Portrait Noir

Sandy Schill

Portrait Noir

In 1946 the cinematic phrase Film Noir was coined by critic Nino Frank. It describes moody, cynical Hollywood crime dramas featuring high contrast lighting, shadowed urban settings, criminals and femme fatales.

Portrait Noir captures that genre with cityscapes, rain slicked streets and smoky air. The models portray harden criminals, dirty detectives and alluring women. Lighting is harsh, shadowy and in black and white tones.

Inspiration

Light shining through window imitates street lighting. Model expresses concern

Photo credit: Gain Hoey for Adorama on Youtube

Attempt

One strobe camera left with 10% grid down low and aimed up at model

One speedlight camera right with grid aimed down to light up shoulder and back of hat to separate from background

ISO 100 f/8.0 1/160

Camera on tripod

Inspiration

Moody image that invokes feeling of desperation with hunched posture and head down

Photo credit: mennyfox55 on pinterest

Attempt

One strobe with a beauty dish and diffuser.

ISO 100 f/8.0 1/125

Camera on tripod

Smoke added in post processing

Inspiration

Subject appears to be trying to hid his face to create a mood of desperation or guilt

Photo credit not listed on pinterest

Attempt

- One strobe with beauty dish and diffuser

- ISO 100 f/8.0 1/125
- Camera on tripod

Inspiration

Harsh side lighting with deep shadows. Far side goes to complete black

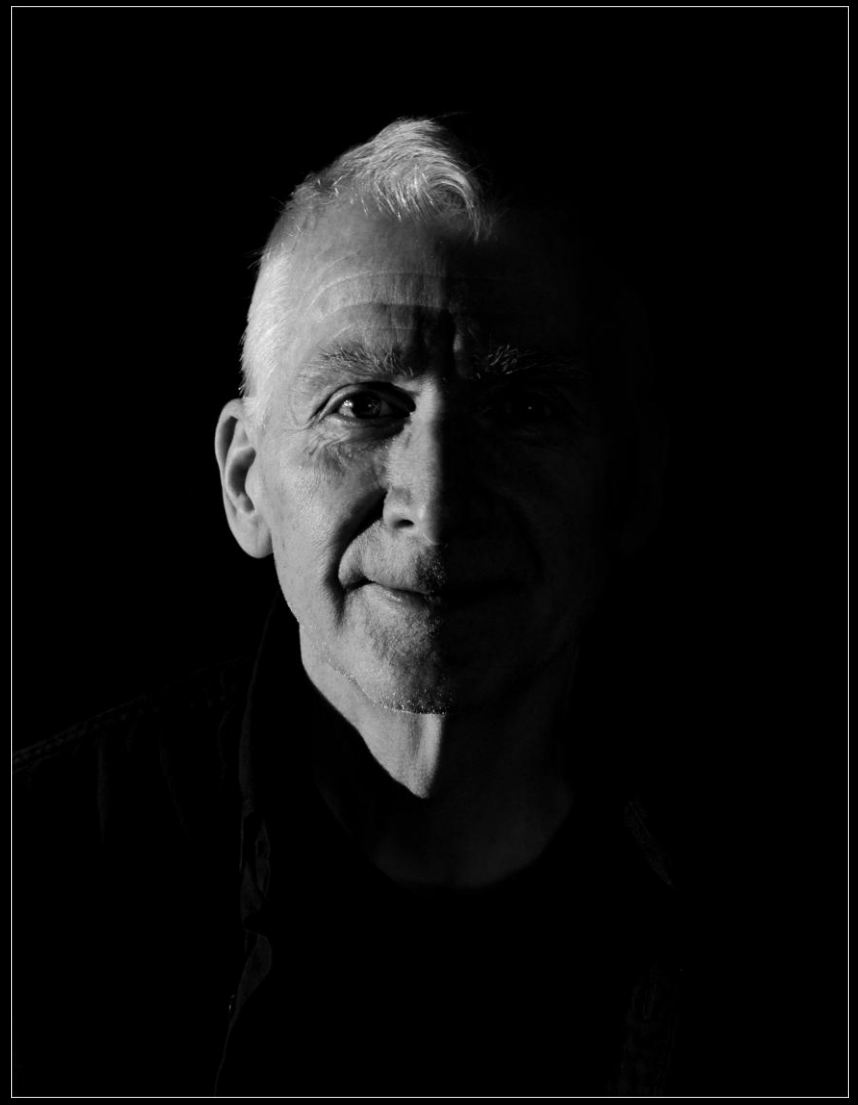
Photo credit: Emillano Zubieta Medina on pinterest

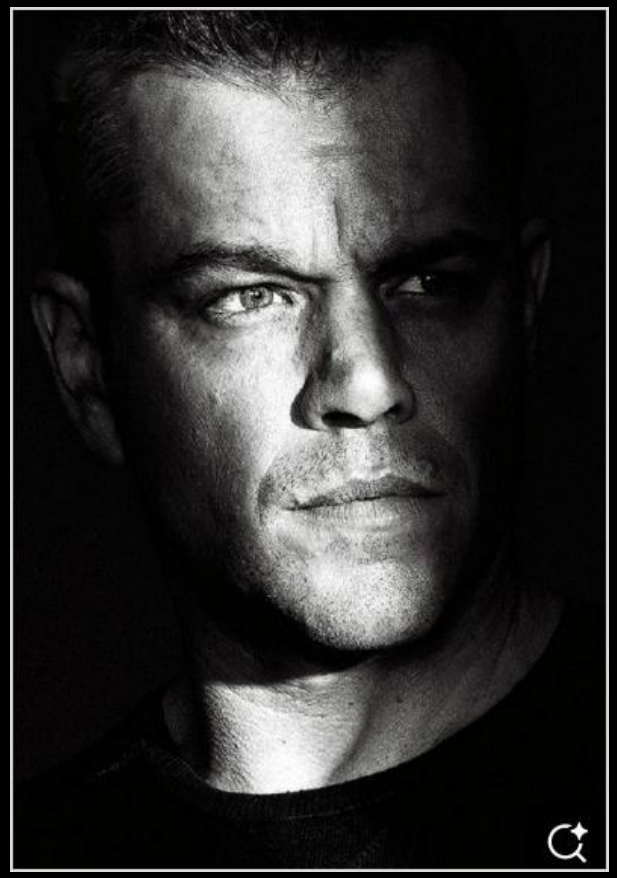
Attempt

Single lume cube to camera left

ISO 800 f/5.6 1/30

Spot metering

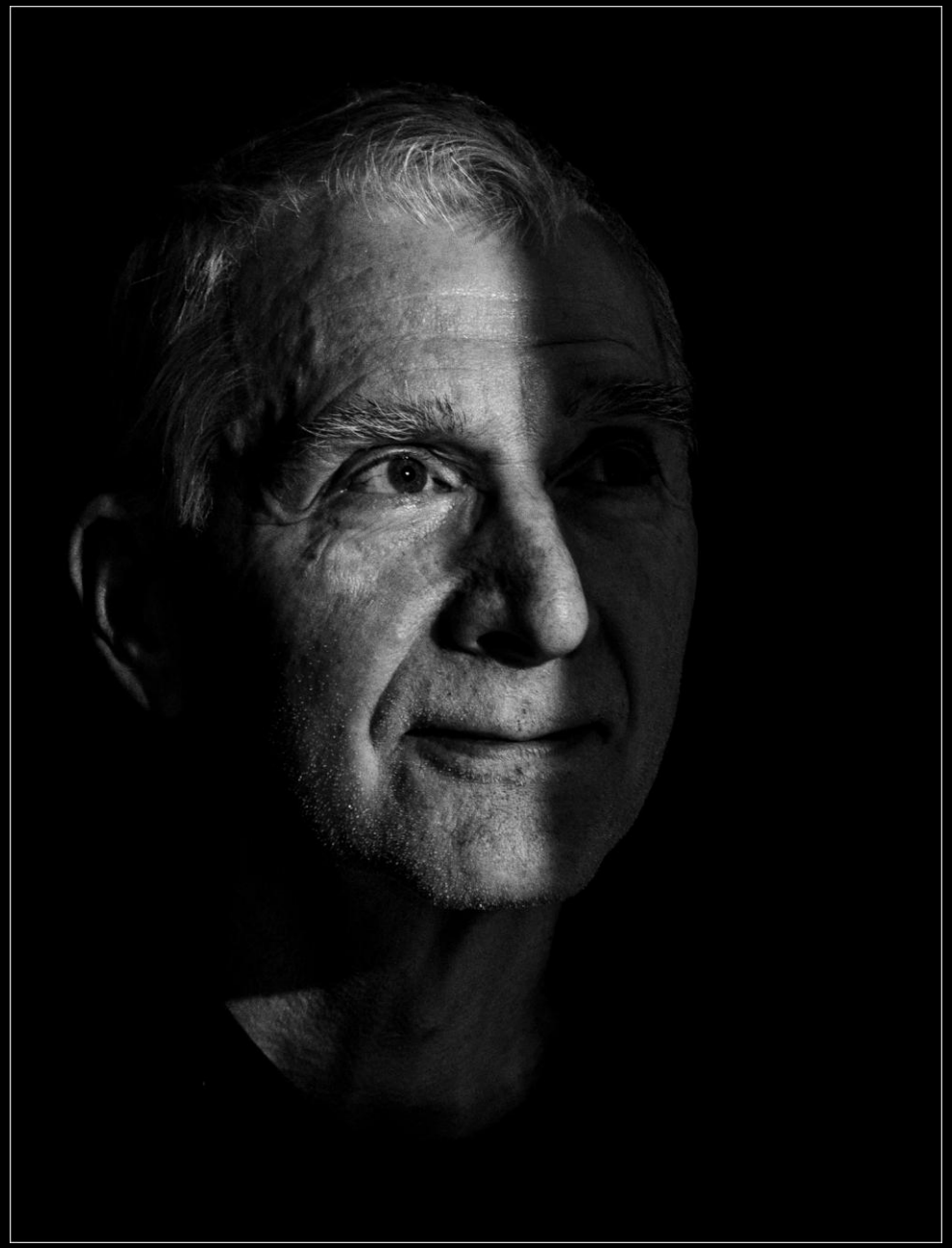




Inspiration

A sliver of light exposes a small area of the face to mimic model looking through a door.

Photo credit: Jasin Boland



Attempt

A single lume cube through two pieces of foam core camera right.

ISO 800 f/5.6 1/20

Spot metering