SHAW ACADEMY

Lesson 2 Course Notes

Diploma in Photography

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Common Camera Modes

Automatic Mode

In automatic mode the camera controls all aspects of the camera, shutters speed, apertures, iso etc. in order to achieve a good exposure.

Program Mode:

Similar to automatic mode, the camera controls most aspects of the camera, shutters speed, apertures, iso etc. in order to achieve a good exposure while allowing you to take control over some functions such as autofocus mode, drive modes, flash. The features that the camera allows you to adjust are camera dependent.

Pre-Set Modes – Pre-set modes are automatic modes designed for specific scenes and subjects.

Sports Mode – In this mode the camera gives you a combination of settings to capture moving subjects, while still maintaining a good exposure. In this mode the camera priorities fast shutter speeds to capture motion as static.

Landscape Mode - In this mode the camera gives you a combination of settings to capture scenes where everything is in focus from the foreground to the background, while maintaining a good exposure. The camera priorities small apertures to produce this effect.

Portrait Mode - In this mode the camera gives you a combination of settings to capture scenes where the main subject is in focus but the background is out of focus. The camera priorities large apertures to produce this effect.

Macro Mode - In the mode the camera allows you to get physically very close to the subject to fill the frame and emphasis its detail.

Semi-Automatic Modes -These modes all you to take control over some of the cameras main functions while the camera adjusts all other settings to maintain a good exposure.

Aperture Value (AV) Mode - In this mode the camera gives you control over the aperture settings which allows you to control the depth of field in your photograph. The camera controls all other function ensure that the exposure is the correct level of brightness.

Time Value (TV) or Shutter Priority Mode - In this mode the camera gives you control over the shutter speed settings which allows you to control the motion in your photograph. The camera controls all other function ensure the exposure is the correct level of brightness.

Manual Mode – Manual Mode gives you full control over all function of the camera, shutter speeds, apertures, iso settings, and everything else the camera has to offer.

Lenses

Normal Standard Lens – A normal or standard lens is a lens that matches the angle of view of human vision that is in focus (50 degree view). On a full frame DSLR a 50mm lens gives us this 50 degree view of the world. The lens that gives us this view varies slightly in mm depending on your sensor size.

Wide Angle Lens – A lens with field of view wider than the angle of focused human vision or standard lenses (50mm). Lenses with a focal length between 24mm and 50mm are considered Wide Angle.

Telephoto Lens – A lens with field of view narrower than the angle of focused human vision or standard lenses (50mm). Lenses with a focal length from 50mm up to 1000mm are considered telephoto.

Zoom Lens – A lens with a variable focal length. Zooms lenses can be wide, telephoto or cross both the wide and telephoto range. Example of a wide zoom lens 14mm- 24mm. Example of a telephoto zoom lens 100mm to 400mm. Example of a zoom lens that goes from wide to telephoto 24mm to 105mm.

Prime Lens – A lens with a fixed focal length. This is a lens that cannot zoom and only has one view. Examples of prime lenses, 17mm, 24mm, 100mm, 300mm

Super Wide Angle Lens – A lens with a focal length wider than 24mm. Examples of super wide lenses 10mm, 14mm, 16mm.

Fish Eye Lens – A lens with an angle of view of about 180 degrees. Recognisable for their extremely curved front glass. They give us an extremely wide view of the world. In order to achieve this wide view the images are very heavily distorted which is very prominent around the edges.

Macro Lens – A lens that allows you to get extremely close to subject while still maintaining its ability to focus on the subject. This allows us to capture incredible detail from our subjects.

Thank You

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