



PAWEL LIPSKI

5 STEPS  
TO  
**STUNNING  
PORTRAITS**

SUMMARY



5 STEPS  
TO  
**STUNNING PORTRAITS**

**1**

**LIGHT**



*Colours  
Shadows*

**2**

**COMPOSITION**



*Focus  
Impact  
Balance*

**3**

**EXPRESSION**



*Soul*

**4**

**OBSERVATION**



*Great Subject*

**5**

**PATIENCE**



*Best Moment*



**Reflected**



**Front-Side  
Side**

**Clean Background**

**Rule of Thirds**

**Twisted**

**Fill Frame**

**Different Angles**

**Face / Hands / Body**

**Eye Contact**

**Candid Portraits**

**Peak of Action**



1

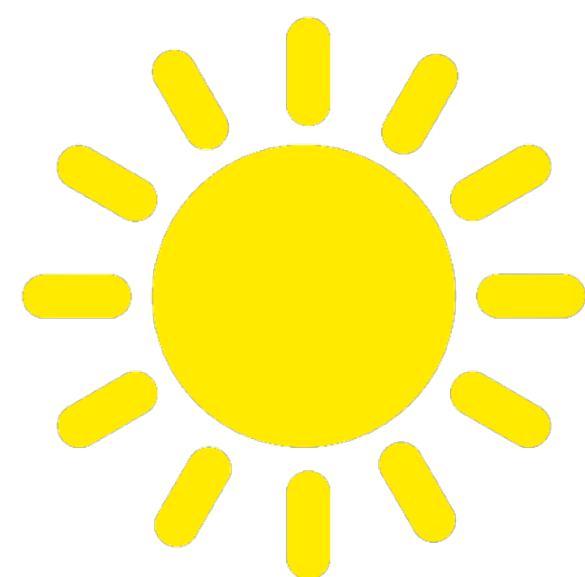
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# LIGHT

*Colours  
Shadows  
Contrast*







## Reflected

Top Shade  
Window  
Door  
Pillar  
Tunnel  
Shadow



## Front-Side

Everyone

## Side

Men, Old People



## Reflected

Top Shade  
Window  
Door  
Pillar  
Tunnel





Technique 1

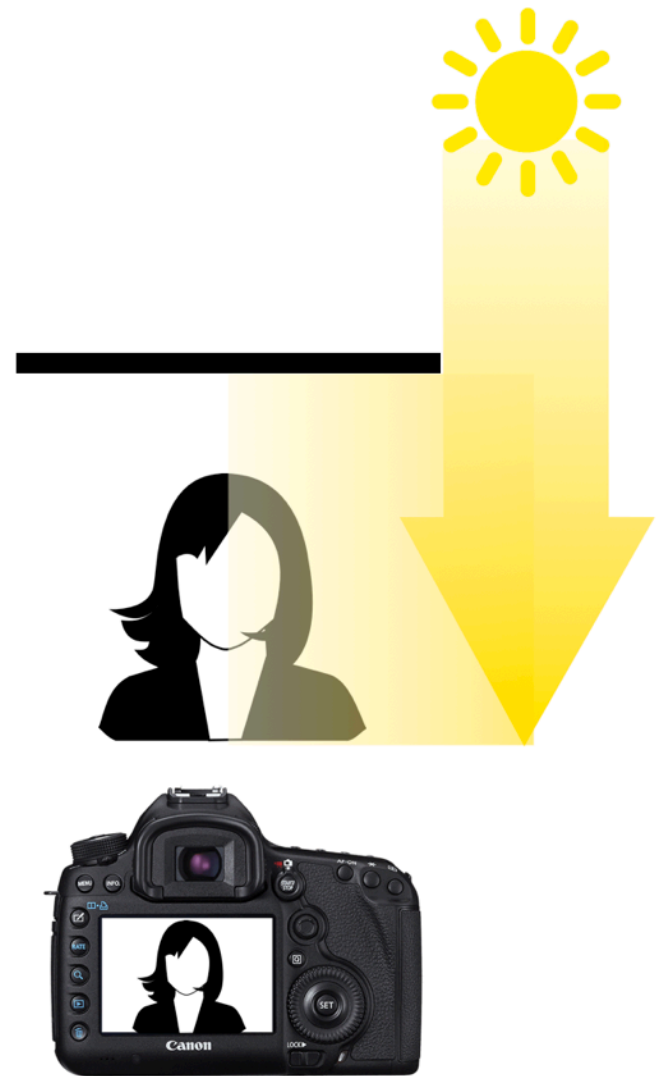
# Reflected Light



# Reflected Light



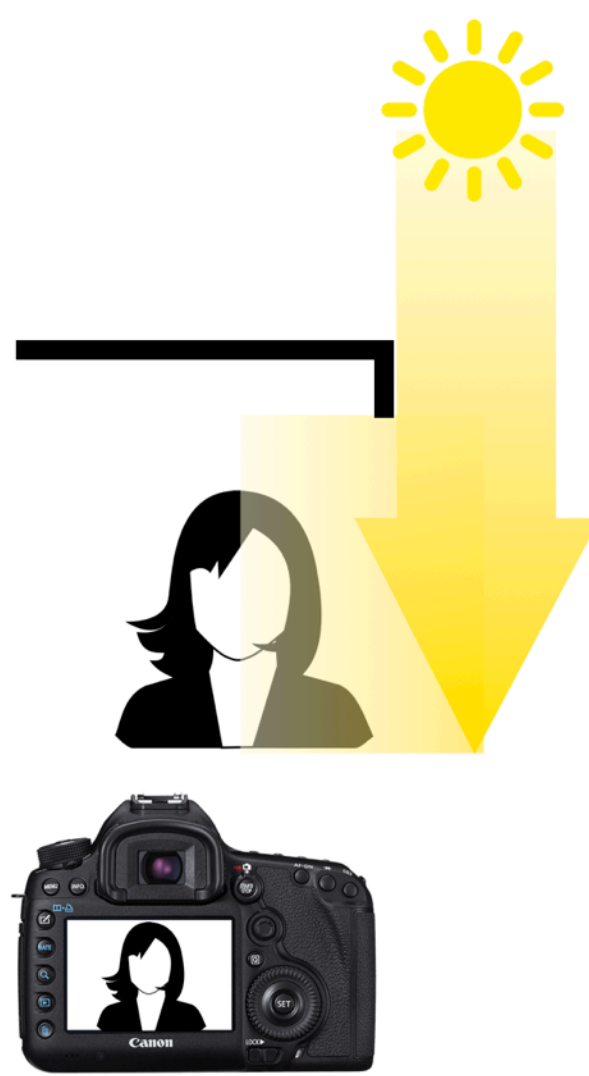
**Top Shade**



**Window**



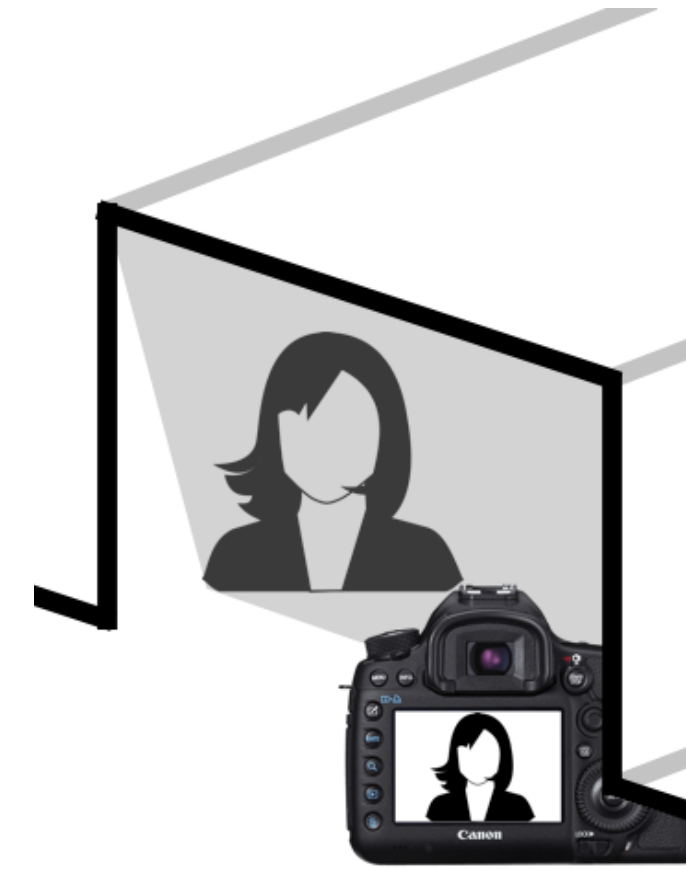
**Door**



**Pillar**



**Tunnel**



**Shadow**





Reflected light

Top Shade







**Reflected light**

Window



**Reflected light**

Door





**Reflected light**

**Pillar**





**Reflected light**

Tunnel



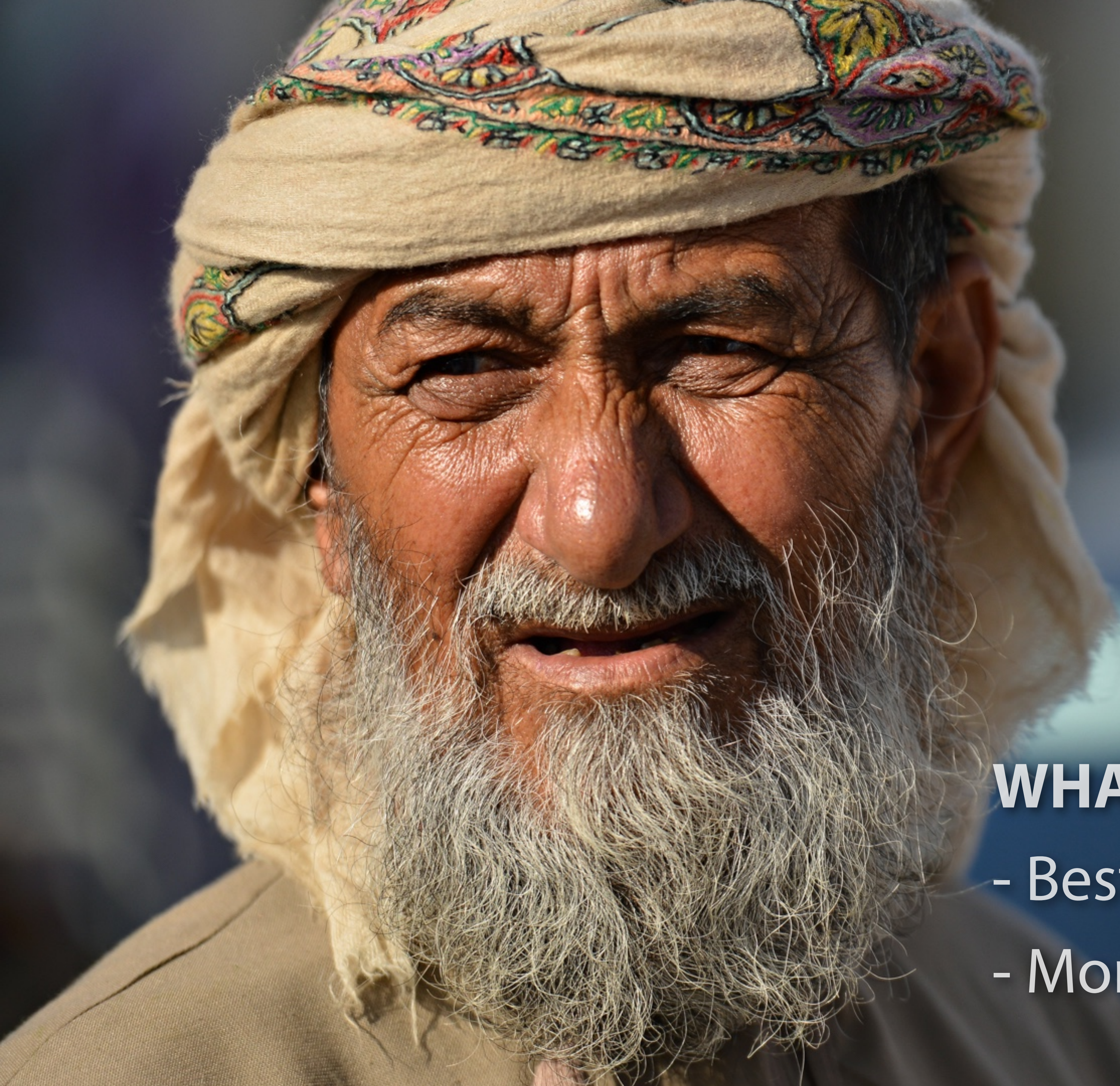




Reflected light

Shadow





Technique 2

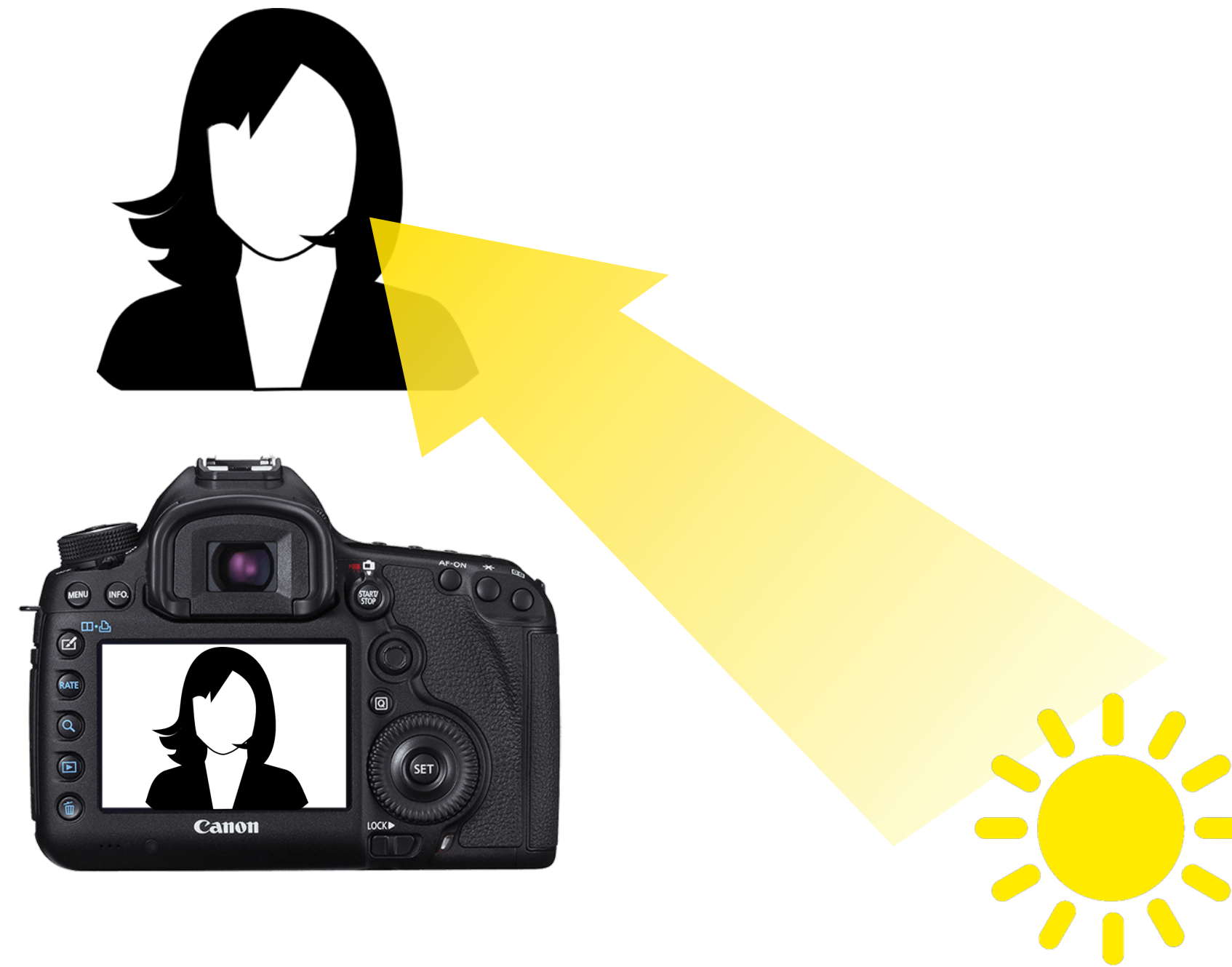
# Front-Side Light

## WHAT IT DOES

- Best balance of light & shadow
- More 3D look



# Front-Side light





# Technique 3

## Side Light

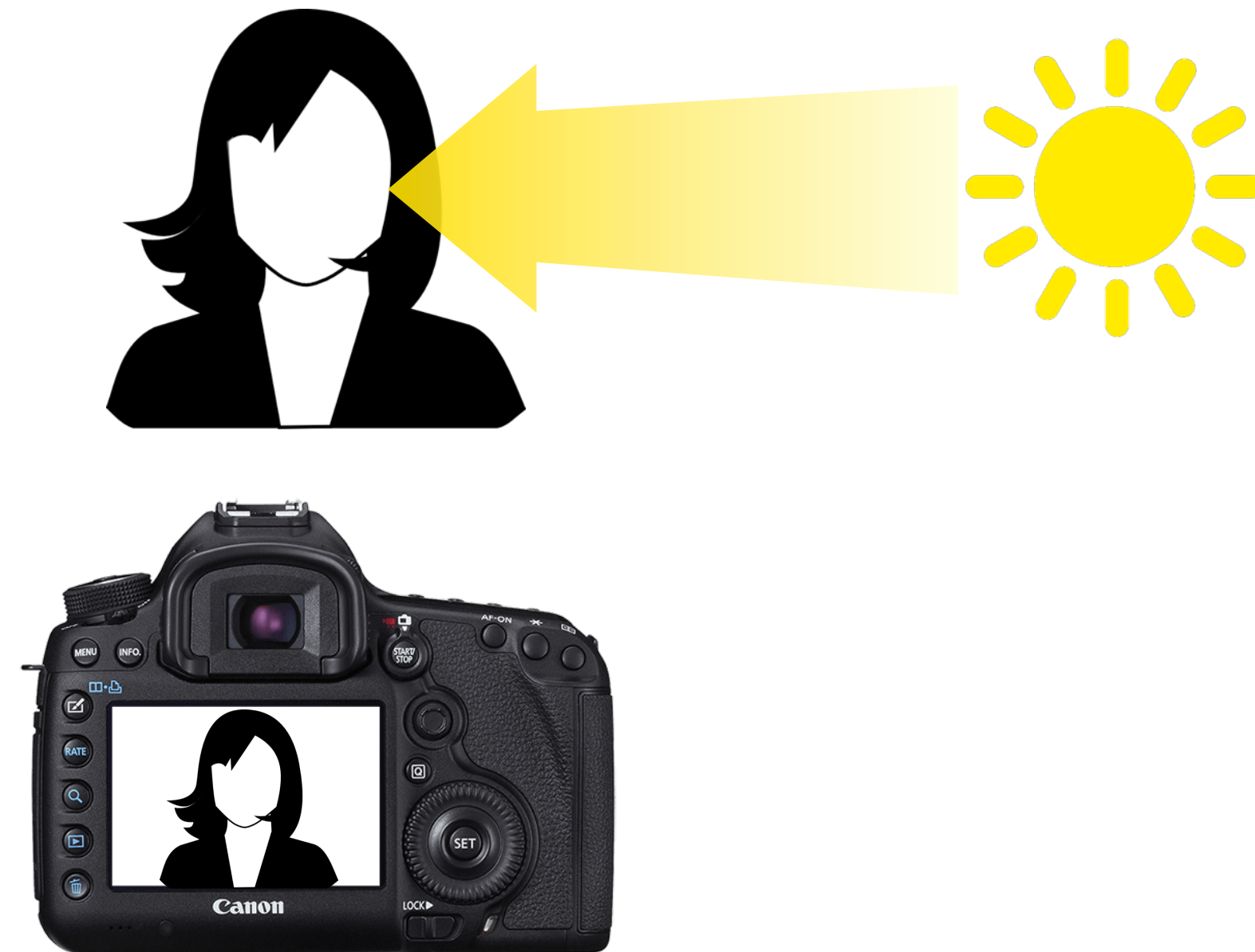
### WHAT IT DOES

- More dramatic
- Wrinkles





# Side light





2

# COMPOSITION

*Focus*  
*Impact*  
*Balance*







Technique 4

# Clean Background



# Cluttered Background





# Clean Background



1. Find **uncluttered** background

2. **Blur it** with large aperture

3. |  $\xleftarrow{\text{More}}$    $\xrightarrow{\text{Less}}$  

4. Use **telephoto** lens



Technique 5

# Rule of Thirds







Technique 6

**Twisted**



# WHAT IT DOES



**More Relaxed**  
(lean back)



**More Imposing**  
(lean forward)



**More Dynamic**  
(diagonal lines)



# 4 Ways To Twist Your Camera

Approx. 20-30 degrees





Technique 7

# Fill the Frame





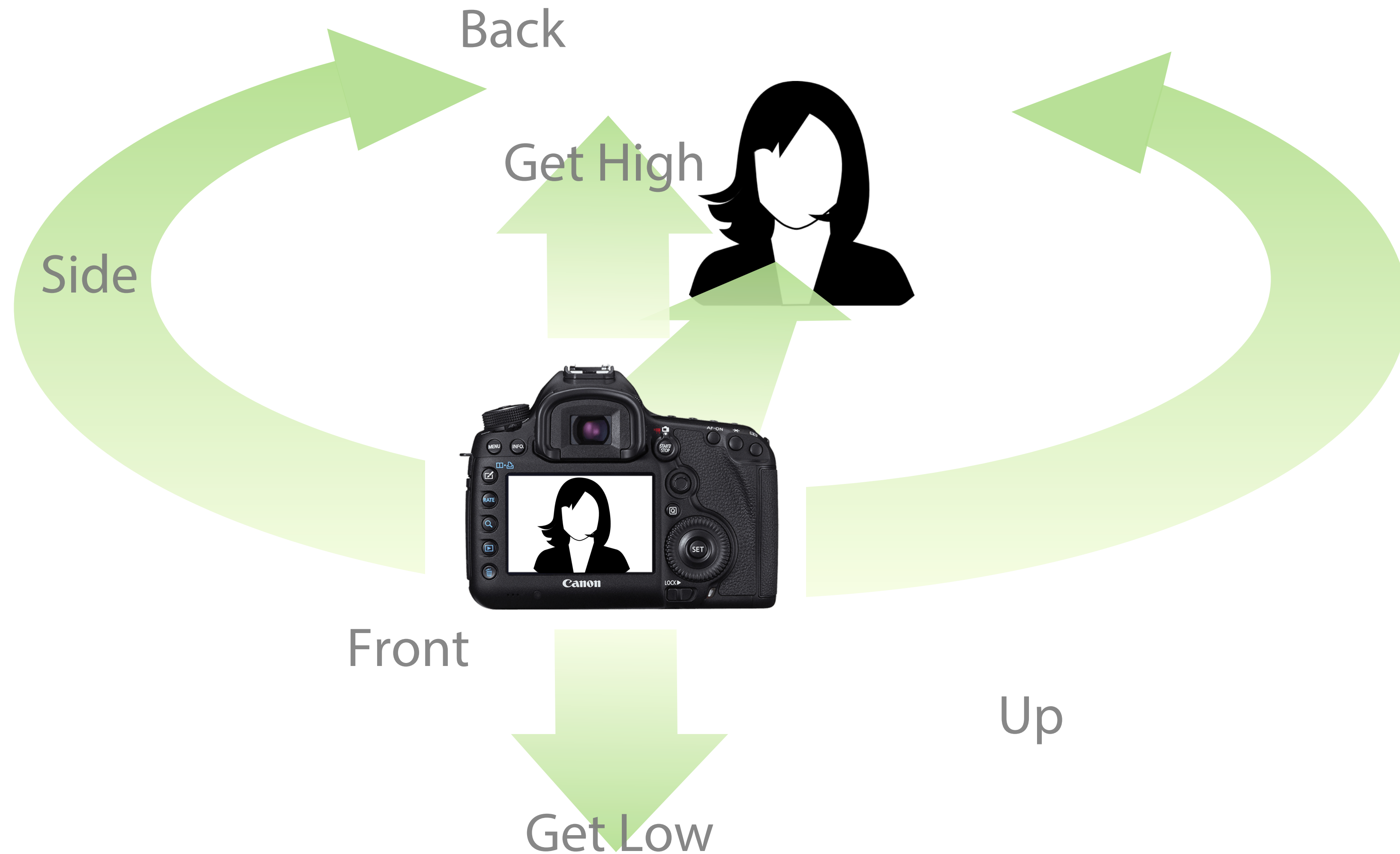
Technique 8

# Different Angles





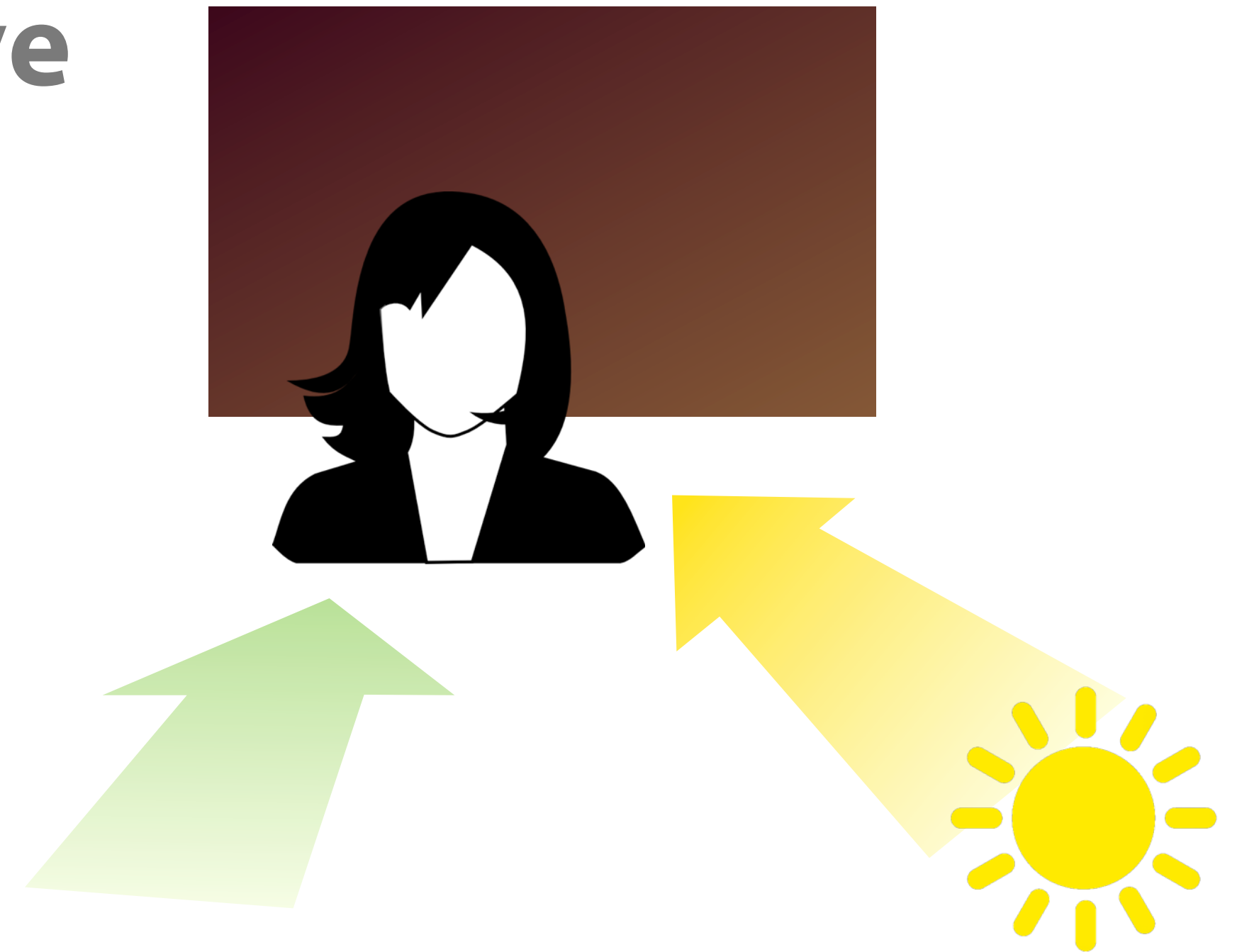
# Different Angles





# Best Angle depends on:

- **Most unique & surprising perspective**
- Best Light
- Best Background







3

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**EXPRESSION**

*Soul*



Technique 9

# Face, Hands, Body





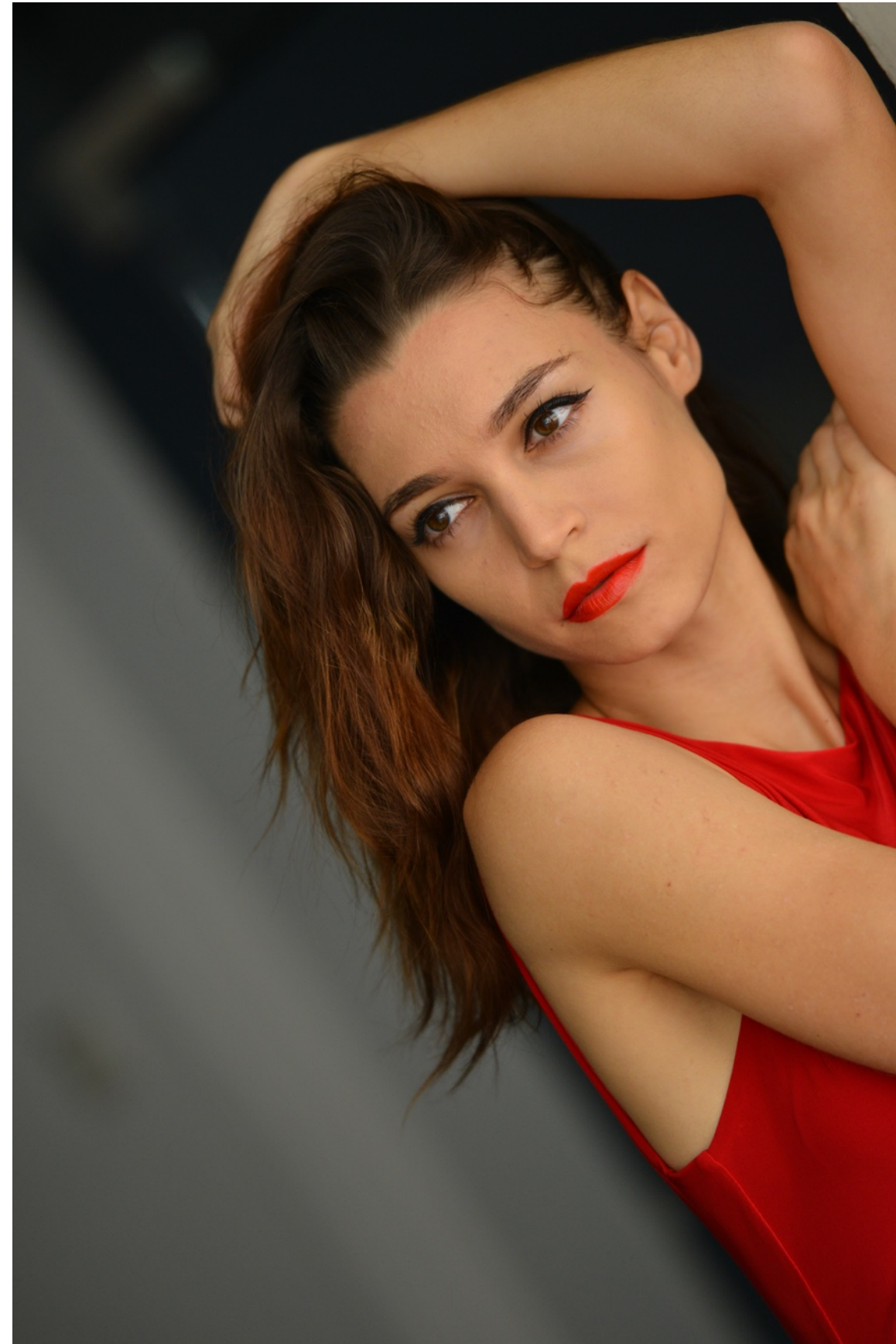
# Technique 9

## Face, Hands, Body

**Expression**  
Face



**Gesture**  
Hands



**Pose**  
Body



**Interaction**







Technique 10

# Eye Contact

## **BENEFIT:**

- Connection

## **HOW:**

- Reflection in the eyes

## **LIMITATIONS:**

- Silly faces
- People don't like being photographed





Technique 11

# Candid Portraits

## WHAT IT DOES:

- Natural expression

## LIMITATION:

- Need telephoto lens
- Avoid being seen



# 10 TIPS FOR DISCREET PORTRAITS

- From a distance, with a **telephoto lens**
- From an **angle**, not in front of your subject
- Hide **behind something** (or someone)
- Move to a **shadow**
- **Sit down**
- When your subject is **talking to someone**
- When your subject is **talking to your friend**
- **Pretend** to take picture of your friend
- Use **flip-screen** to avoid pointing camera at your subject
- Don't hold your camera up forever



## Posed



- **Connection**
- People make silly faces
- People don't like being photographed

## Candid



- **Natural, authentic expression**
- Need telephoto lens
- Avoid being seen



Technique 12

# Peak of Action

## HOW:

- Greatest Stretch / Highest Point
- Shutter Speed 1/1,000s+
- Continuous Shooting 4-5 fps





4

# OBSERVATION

*Great Subject*





# HOW TO FIND A GREAT SUBJECT

- **Look around.** Keep your eyes open to find interesting people around you
- **Look 20-30m ahead**
- **Get away from main path**



A photograph of an elderly Buddhist nun with grey hair, wearing a traditional red robe. She is standing in a temple, next to a large, ornate golden prayer wheel. She is holding a small, ornate golden ritual object in her right hand. The background shows the interior of the temple with wooden beams and other prayer wheels.

5

PATIENCE

*Best Moment*



# HOW TO CAPTURE ELUSIVE MOMENTS

- Have your camera in people settings, **ready to react fast**
- **Anticipate & wait**
  - How much time do you have?
  - How long is your subject there?
  - How likely is elusive moment?



# **CLOSING COMMENTS**



# GREAT PHOTOS STRAIGHT FROM CAMERA

- Find great **Light**
- Get correct **Colour** (White Balance)
- Get correct **Exposure**
- **Framing & Clean Background**
- *Keep checking your pictures as you shoot*



# GETTING SHARP PHOTOS

- **Shutter Speed** 2x focal length
- **Select focus point manually**
- **Continuous shooting**
- **Half-press the shutter** until the camera focuses