

Portrait and Candid Photography Photo Workshop

By Erin Manning

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The latest tips and tricks for capturing high-quality photos

Taking great "people pictures" isn't a matter of luck. The secret is in observing your subjects and connecting with them, and then using your camera to its best advantage. This new edition uses full-color photos to demonstrate how to work with lighting, location, angle, composition, physical characteristics, and environment in either portrait or candid situations. Professional photographer and veteran author Erin Manning offers invaluable advice for handling the unique challenges of photographing babies, large and small groups, and action.

Assignments at the end of each chapter encourage you to test your newfound skills, while visiting pwsbooks.com allows you to post your work and benefit from feedback and constructive criticism.

- Explains how to study your subjects in their natural habitat, while you observe how they react and interact
- Features invaluable advice from veteran author Erin Manning that shares simple techniques for improving photos of babies and children
- Zeroes in on how to best capture facial expressions
- Highlights ways to tell a story with a series of candid photos
- Helps you add interest to large-group shots

When you apply the techniques featured on the pages of *Portrait and Candid Photography Photo Workshop, 2nd Edition*, you'll watch your subjects come to life.

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Portrait and Candid Photography Photo Workshop By Erin Manning Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1039568 in Books
- Brand: Wiley Publishing
- Published on: 2011-12-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x .80" w x 7.40" l, 1.90 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

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From the Author: Top Five Portrait Tips

1. Observe and Connect with People

Take the time to notice someone's special qualities, observe how they react, and make an effort to authentically connect. People want to feel respected and appreciated. If you show an interest and help them feel more comfortable, they will respond to you and your camera.

2. Find the Light

One way to create flattering portraits is to shoot during the golden hours, generally the first hour and last hour of sun during the day. At these times, your subject can face the sun without squinting, because the light is diffuse and soft and it's easy to capture a sparkle in the eye.

Avoid harsh overhead light by placing your subject in the soft light of open shade. Open shade can be found beneath a tree, under the porch of a house, in a doorway, under an umbrella, or in the shade of a building.

3. Control the Light

Get rid of shadows and liven up the catch light in your subject's eyes by bouncing light back onto them with a reflector. Whether it's a professional reflector, white board, or tin foil on a cookie sheet, reflecting light gives you more control over the light in your photo.

Soften the harsh light of mid-day sun by placing sheer white fabric, translucent paper, or a professional diffuser between your subject and the harsh light source.

4. Compose the Shot

Use a framing element to give your image context, depth, and lead the viewer's eye towards your subject. A tree branch, doorways, archways, windows – any open shape that surrounds your subject in the foreground of your scene will work.

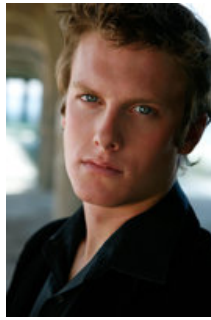
5. Provide Feedback

When you're having your picture taken, you can't see how you look, which makes some people very self-conscious. People need feedback from their photographer. Encouraging comments and direction really help your subjects loosen up in front of the lens.

From the Author: Sample Photos



Taken at ISO 200, f/4.0, 1/125 sec.
With a Canon EF 24-105mm f/4.0L IS lens.
(Click on photo to zoom)



Taken at ISO 200, f/6.3, 1/250 sec.
With a Canon EF 24-105mm
f/4.0L IS lens
(Click on photo to zoom)



Taken at ISO 400, f/2.0, 1/320 sec.
With a Canon EF 85mm f/1.8 lens.
(Click on photo to zoom)

From the Back Cover

CREATE AND CAPTURE MEANINGFUL MOMENTS

Every person has a story. Your photography can tell that story when you learn to connect with your subjects, observe them, use light and composition creatively, and take advantage of what your equipment offers. Erin Manning shows you how to blend photographic artistry and technology with your own artistic vision to capture the essence of each person you photograph. Group portraits, action shots, great images of babies and children — learn how to get them all.

- Make your subjects comfortable and learn how to capture kids being "real"
- Learn to study people and create a context for your photo
- Find and control light to achieve the mood you seek
- Choose backgrounds, clothing, props, and lighting for the perfect baby photo
- Master camera techniques for freezing action

About the Author

Erin Manning is a professional photographer, author, educator, and media personality. Television viewers know Erin best as the digital photography expert and host of DIY Network's Telly Award-winning TV series *The Whole Picture*. She enjoys helping people understand photography and technology with a clear, friendly teaching style. Erin is also author of *Make Money With Your Digital Photography*, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

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