

What to bring to your studio portrait session

One thing I get asked quite a bit is “what do I bring for my studio session”?

Well, that is a very good question so let's address it here.

Part of my job as the photographer is to relieve as much stress as possible before the day of the session arrives, so that my client can fully enjoy their portraits with no worries! So, I will be including some tips and tricks to guide you while choosing outfits as well as tips for hair and makeup and more!

Because of how my process of creating portraits works, I can produce a number of different looks all from one studio session. I can have you standing on a skyscraper with the city in the background, to standing in front of a castle, to sitting in a library or even some more straight forward studio or location shots. While this may sound complicated it really isn't (for you anyway) and much of the pre-planning for your session will come from the initial consultation that we will have ahead of your studio time.

At our initial consultation we will have discussed your likes, dislikes, any particular scenes you would like to be in, a particular idea or concept that interests you or any other ideas that we may come up with together.

From this initial consultation we should have a pretty good idea of what we will want to accomplish while in the studio, which will give us a good idea of what you should bring.

As a general rule we recommend the following:

It's a good idea to bring at least three different outfits with you. These should be different styles and colors (although solids tend to work better than patterns) and should represent the look you want. Also, if you have a special skill or hobby that you want to have represented, make sure to bring anything that goes with that. We can also come up with some ideas in the studio that we didn't think of prior so don't be afraid to mix it up!

Women

- Dress or nice skirt outfit
- A couple of different blouse or shirt options
- Pants and skirt that can go with the above tops
- A couple of pairs of different shoes
- A pair of comfortable slip on shoes in case we do some walking on location
- Any accessories that go with your outfits or that you think might be interesting
 - Jewelry
 - Hats
 - Scarves
 - Gloves
 - Masks
 - Glasses
- Styling supplies
 - Hairbrush
 - Hair ties/accessories (clips, pins etc)
 - Makeup
 - Makeup removal wipes

Men

- Suit or suit separates if doing something more formal
- Jeans
- Solid pants such as dockers or slacks
- A few different shirts that match with the above pants
- A jacket or coat that you may like
- Shoes
- Accessories
 - Hats
 - Glasses
 - Jewelry
 - Vest
 - Ties
- Grooming supplies
 - Comb/brush
 - Hair accessories as needed

The point of your studio session is not only to take great pictures that will eventually turn into awesome portraits, but also to have fun while doing it! While this may seem like a lot of stuff to bring, you don't need to bring everything into the studio, but you can leave some in the car and bring it in if needed.

What we don't want to happen is for you to wish you had some accessory that would make a great image and you left it at home! So, while I don't want you to feel burdened with everything you need to bring, we want to make the most of your studio session.

I hope that helps, and as always it is best to reach out with any questions before your shoot so you are sure you have everything you need.

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