

What Clothes to Wear in Portraits

What should I wear in my Portrait session?

This is a question we get asked a lot by clients – so here are a few guidelines.

The clothes you wear in a portrait session can have a big impact upon the end result of your image. When we get asked by a client what are the best clothes to wear, I generally ask them to bring a few different outfits so that we can have a bit of variety to work with.

A few things to keep in mind:

One of the main challenges of photographing someone that you may not know very well is helping them to relax. I find that the clothes you wear in the studio can have a big impact upon how relaxed you are and how natural you will look. If you are happy and relaxed with how you look, we have a good chance of capturing your own real personality.

The colour of the clothes:

Avoid bright reds, yellows & oranges (they battle the subject's face for attention) and the camera will readily pick up this reflected colour cast and render your skin tone somewhat off colour.

Darker colours are generally better than light colours.

Colours like white, yellow, and pink tend to over-power the face and make the subject look too pale.

In general, the best colours are medium shades of blue, green, burgundy, and rust, think in terms of soft or pastel colours and you should be OK.

If you are having a group portrait taken, everyone should wear complimentary colours. The outfits don't have to be duplicates to look good; however, if everyone is in light blue and one person is in bright red, they will over power the rest of the group in the final image.

Try to avoid clothing that contains logos, slogans, or other distractions. Years from now you may regret an image that prominently displays the logo of a company that has long been out of business or that has gone through a major scandal!.

Above are some general guidelines regarding what to wear and what you might avoid. In truth, you will look the best in your portraits if you wear something comfortable and in keeping with your sense of style. So, bearing in mind the above guidelines, wear what makes you feel the happy, the most comfortable, and most like yourself and just have fun!.