

Learning in the Digital Era (ADAA4000)
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Three Portrait Portfolio



Portrait of "Gift"

Locational Lighting

This photo was taken using natural light as well as continuous light from a soft box. With this photo I put the light on the left side of her in order to create a Rembrandt lighting effect on her. This photo came after an hour long conversation about her journey as an asylum seeker coming from Namibia to the United Kingdom. Her story was very powerful, therefore I felt the need to capture her resilience and power as a human. I displayed her resilient character by getting close to her to make her look larger than life. Moreover I wanted to show her powerful facial expression so I put the focal point on her left eye in an attempt to display all the suffering those eyes had seen. What also intrigues me about this photo is her positioning, she naturally sat arms crossed, head high and positioned herself in a very mighty stance. This stance speaks to her resilience as a human keeping her head high through all the turmoil of life.



Portrait of "Mohammed"

Natural Lighting

This photo was taken using fluorescent light from above as well as natural light coming from windows. Whilst taking this photo I looked for where I could place him to get even lighting on his face and find catch lights within his eyes. That location ended up being against a wall with lighting coming from above him. This is a technique I learned from listening to a Steve McCurry interview about how he shoots portrait photography with natural lighting and how to look for good lighting in bad situations. McCurry states "there is no bad lighting, just inappropriate lighting". So with that idea in mind I knew I could find good lighting. I just needed to find where the appropriate lighting was. Furthermore I wanted to get very close to Mohammed and shoot with a low aperture in the photo. I did this to focus on his distinct facial features and to show the power and intensity of him as a person and football player. Whilst watching him play you see the game is everything to him, so I was attempting to display that intensity through this photo.



Portrait of "Jay"

Studio Lighting

This photo was taken in the lighting studio using flash and a single soft-box light. In this photo I set out to create a fashion photography style photo within the lighting studio. At the time I took this photo I was looking at a lot of work by Mario Sorrenti. I had read an interview with Sorrenti where he states, "Most of the work is making the model feel comfortable". With that in mind I set out to see how fast I could get a candid portrait of someone in a similar style to Sorrenti. To do this I went and asked the first people I saw in the hallway to come have their portrait taken. Once they were in the studio I tried to distract them to make them forget about the fact I was taking their photo. I believe this idea worked in Jay's portrait. They are not fully focused on the camera and seem to be lost in a world of their own, to me this makes this photo feel candid and natural. The right side of their face is lit creating a dynamic feel within the photo as some of the subject is in the frame whilst the rest blends into the black background. This photo also intrigues me because of the contrast in colors, the black background allows Jay to stand out within the photo.