

**SDCC PHOTO DEPARTMENT**

Portraiture: Photo 220  
N. David King, Instructor

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_**DUE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_**PORTRAIT PROJECT: "Talent Headshot"**

Modeling and acting talent use "headshots" to show prospective directors and casting people what they look like. Usually fairly straight images (except for character actors) these show the subject as they really are so the director can see what "look" they will be working with.

For modeling talent this 'headshot' is the first look at the talent. It is then accompanied by other pieces (composites, zed-cards, portfolios) that show what various "looks" the talent can adopt. The headshot usually shows the talent's primary "look."

This assignment is to produce two copies of that initial piece, the headshot -- one for a male and the other for a female.

**Subjects**

Headshots are just that: a HEAD (or face) shot. Rarely do they show more than a "medium" shot (i.e. head and shoulders) but they sometimes show down to waist level. The only times they show more is when the talent's physical build is important as the primary seller. For this assignment keep the shot to a head and shoulders view.

**Procedure**

You will take TWO headshots. One will be a male and the other a female. You (and they) can determine the 'look' you will portray. Talent often portrays a look that is not part of their natural persona (for example a "villain" character is very often a really nice person). But first and foremost it must show, in a positive way, what the person really looks like.

Generally the headshots are NOT dramatic or low key but are done with a variation of butterfly/paramount lighting called "Clamshell" lighting which we will demonstrate in the studio.

You can produce the final in either color or B&W although in the industry B&W is still a bit more common since it can be reproduced more inexpensively. Headshots are almost ALWAYS vertical (portrait) in orientation.

You can shoot in either film or digital. However the final submission will be in two forms: An electronic file to be submitted to Blackboard for grading purposes and a print for critique and class discussion purposes. Specs for each follow but this is important and part of the grade component:

**To Turn-in**

FILE FOR BLACKBOARD: The file to attach and submit to Blackboard needs to be as follows:

1. 100 ppi
2. 1,000 pixels tall
3. sRGB color space or can be in grayscale color space
4. 8-bits in bit-depth
5. All layers flattened
6. JPEG format
7. Rename the files as "yourname\_assignment.jpg"

Be sure to press the "Submit" or "Save" button after the files are attached.

PRINT FOR DISCUSSION/CRITIQUE. Make a minimum sized 8x10 print mounted on 11x14 board to bring to the critique. You do not have to create an over/window mat but you can if you wish. You can also make a larger (up to a max of 16x20) portfolio print in anticipation of the final class portfolio.

**Grading**

You will be graded based on the grade form.