Portrait Evening in St Peter Port October 11th

Exact meeting point and time to be decided and communicated later. Guernsey are hoping to provide us with four people happy to be our models for the evening and they have been asked to provide suitable 1940s look clothing and props as far as they are able. St Peter Port has lots of steps and streets that should provide some venues. I include here a few notes on camera settings etc but this is very much a learn-as-you-do-type evening. I have also put together some examples of Film Noir type images that you might like to think of emulating. See http://pin.it/gnqibI4 for some suggested set ups and for a look at St Peter Port steps and streets - https://www.pinterest.com/annmiles656/st-peter-port/

Night portraits

1. Do without flash - by using natural lighting provided by signs, streetlights, interior lighting, and other sources, you can add atmosphere and interest to your night people photos.
2. Use a tripod and a cable release if your model is still and you can give a long exposure at a normal ISO setting
3. If the subject is moving, you will need to up the ISO and open the shutter to give a suitable shutter speed. The shutter speed required to capture an image of a person at rest with very little movement will be approximately 1/15 of a second. A person moving slightly may require up to 1/60th second, while a person walking may require up to one 1/125th second, and a person jogging will require up to 1/500th second.

Metering

To achieve good results, it is best to set your camera to a manual exposure and take trial shots to check the results. For night photography there is not a "perfect" or "correct" exposure, different levels of exposure will produce different photos, you need to choose which one you like best.

Motion Blur

Try some images with motion blur if you have had enough of still portraits – best use a tripod so the background is sharp or try panning

Painting With Light

A technique to supplement the available light in only a portion of the image is called "painting with light". This is most commonly done with a small flashlight which is directed at the subject during the exposure, adding a fill light only where needed.

White Balance

The most common type of light at night is the standard incandescent light bulb, which will produce a very warm yellow tone to your image. Fluorescent lights will produce a green color while lights of other types will produce a rainbow of colors. For some photos this color shift is a major part of the mood of the photo and can be left uncorrected. However there are other times when it just makes the image look off color, and should be corrected by adjusting the white balance to the type of lighting. For the most control over the white balance, you should shoot in the RAW file format and adjust the white balance during post processing.

Monochrome

This is often the medium of choice for night time photography. Shoot RAW and do your conversions in your chosen software (Lightroom, Photoshop , Silver Efex etc – possible subject for weekend tuition!)

Use of Flash

The important thing about shooting people at night without a flash is to use the available light to make a stronger composition and enhance the mood and place of the image. If you want to try some with fill-in flash then this is also an option for the evening