

Night Portraits and Photography

Advanced Digital Photography
Troutman



Brassai, from "Paris By Night", 1933

Assignment:

You will experiment with your camera to take photographs of people at night, dusk or dawn. The lower light will mean that you will have to use slower shutter speeds, or a higher ISO, or the camera's flash. You may also experiment with other light sources to illuminate your subject. Depending whether you are inside or outside, consider flashlights, candles, lamps, store lights, car lights, light from a computer....

Your camera probably also has a Night Portrait mode or Slow Sync Flash....these modes will use the flash, but then keep the shutter open a bit longer to let any existing light into the camera.

Remember, with slow shutter speeds, you need to keep the camera steady - use a tripod or a fence, ladder step, car top, stool...keep in mind if you do use flash, it will only light up to about 16 feet in front of you.

If you can use available light of windows, streetlamps or other light sources, turn off the flash!

For color effects, cover your camera's flash with colored filters or cellophane.

Artists to Consider:

Brassai, Bill Schwab, David Baldwin, Jan Staller