

Photography 30 / Assignment 1

Editorial Photography – Thom Halls

Looking for the power in every expression:

Photojournalism in many ways is the quest to find that right moment when the subject is the most expressive, the most thoughtful and sometimes the most vulnerable. This takes timing, patience and a persevering attitude to make the image. Capturing that right expression, the right wrinkle in the brow or movement in the face is key to storytelling.

These expressions can be referred to as the ‘verbs’ of photography. They are the dynamics that drive the emotional message in a photograph. They can be demonstrative, such as in a sporting event where a physical moment is so important, or they can be more subtle like a quiet, distinguished facial expression in a portrait. Both serve the same purpose; they communicate what you, the photographer, want to say about the subject.

This project will provide you with an opportunity to use these verbs in creating an expressive message about a subject in two separate situations.

The Purpose:

The objective is to demonstrate how the photographer can alter a subject’s appearance significantly and make a personal statement about that subject using a variety of poses and expressions. Understanding the power of the camera has to influence the viewer, is only enhanced by the use of expression, timing and composition by the photographer. Refining these skills empowers photography to alter perspectives or opinions over a broad audience.

What you need to do: There are two parts to this assignment:

PART 1 - The first situation should be a head and shoulders picture of your subject engaged in a conversation with another person. The subject must be involved in some sort of problem or concerned situation with the other person. You may have to set this up to some degree, but the subject must be involved with the person he/she is conversing with and not with the camera. These must be candid photographs, not posed. The main purpose here is to capture the action as it happens **DON’T JUST GO TO THE STUDENT UNION AND SHOOT PEOPLE TALKING USING A 300MM LENS. No good!!!**

During the course of the problem solving or conversation, use your instincts to determine the proper pictures that will portray a variety of emotions. Shoot the entire roll on this one subject. Do not move around the subject but take all your shots from a well-positioned spot, where the lighting and composition are pleasing.

PART 2 - Using the same subject, shoot a full length picture where the subject’s full body language and posture communicates something about the subject. In this case, both the subject and the camera should move in position to explore various angles and lighting situations. Continue to use your timing and instincts to inform the viewer of something about the subject.

Crop the photograph so that the entire body is visible but the subject does not disappear into the background. Crop tightly on the subject and use no props.

When you are done: Hand into me:

In the manila envelope:

- Three 5x7 prints or files that demonstrate significant different moods of your subject for both part 1 and part 2. Digital files must be submitted on a flash drive.
- Include all negatives, contact sheets and outtakes for digital files.
- On a separate sheet of paper listing the prints/files to be graded explaining what emotions you think are displayed in this pictures. **Digital files must be in their own folder and must be JPEG format @ 200 DPI resolution and no larger than 7 inches wide. If submitted in any other way your assignment will not be accepted.**