Why is Lighting Important?

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Director/Producer/DOP with over 30years experience

Lighting, as with nearly every other aspect of Film & TV, is an essential part of the filmmaking process. Light can sculpt and describe a scene or character, it can hide or reveal key areas of your frame, it can enhance suspense and evoke emotion. It is as critical in directing the audiences' attention or influencing their emotions as camera movement, acting, music and editing. Ignore it at your own loss.

It is both unfortunate and foolish that on an independent level, many seem to ignore lighting and instead favour which camera they are using or what lenses they're shooting on.

I urge anyone with this mind-set to stop for a minute and realise that even with a Panavision Panaflex your images are going to look boring and flat if you haven't lit the scene well. Yes, the camera might give you crystal clear images and the ever-popular shallow depth of field, but that is only half of the story.

Many only realise this after pouring their hard earned cash into the latest and greatest filming equipment, only to discover later down the line that that shiny new camera isn't going to make their films look any more cinematic. It's a shame and I'm here to say that anyone can create fantastic looking images if they put as much effort into their lights as they do their cameras.

You will be shown how to light technically, instinctually, and cinematically. You will learn how to light for both interior and exterior work and how the simplest lighting techniques can produce the most dramatic effects. Many of the skills learnt on this course can be applied to any camera or shooting format, meaning this course will be of benefit to you regardless of which camera/s you have access to

On this workshop course we will first learn how the classical painters of the renaissance period painted with light to create frames invoking great emotion.

Theory

Understanding the physics of light

Understanding the medium light passes through to form a frame

Understanding Film vs Video medium

Studying the output of lighting sources

The purpose of light.

Painting with light.

Practical

We will then move on to creating our own set for 1+1 interviews and 1+2 interviews. Learning how to give depth and sculpturing to our frame on location.

On the last day we will film a musical video clip using all the technic's we have learnt on the course.

- Produce story-altering lighting effects with minimal equipment
- Light for both of interior and exterior content
- Choose instruments that suit your budget and filming goals
- How to create mood and add shape/depth to your images
- How to control exposure with a variety of tools (light meter, waveform monitor, false colour)
- How to correct light balance (i.e. colour temperature, colour theory)
- How to apply the elements of 'three-point lighting' to a scene: key light, fill light, backlight, kickers and rims, eye-light
- How to properly shape the quality and direction of the light: soft/hard; high key/low key; upstage/downstage
- How the cinematographer works together with the lighting team
- How to safely rig lights with standard grip and electrical equipment
- The course will run through the basic aspects of film lighting, both theoretical and practical. The points made will be illustrated with examples from film, photography, and painting, with practical demonstrations and exercises.