

Christina Fox 2010

GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR CAMERA

Christina Fox
www.urbanfox.tv
<http://urbanfoxtv.blogspot.com>
Follow me on Twitter @UrbanFoxTV

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www.urbanfox.tv/seminar

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Questions...

- How many of you shoot your own stuff or expect to in the future?
- How many work on your own?
- How many edit?
- How many want to buy some kit?

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GETTING THE BEST FROM YOUR CAMERA

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AUTO v MANUAL

Sometimes auto is OK

But,

Sometimes it isn't...

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FOCUS

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AUTO FOCUS

- Has got better over the years...
- We now have face detection on a prosumer camera
 - the Canon XF300 (XF305)
- Expect facial recognition too

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AUTO FOCUS

- I'm not a fan of auto focus...
- Prosumer cameras tend to focus in the middle
- Will 'hunt' if the subject moves
- No use with rule of thirds framing

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RULE OF THIRDS



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RULE OF THIRDS



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MANUAL FOCUS

- Only you know what is the most important thing in the shot
- Allows you to focus pull

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FOCUS

- Zoom in - focus - zoom out (to frame the shot)
- Check back focus first
- Use push auto
- Make use of the peaking function
- Expanded focus (especially on DSLR)

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PEAKING



PEAKING - OFF

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EXPANDED FOCUS



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WHITE BALANCE

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WHITE BALANCE

Is all about the camera making the video image the same colour as your eye sees the world.

But, why do we have to do anything at all?

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WHY WHITE BALANCE?



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AUTO WHITE BALANCE

- It is definitely getting better and better
- It is fine for GVs (general views)
- But, give the camera time to get it right (at least 20 sec)

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WHITE BALANCE



AUTO TAKES TIME

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MANUAL WHITE BALANCE

- Interviews
- Because it is about getting skin tone right.

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WHITE BALANCE



WHITE BALANCE
GETTING PEOPLE RIGHT

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If you are going to grade your story...

GRADERS (and colourists) HATE
AUTO WHITE BALANCE

And you want to be friends with your
grader...because

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A GRADER WILL...

- Sort out your exposure, lighting and colour problems
- Ease the transition from one format to another eg DigiBeta with HDV
- Will give your project a unique 'look'
- Help you talk to your viewer on a psychological level

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GRADING



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GRADING

To see how grading can make a difference - watch Philip Bloom's explanation on using Magic Bullet.

<http://www.vimeo.com/3964727>

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EXPOSURE

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THE TROUBLE WITH VIDEO



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THE TROUBLE WITH
AUTO EXPOSURE



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AUTO IRIS

- Iris hunting doesn't look great
- Auto iris only gets the brightest thing right

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FULLY MANUAL?

There is more to exposure than just iris...

AUTO SHUTTER AND GAIN

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EXPOSURE

- S Shutter
- I Iris
- N ND Filter
- G Gain

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ND FILTERS

- Sunglasses for the camera
- So use them:
 - When it is sunny
 - By the sea and sand
 - And especially when it has been snowing
- With a DSLR I recommend a fader ND

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IN OTHER WORDS

If you think you need sunglasses...

...the camera does too.

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IRIS

- Is the most important way to change exposure
- Because changing the iris does not reduce picture quality

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IRIS

- Is the most important way to change exposure
- Unless, of course you are shooting on a DSLR...
- You'll be using iris to get a shallow depth of field

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DEPTH OF FIELD

DOF is the distance between the nearest thing in focus and the furthest thing in focus.

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SHALLOW DOF




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DEEP FOCUS



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DEPTH OF FIELD



F8

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DEPTH OF FIELD



F2.4


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DEPTH OF FIELD



F2.4

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IRIS and ND

- If I work at F2.4 - my picture may be over exposed...
- So, add some ND to get the exposure right.
- With a DSLR the fader ND becomes the new iris.

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SHUTTER

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How many of you set the shutter manually - every time you shoot?

The shutter (left in automatic) can be bad news for the look and feel of your pictures.

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THE SHUTTER

SHUTTER - 50



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SHUTTER

- For 99% of your shoot - leave the shutter in manual
- Use slow shutter for fun effects.
- Only use a high speed shutter for fast moving objects you want to see clearly.

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WEIRD LOOK!



shutter speed - 50

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WEIRDER LOOK!



Sony Z1 - CCD

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GAIN or ISO

- Great - we can see in the dark!
- But, where did the quality go!
- Keep gain as low as possible - 0db.
- Keep ISO below 800
 - But, it depends on the camera

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VIDEO SETTINGS

- SHUTTER - 50 (60)
- IRIS - adjust as necessary
- ND FILTER
 - off - most of the time
 - on - when sunny & bright
- GAIN
 - 0dB

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DSLR SETTINGS

- SHUTTER - 50 (60)
 - (multiples of your frame rate)
- IRIS
 - Set for the DOF you want to achieve
- ND FILTER
 - Fader ND becomes your iris
- ISO
 - Keep as low as possible

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CORRECT EXPOSURE

- Does it look right?
 - You have to rely on the LCD screen
 - Or take a monitor with you

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CORRECT EXPOSURE

- Ask the camera
- It gets the brightest thing right

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CORRECT EXPOSURE




- How many of you use Zebra stripes?
- 70% ?
 - Is for white Caucasian faces only


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CORRECT EXPOSURE


- Zebra stripes
- 70% ?
– Are for white Caucasian faces only
- 100%?


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CORRECT EXPOSURE


- Zebra stripes
- 70% ?
– Are for white Caucasian faces only
- 100%?
– Are for blown out bright areas


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CORRECT EXPOSURE

- Zebra stripes
- Try 90%



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