

## Portraiture



Lighting and Personality

## Standard Pose & Lighting

- Turn head a little. Turn body a little more.
  - Option for woman: tilt top of head toward front shoulder.
  - Common option for man: tilt top of head toward rear shoulder.
- Main light- “Key light”- from front/side at 45 deg, slightly above.
  - Soft is good (close in + diffuser)
  - Key light controls the exposure

## Standard Pose & Lighting, continued

- Fill Light to fill in shadow side
  - Start about 90 degrees from Key light line
  - 1/3 as strong as main light. There should be a significant difference between the intensity of main and fill lights.

### Variation

- “Loop Lighting”

A small loop of shadow falls to one side of model's nose, and loops around to below the nose. (All this on the fill light side.)

Move the key light and watch the shadow. Keep it soft and close to the nose.



## Short Lighting

- Move the main light a little more over to the side of the model, about 70 degrees. Can be more.
- Turn face toward that light
- Main light is on the front of the face. Since the face is turned away, the front appears shorter.
- Fill light is a little nearer the camera than standard.
- Emphasizes facial contours, narrows a wide face

## Broad Lighting

- Turn face a little farther than standard pose.
- Main light is on the side of the head, not face.
- Face is in the fill light.
- Minimizes sharp facial details, minimizes wrinkles, widens a narrow face

## Butterfly Lighting

- Subject facing camera
- Main light above camera
- Fill light below and strong enough to cut out shadow beneath nose.  
Don't overdo the fill light.
- Minimizes wrinkles and eye shadows, enhances cheekbones

## Butterfly Lighting

- Variation: "Paramount Lighting"
  - Lights stay lined up in front of face, like butterfly, but...
  - Both face and lights are rotated to the side, perhaps 15 degrees.
  - Used by Paramount Pictures in 30s and 40s

## Rembrandt Lighting

- Rembrandt van Rijn had a skylight for painting
  - Single soft light from above, a little to the front and side
  - A pool of light on forehead, one side of face, and possibly shoulder
  - A triangle of light on the other cheek



# Chiaroscuro Lighting

- “Key arrow skew row”
  - Often single light source, often hard
  - Most often from side, but also other directions
  - Deep shadows
  - Drama
  - Film Noire favorite
  - Often black and white
  - Watch out for clipping

