Benjamin Cecchetto

Benjamin Cecchetto talk for people who can't take pictures good and wanna learn to do other stuff good too.
Overview

- **Equipment**
- **Take Pictures Good**
  - What Makes a “Good” Shot
    - Composition
    - Cropping
    - Viewpoint
    - Zoom
    - Aperture
    - Shutter Speed
    - Low Light Shots
    - Exposure
    - Selection
    - Flash
  - What Makes an “interesting” shot

- **Do Other Stuff Good Too**
  - Photo shoots
  - Experimenting
  - Doing interesting fun things
  - More...

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Position: 3DOF
Rotation: 3DOF
Zoom: 1DOF
Focus: 1DOF
Aperture: 1DOF
Shutter Speed: 1DOF
ISO: 1DOF

= 11 DOF (without flash/lighting/lenses/etc!)
The Camera

- Consists of..
  - Lens
  - Body
  - Film (of sorts)

- Should have
  - (ISO/Film speed) control
  - Full Manual Control
  - Aperture Priority
  - Shutter Speed Priority

Photos turn out better not on P/Auto mode.
The Tripod

- Rules of stability
  - Extend legs in folded position first
  - Extend thicker legs first
  - Raise/Lower center bar last

A Tripod is needed for long exposures...
Composition

- **Rule of Thirds**
  - Partition image into thirds
  - Draws eye from the center to the subject
Composition

- Diagonalization
Composition

- Generally
  - Fill the frame, get the most of the film!

Use those pixels!
Cropping

- Post-shot composition
  - Same rules apply!

Avoid cropping if you can to keep resolution!
Viewpoint

- Angle at which you take the shot matters greatly
- Intentional roll of the shot adds a silly dimension
**Zoom**

- **Fisheye (10-15mm)**
  - WILL distort image
- **Wide angle (15-24)**
  - May distort image
- **Standard zoom (24-70)**
- **Telephoto (70-400)**
- **Super-Telephoto (400+)**
Exposure

- Related to shutter speed/aperture combo
- Distribution of light

Proper exposure lets you play with it after.
Priority Settings

- **Aperture (A, Av)**
  - Adjusts shutter speed to correct exposure

- **Shutter Speed (S,Sv)**
  - Adjusts aperture to correct exposure

- **Exposure Bias**
  - Can adjust exposure to be darker/lighter in priority modes
Aperture – High Fstop

- Adds a lot of depth to the image
- Lets less light in
Aperture – Low Fstop

- Lets tons of light in
- Low depth of field
Shutter Speed - Slow

- Set a time of how long you want shutter open
- More noise
Shutter Speed - Fast

- Can get one tiny instant in time
- Need a lot of light for this to work (or high ISO)
Low Light Shots

- More ISO = More noise
- More ISO = More sensitivity to light
- More ISO = Can take photos in ridiculously low light situations (i.e. Pubs)
- For even more ridiculous low light shooting use *pub lens*
Selection

- Idea is to reduce boringness in your shots
  - If you have 20 of the same shot trying to get a certain emotion, no point showing all 20

- Principles
  - Less is more
  - Makes great shots stand out
  - Less to distribute (easier)
  - Imagine if movies didn’t cut stuff out...
Flash

- Never use on-camera flash if you can help it.
  - Bounce it or diffuse it, but never use it on its own.
- 1 Flash = 8 DOF
Summary of a “Good” Shot

- Properly exposed
  - Minimize over/underexposure

- Have a clear identifiable subject
  - Subject in focus
  - Subject composed properly in frame
  - Depth of field matches subject’s depth

- More of a science than an art...

- But wait, there’s more.
Interestingness

- An interesting photo is one you don’t usually see

Rules were made to be broken!
Doing other good stuff too

- Photo shoots
  - Get your subject comfortable
  - Offer booze
  - Play music (silent photo shoots are very awkward)
  - Do a dry run beforehand to not waste model’s time

A narcissist is a photographer’s best friend
Doing other good stuff too

- Experimenting
  - For months, take your camera EVERYWHERE and RTFM
  - Use it whenever you “see a shot”
Doing other good stuff too

- Doing interesting fun things
- Be creative
- Get Messy
- Make Mistakes
Doing other good stuff too

- Getting drunk!
- Questions/Koerners?