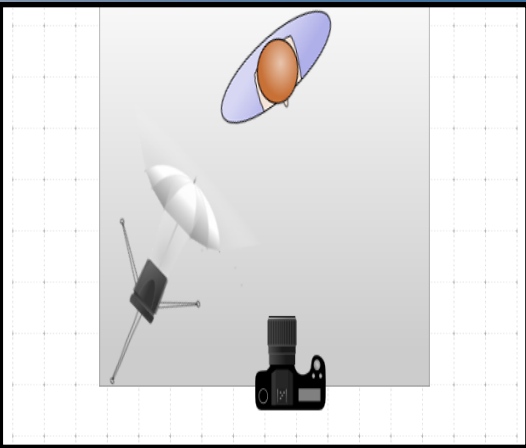
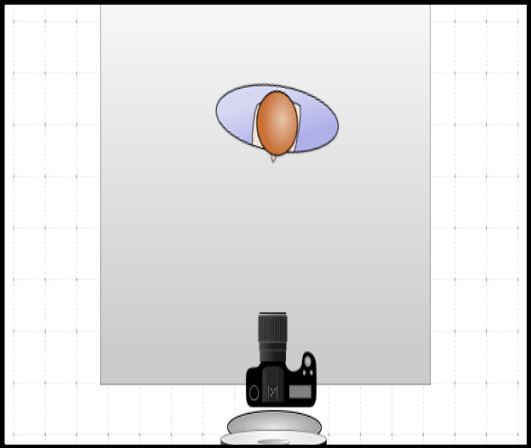
Broad Lighting



Short Lighting



Back Lighting



Examples



Window light

Canon 7D (APS) 24-105mm
Shot at 47mm (75mm FF)



Flat lighting

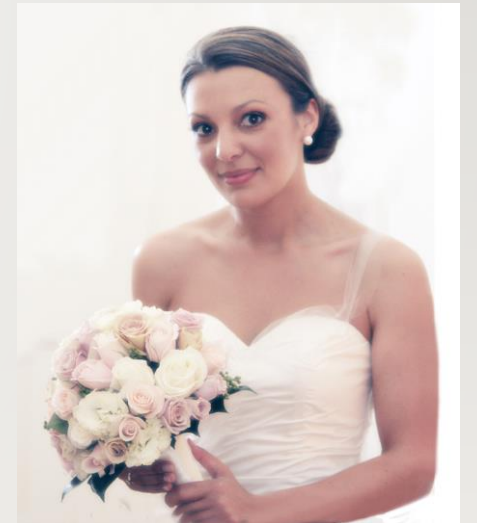
Canon 7D 24-105mm
Probably Canon 50D
One strobe behind and high



Flat Lighting

Canon 7D 24-105mm
1/60se, f7.1. 800 ISO
Shot at 58mm (92mm FF)
Single strobe behind/high

Canon 7D 24-105mm
Shot at 67mm (107mm FF)
One strobe behind and high
1/60th, f4, 800 ISO
Speedlight, diffused



Let's make
some
pictures!

