Portraiture
Week 4

Portraiture

It’s all about the light!

Portraiture

Actually it’s all about the subject and your rapport

Quality of Light

Hard Light – clearly defined shadows

Soft Light – indistinct shadows

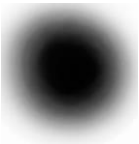
Light

Hard Light

Sharper-edged shadows

Soft Light

Softer-edged or undefined shadows



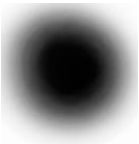
Light

Hard Light

Sharper-edged shadows

Smaller the light source e.g. the sun

Soft Light



Softer-edged or undefined shadows

Larger the light source e.g. overcast sky

Light

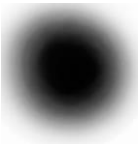
Hard Light

Sharper-edged shadows

Smaller the light source e.g. the sun

Further away from the subject

Soft Light



Softer-edged or undefined shadows

Larger the light source e.g. overcast sky

Closer to the subject

Light

Hard Light

Sharper-edged shadows

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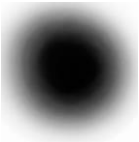
Further away from the subject

Soft Light



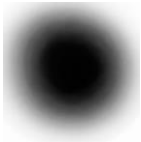
Softer-edged or undefined shadows

Larger the light source e.g. overcast sky

Closer to the subject

So its the relative size of the light compared with the subject

Light

Harder the Light Softer the Light 

Directly at model

Bounced off ceiling in front of camera

Bounced off wall/ceiling in back of camera

Light Drop Off

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- Stuart is standing next to a white brolly, just out of frame

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- Double the distance from light source – reduce light by 75%

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Inverse Square Law

Light Modifiers

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Beauty Dish

Silver Reflective Brolly

Plus Diffuser Layer

Shoot Through Brolly

Ring Softbox

Softbox

Reflector

Long Softbox

Light Modifiers

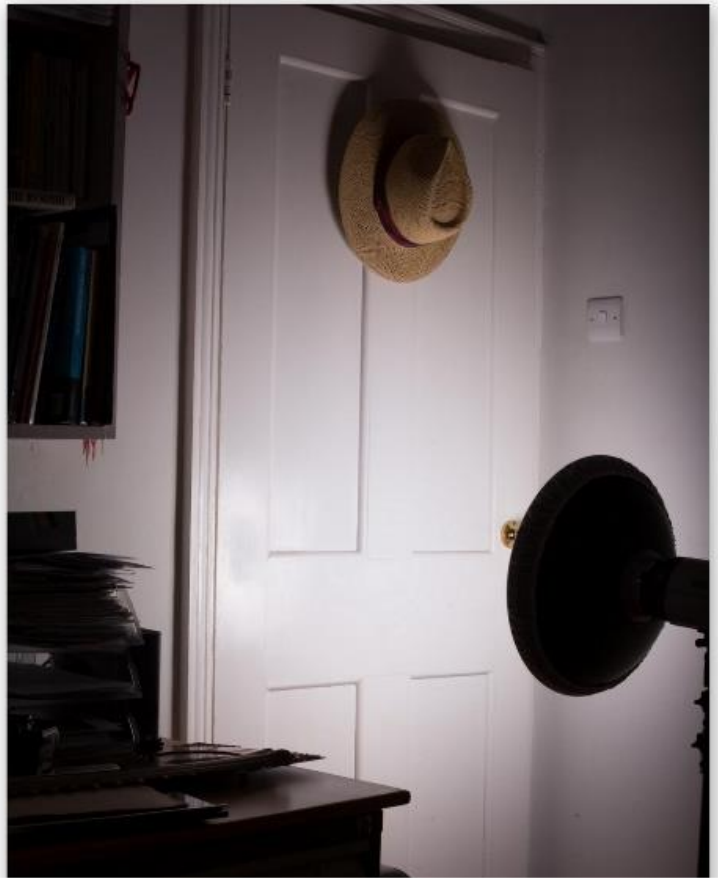
Softbox without cover

Softbox with one cover

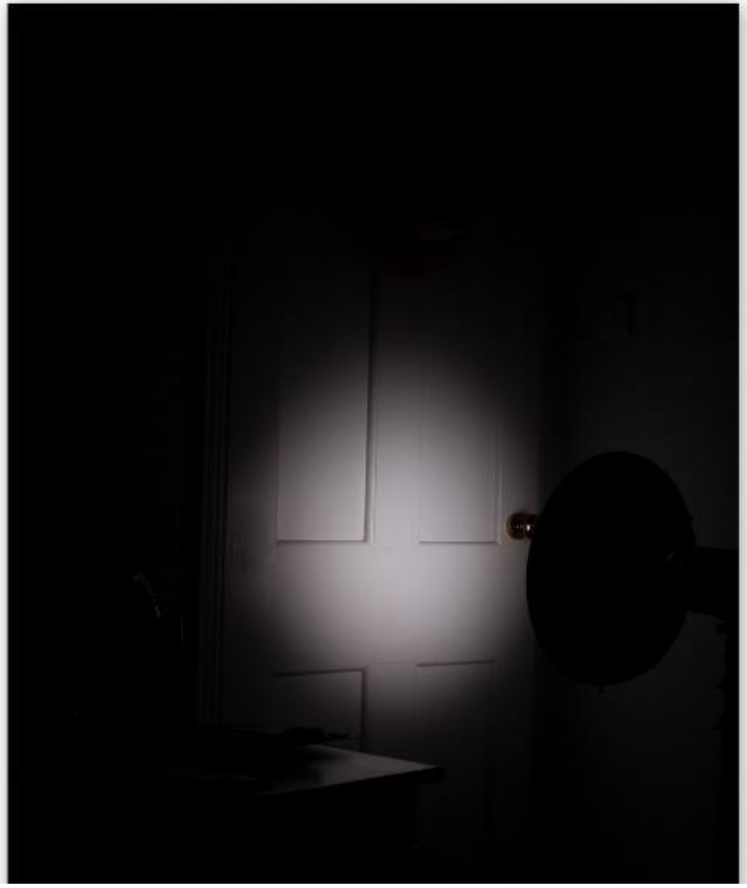
Softbox with two covers

Light Modifiers

Beauty Dish without cover

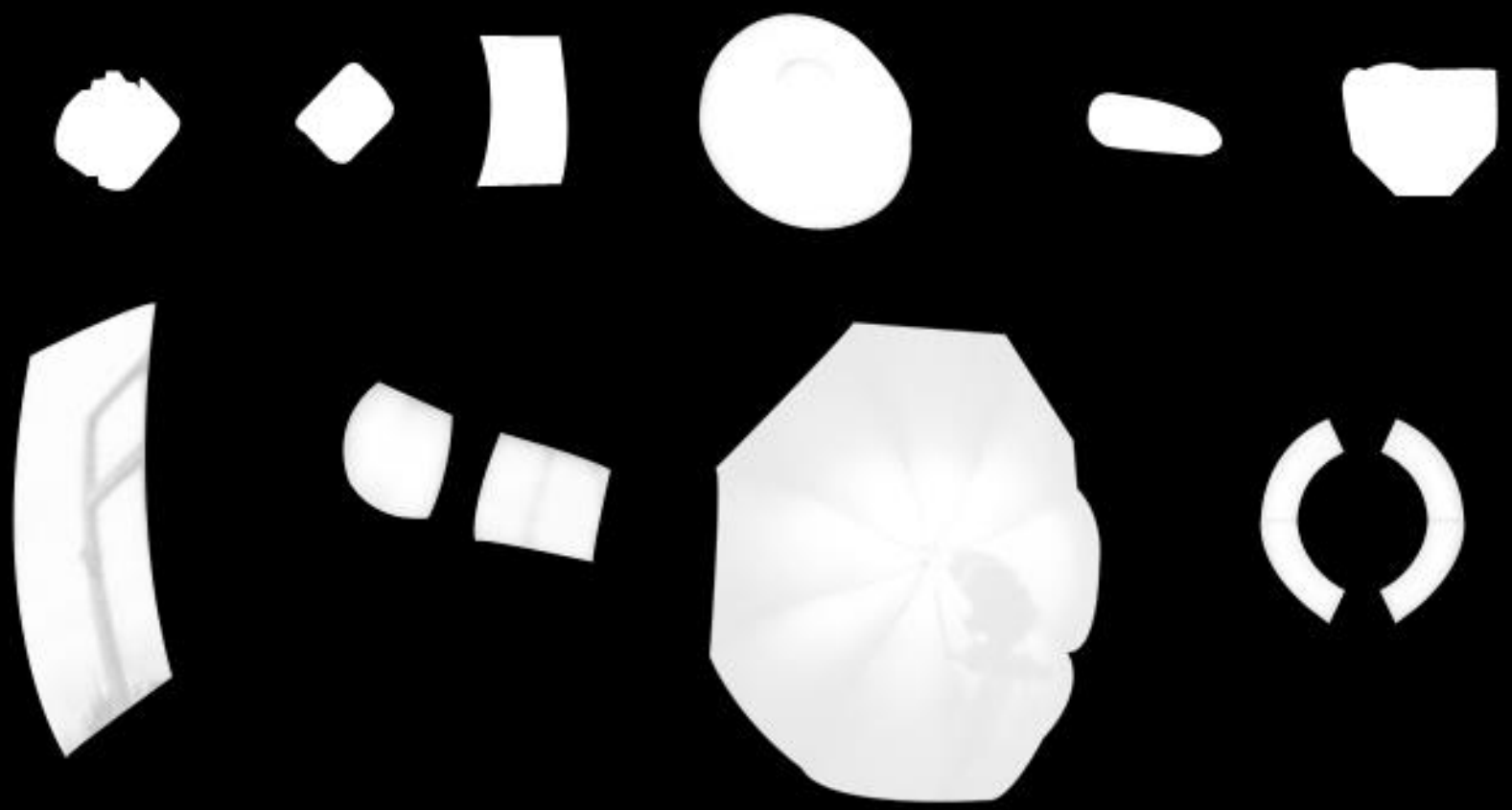


Beauty Dish with cover



Beauty Dish with cover and grid

Catchlights (in the eyes) – make portraits more alive even if the viewer can’t tell why!



Study people pictures from magazines and work out,

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- What style of lighting was used

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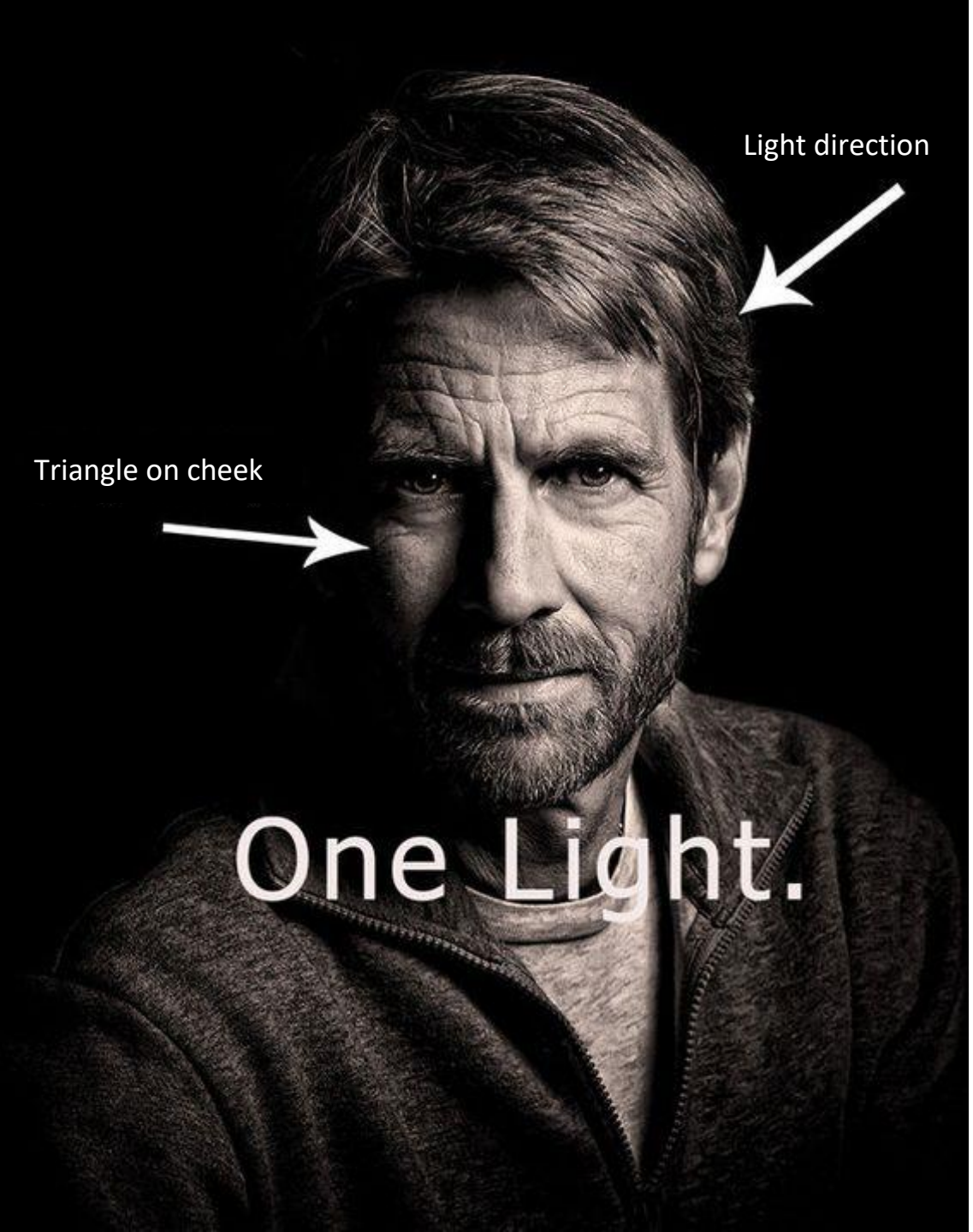
- What style of lighting was used
- What light modifiers (if any)

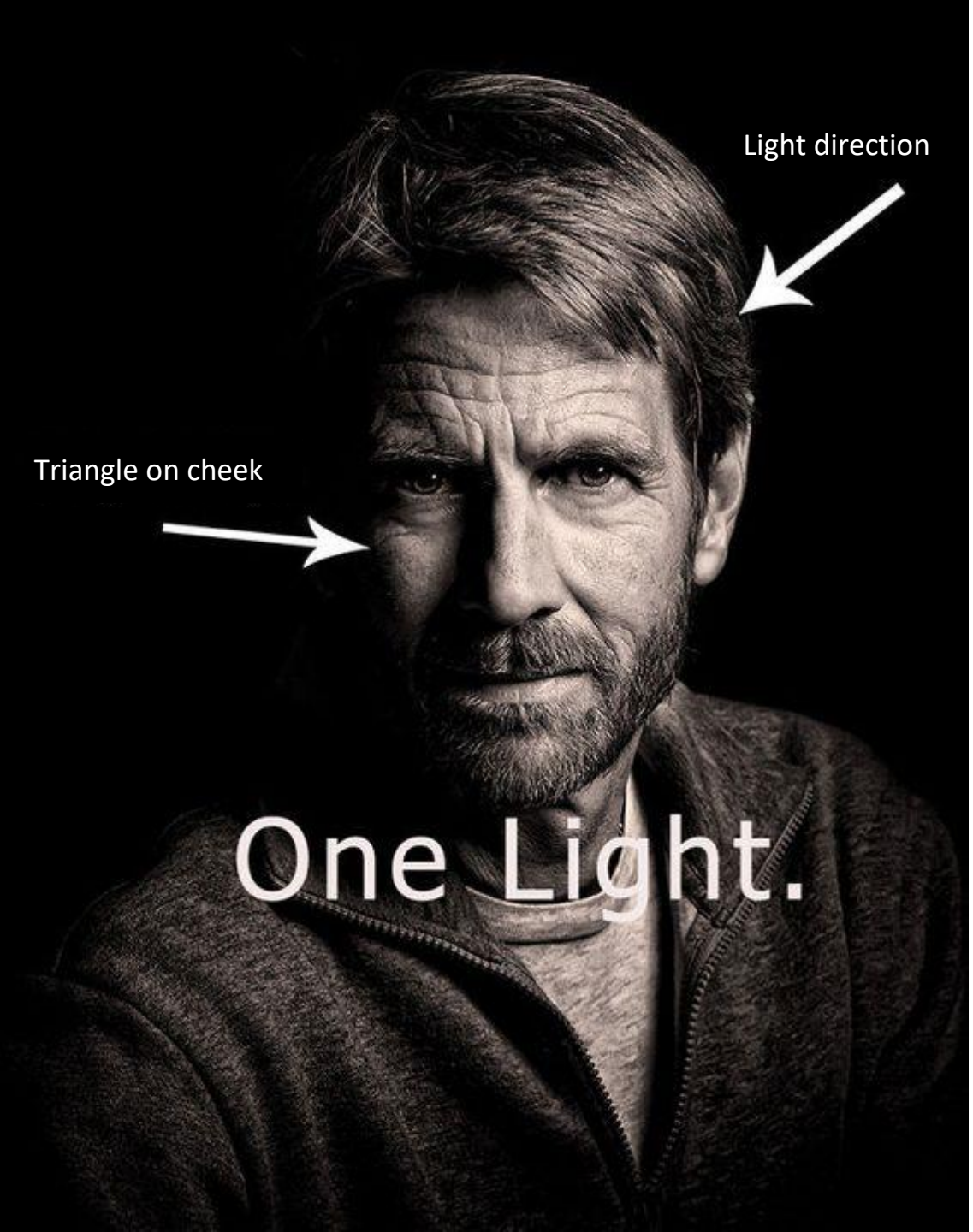
Basic Lighting Styles

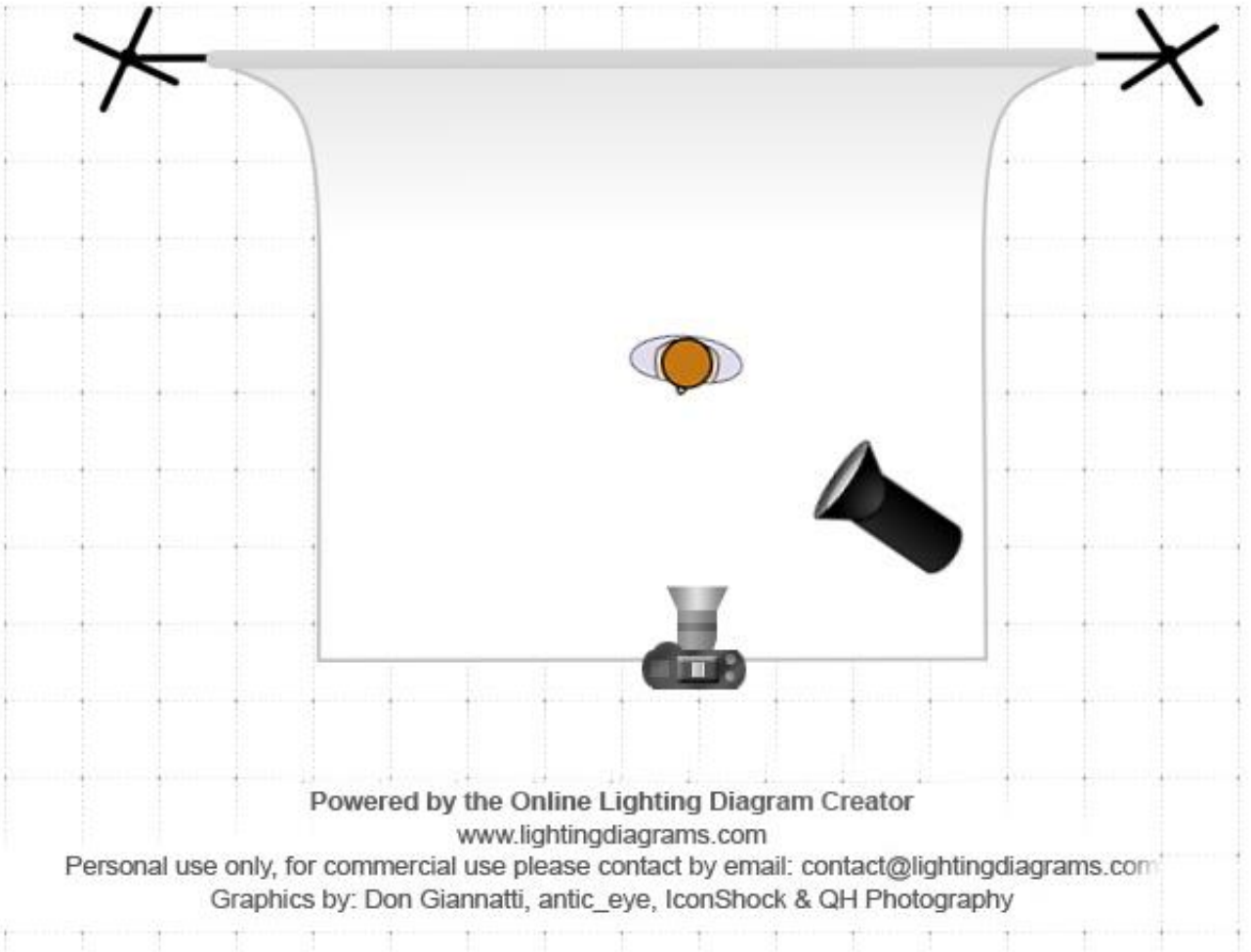
All of these can be with one light

Rembrandt Lighting



Rembrandt Lighting





Rembrandt Lighting

Split lighting:

half the face lit and half in shadow

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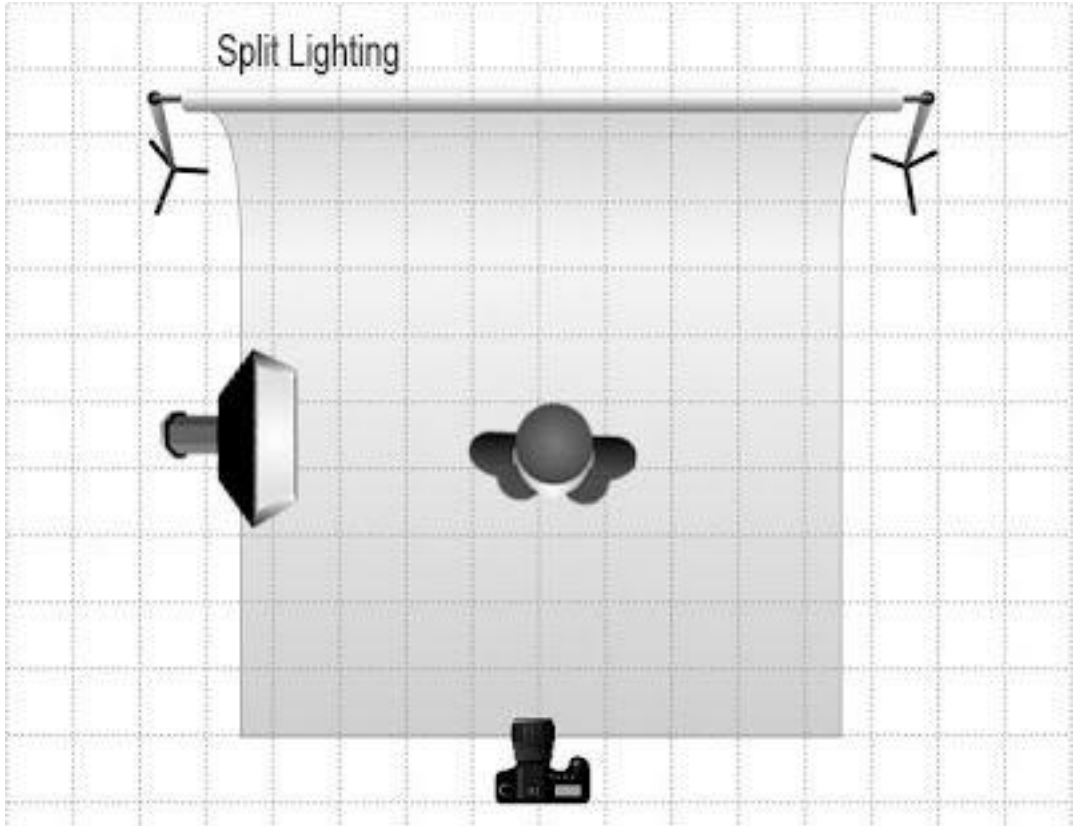
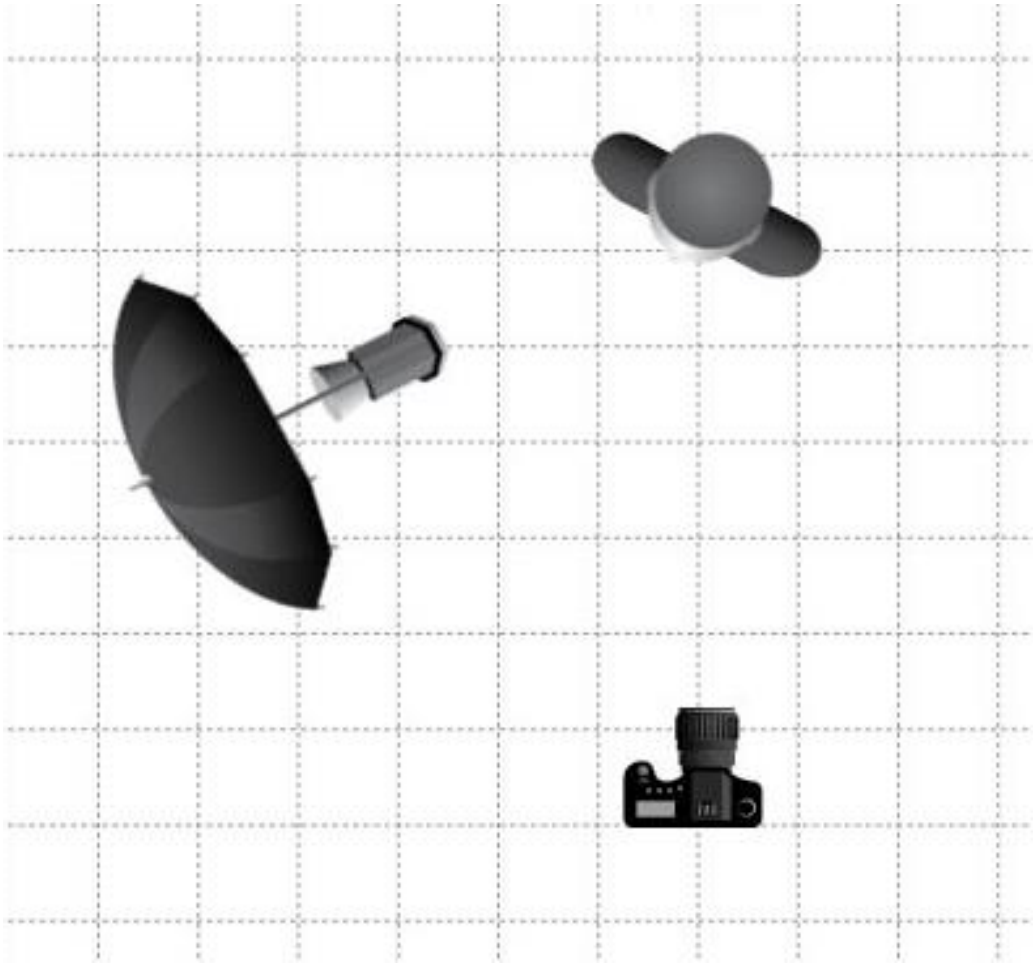


Short Lighting:
light on the opposite side of the face



Top view

Short Lighting:
light on the opposite side of the face

Broad Lighting: light on the near side of the face

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Daughter Rachael wanted a corporate style portrait

Butterfly, (Beauty), (Paramount), (Clamshell)

- Makes a small ‘butterfly’ shadow under the nose.
- The light is centrally above the forehead with a reflector below the chin
- There is also a hair light

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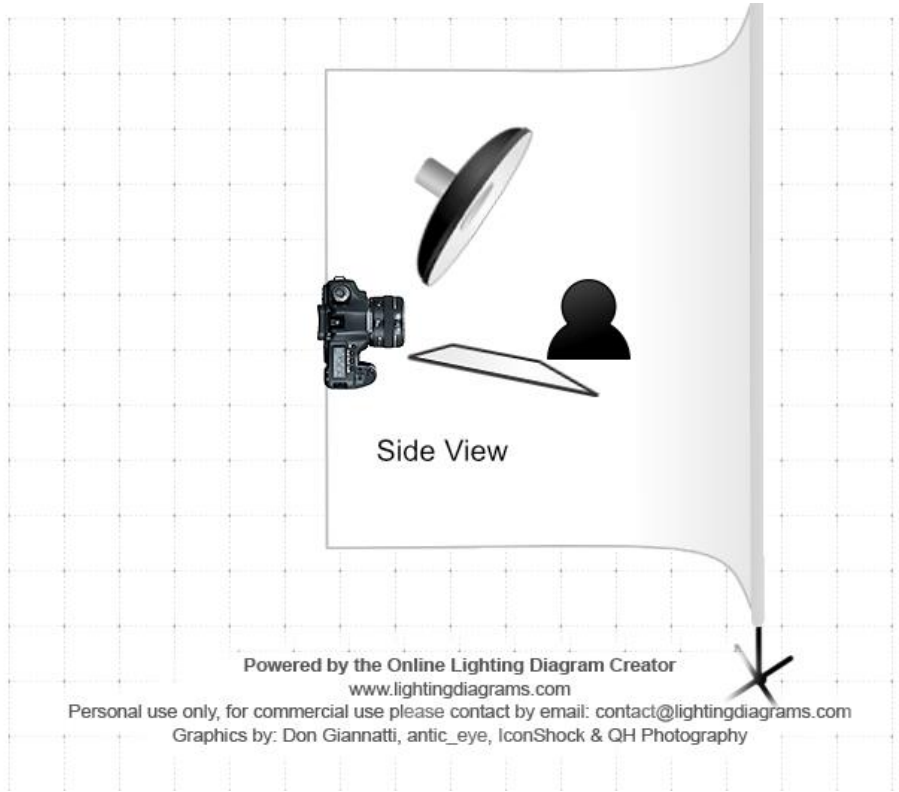

High Key /Low Key

High Key – Background brighter than subject

Low Key – Background darker than subject

Putting it all together

Single shoot-through white brolly. Amazing what you can do in a space the size of a pool table!

Set your light up first and get it all working before you photograph everyone at the party.

Hollywood Glamour Session at Titchfield Festival Theatre

Key Light (Beauty Dish), Hair Light (Speedlite with snoot - to the right), and third Speedlite behind the Chaise
Note the Moodboard. Actually, the Hair light is brighter than Key Light – Whoops!

A Moodboard is a good way of swapping ideas with your sitter and agreeing what to work on.

Three light set up

Key Light (Softbox to our left)

Fill Light giving the catchlights (white brolly to right of camera),

Hair Light /Kicker (Speedlite high to right behind Steward facing toward the camera)

Film Noir

Loves shadow, smoke, venetian blinds, and menace

Hollywood Glamour – lights hard and high up

Joseph Wright of Derby. 1768
Experiment on a bird in an air pump

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Chiaroscuro

Shallow Depth of Field

concentrates the viewer on the eyes

How to animate your sitter!

Winston Churchill by Yousuf Karsh, 1941

famously ripped the cigar from him and was rewarded with a real Churchill glower!

Establish a rapport

- Exude confidence!
- Pay your sitter a sincere compliment
- Say their name repeatedly
- Discover their passions
- Never use negative terms

‘Now pretend you like each other’

Notice how these professionals put their faces forward to the camera – all except Kristian so she looks double-chinned

Terminology

- Hard /Soft light
- Key light – main light
- Fill light – light designed to lighten shadows
- Hair Light – light especially for the hair
- Kicker, Edge or Rim Light – light behind subject facing camera, designed to give separation from the background
- Background light
- Grid / Honeycomb / Egg Box – makes the light directional

Peter Hurleyisms

- Sqwinching — Half way to squinting
- Baguetting — Way of reducing upper arm bulge
- Jaw line — Reducing double chin
- Sliding Down — Reducing height without leaning forward

Some Portrait Artists to check out

- Sue Bryce Female Portraiture
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWvQUhzdtFA
- Lindsay Adler People
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvIZJStfA2U
- Peter Hurley Headshots (He's a bit insufferable!!)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OOl7UzLba7E&list=TLPQMTQwMzIwMjDM0ZP8EdP5xQ&index=3
- Gavin Hoey Photographic projects (Local guy)
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9o1Pc6uDRU&t=454s
- Rory Lewis Celebrity Portraiture
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88azu-cdRQ0