



Mastering the Magic of Light

Country

Italy

Region

Venice

Instructor

Joe McNally

Dates

19 Apr > 25 Apr 08

Price

£1180.00

Overview

Much of what professional photographers are called on to do is done on location, including scouting a location, using existing and artificial light creatively, and dealing with physical space. This workshop, designed for photographers who want to become more proficient in the use of light on location, is about learning how to size up a location and find the best angles and light for the assignment. We explore the use of natural and artificial light, reflectors, and strobes to light and photograph portraits, interiors, exteriors, large and small spaces, street scenes, and people in all types of situations and locales. Our emphasis is on how to "write" with lighting and how to use lighting techniques to shape the mood and color of a photograph. We explore color temperature, ways of working with natural light and strobe, and how to mix the two effectively.

Light is the language of photography. It is how we speak as shooters, and it informs our pictures. We will address the use of light on location, and how to use the language of light to make our photos and our subjects speak more eloquently. Joe will discuss lighting issues that arise in the field when using small, on-camera speed lights as well as the problems and solutions inherent in dealing with huge productions. The class covers how to gain access to locations, how to use strobe and hot lights and florescent light sources. Versatility and the ability to blend a variety of techniques and approaches into coverage for major magazines and corporations will be highlighted. You will work in the studio and on location, photographing specific assignments in the afternoons and evenings. Critiques will follow the next morning. By the end of the week you will feel confident in your ability to use light and lighting systems in a variety of conditions

Itinerary

What is Included

All tuition & critique sessions

Models

Private shoots in palace, villa, theatre and San Marco Square

What is Not Included

Accommodation during Masterclass (see section 'Accommodation')

International air travel into Italy



Transportation around Venice during Masterclass
Welcome dinner on first night
Farewell dinner on last night

Travel to and from airport in Venice to hotel
Lunches & dinners except first and last night
Photographic materials & processing

Calendar

Saturday 19 April 2008 - ARRIVAL DAY
Introductory talk by Joe McNally(4-7pm)
Welcome dinner
Sunday 20 April 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 1
Introduction to equipment - its use, how to setup etc.
Break for lunch
Demonstration on shooting portraits with available & artificial light
Dinner together
Monday 21 April 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 2
Shoot in Villa on mainland with models in contemporary costume
Break for lunch
Continue Villa shoot
Return to Venice
Free evening
Tuesday 22 April 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 3
Image review session
Shoot in Palazzo with models in period costume
Break for lunch
Continue Palazzo shoot in afternoon
Dinner together
Wednesday 23 April 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 4
Shoot with dancers in theatre
Break for lunch
Image review session
Dinner together
Thursday 24 April 2008 - MASTERCLASS DAY 5
Dawn shoot of ballet dancer in San Marco Square
Back to hotel for breakfast
Lunch
Final image review session and conclusions
Farewell dinner & good-byes
Friday 25 April 2008 - DEPARTURE DAY
No activities planned - recommended check-out day from your hotel

Accommodation

Our Masterclasses are purely about photography. We want them to be widely available to both hobbyists and professionals, and in order to keep prices competitive, we sometimes leave the choice of hotel to the customer. Comfort and luxury can be quite subjective across a group of people, and so our solution is to let you decide from a selection of hotels in different budgets.

The daily meeting place and location of daily image review sessions will be held at the Hotel 'Best Western Ala'. Click on the tab above called 'Map' to see exactly where it is in Venice, We recommend you stay in one of the hotels we have listed below as they are all within short walking distance of the Best Western Ala Hotel. The ideal solution is of course to find a room in the Best Western Ala (see details below under 3 star hotels). Please note we have indicated against each hotel, the distance in metres from our daily meeting place, The Hotel Ala.



5 Star Hotels

Gritti Palace. (<http://www.hotelgrittivenice.com/>)

20 metres away, £300-£400 per night

4 Star Hotels

Hotel Saturnia International. (<http://www.hotelsaturnia.it/>)

£180 per night, 250 metres away

3 Star Hotels

Best Western Hotel Ala. (<http://hotelala.hotelinvenice.com/>)

Daily meeting place. £170-£250 per night

Hotel Bel Sito e Berlino. (<http://www.hotelbelsitoeberlino.com/>)

10 metres away, £120-£250 per night

Hotel Torino. (<http://www.hotel torino.com/>)

£70 - £100 per night, 250 metres away

Hotel San Moise. (<http://www.sanmoise.it/>)

£85 - £125 per night, 350 metres away

Hotel Do Pozzi. (<http://www.hoteldopozzi.it/>)

£60 - £95 per night, 300 metres away

Hotel Anastasia. (<http://www.hotelanastasia.com/>)

£85 - £120 per night, 350 metres away

2 Star Hotels

Hotel San Fantin. (<http://www.hotelsanfantin.com/>)

£60 - £80 per night, 400 metres away

Bed & Breakfast & Locande

Locanda Novecento. (<http://www.novecento.biz/>)

£90 - £150 per night, 350 metres away

Ca' del Pozzo. (<http://www.cadel Pozzo.com/>)

£70 - £100 per night, 600 metres away

Palazzetto Barbaro Del Giglio. (<http://www.palazzetto-barbaro-del-giglio.com/>)



£90 per night, 30 metres away

Zaguri B&B. (<http://www.zaguri.net/>)

£70 - £100 per night, 150 metres away

Apartments

Venice Apartments. (<http://www.veniceapartments.org/>)

Properties all over the city

Travel

The main international airport in Venice is 'Marco Polo'. You should arrive on or before the 19 April 2008 and your day of departure should be 25 April or later. Upon booking you will be sent details of how to get from the airport to your hotel.

In order to make the 4pm Introductory talk on Saturday 19 April, we recommend you arrive in good time. You may wish to consider arriving the day before if necessary.

Upon booking you will receive an information pack that includes detailed instructions of how to get from the airport into Venice. Cheapest options are by water-bus or overland bus, whilst more direct and naturally expensive option would be water taxi (€90-100).

We recommend you travel with luggage that has wheels as you may well have to walk from the water to your hotel.

Companions

Photography is a passion that touches millions of people, but that doesn't always mean that it is shared throughout your family! A great many of our participants choose to travel with their husbands, wives or partners, and we make every effort to make them just as welcome as everybody else. Should you wish to attend with your partner we would welcome them to join us in the evenings during our organised dinners. Alternatively you are both free to spend your evenings away from the group if you wish to make your own plans.

The Photography

Photography

What makes this Masterclass unique is that it is not simply a chance to learn lighting techniques, but also a chance to shoot with spectacular locations and models. The Masterclass covers some theory, involves some demonstrations, but for nearly all the time you will be out on location shooting. We want our participants to walk away with not just knowledge, but also a portfolio of really stunning images. Using one of the world's most beautiful cities as a backdrop, each day you will find yourself on a new shoot location. Shoot locations include:

15th Century Palazzo on Grand Canal with models in period costume

Ballet dancer at dawn in San Marco Square

Modern dancers performing on stage in theatre

Models in contemporary costume in historic Villa on mainland

Joe McNally prefers to work with camera strobes such as the Speedlite or SB-800. They are light, easy to carry around, and can produce incredible results. If you use Canon, we recommend you bring your own Canon flash unit (1-2). If you use Nikon, we recommend you bringing at least one unit.

Teaching



The great majority of your time is spent on location. Planning a shoot, setting up equipment, working with the models and getting the shots is where the real learning takes place. Typically there will be 2-3 models, and you will be split into groups. Through the shoot, you will rotate so that you each get to work with different models and costumes. Even when you are not the person with the camera in your hand, you will be learning a great deal from assisting with the positioning of lights, reflectors and diffusers.

On most days there will be an image review session which takes place in the conference room of the Hotel Ala. We ask each participant to bring along 5-7 chosen shots from the day before, and we view them with a laptop and digital projector. The image review sessions are incredibly useful not just as a chance to receive feedback from your instructor, but also from the interaction and comments from your fellow participants.

Is this for me?

'Mastering the Magic of Light' is what we call a Masterclass. This means that it is designed for people who are relatively comfortable with the operation of their cameras.

In order for you to get the most out of this Masterclass, we suggest that all participants have the following:

Use an SLR camera with interchangeable lenses

Comfortable with operating a camera's exposure manually

Some experience with basic operation of flash units for camera

Our passion is photography, and we welcome all of you that share this love. One of the great benefits of learning in a group, is the knowledge you also gain from those around you. New ideas, shared critiques and a good sense of camaraderie are ingredients we actively try to encourage in all of our trips.

Inspiration

Introduction

Below you will find a collection of photographers, writers and films chosen to awaken your senses. They may inspire you about the location or they may just intrigue you. Either way please use this as an insight into the experiences and impressions of others. International travel is so easy these days. The pace at which one travels and 'sees' the world gets faster and faster. If you feel like it, take a moment to slow the process down. Some of the films are fun and light-hearted - others a little more serious.

Photographers

Jill Greenberg

Platon

Paul Aresu

Chase Jarvis

Gregory Heisler

Books

Photography Books

'Outdoor Photography: Portraits' Cathy Joseph 2005

'Light & Lighting' Michael Freeman 2003

'Lighting and the Dramatic Portrait: The Art of Celebrity and Editorial Photography' by Michael Grecco 2006

'Mastering Digital Flash Photography: The Complete Reference Guide' by Chris George 2007

General Literature

"The tragedy of Othello, the Moor of Venice" William Shakespeare 1603



"The merchant of Venice" William Shakespeare 1597
"Death in Venice" Thomas Mann 1912
"The story of my life" Giacomo Casanova published 1960/2001
"Million - The travels of Marco Polo" Marco Polo/Rustichello da Pisa 1298
"Italian Journey" Johann W. Goethe 1787
"The wings of a dove" Henry James 1902
"The stones of Venice" John Ruskin 1885
"The city of falling angels" John Berent 2005

Movies

"Othello" directed by Orson Welles, with Orson Welles and Suzanne Cloutier (1952)
"Summertime" directed by David Lean with Katherine Hepburn (1955)
"Death in Venice" directed by Luchino Visconti with Dirk Bogarde (1971)
"Don't look now" directed by Nicolas Roeg, with Julie Christie and Donal Sutherland (1974)
"The comfort of strangers" directed by Paul Schrader with Christopher Walken, Rupert Everett (1991)
"Blame it on the bellboy" directed by Mark Herman with Dudley Moore, Patsy Kensit (1995)
"Everyone says I love you" directed by W. Allen. With Woody Allen, Goldie Hawn, Drew Barrimore, Julia Roberts (1996)
"The story of us" By Rob Rainer with Bruce Willis, Michelle Pfeiffer (1996)
"Dangerous beauty" directed by Marshall Herskovitz with Catherine McCormack, Naomi Watts, Jacqueline Bisset (1998)
"The talent of Mr. Ripley" directed by Anthony Minghella, with Matt Damon, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett (1999)
"Les enfants du siecle" directed by Diane Kurys, with Juliette Binoche (1999)
"The Merchant of Venice" By Michael Radford, with Al Pacino, Jeremy Irons, Joseph Fiennes (2004)
"Casanova" directed by Lasse Hallstrom with Heath Ledger, Sienna Miller, Jeremy Irons (2006)

Forums

We have our own online forum that over the years has proven to be a very popular and useful way of not just keeping in touch after a workshop, but also before. It can be a fascinating source of information for those considering their first workshop with VSP. You will need to register to join the forum, and we recommend the following two sections

Ask a past VSP Workshops participant (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?board=feedback/>)

Discussion board for all participants booked on Mastering the Magic of Light Masterclass (<http://www.vspworkshops.com/cgi-bin/yabb2/YaBB.pl?num=1191519564>)

Testimonials

"What a great week. I have learnt so much about my camera, my photos, my eyes. Thank you for your energy, enthusiasm, careful planning and sense of humour"
Kirsten, USA, 2006

"I have attended Workshops with Maine, Santa Fe and TPW and founded the organisation by VSP to be the best"
David, UK, 2007



"I'm a better photographer and I feel I have more courage and greater awareness and sensitivity to what makes a successful photograph. The course has given me even more enthusiasm for photography"
Ross, USA, 2005

"Very busy schedule, which I enjoyed. VSP take photo critiques very seriously and helps people of all levels and skills. Overall very much enjoyed the Workshop - best so far!"
Frank, Netherlands, 2007

"If you like to travel and you have the passion for photography, this is the best combination to make your trip a perfect trip! Travel, shoot and enjoy the moment!"
Beatrice, Italy, 2007

"VSP always exceeds my expectations. As a new photographer VSP encourages, challenges and inspires me to take my images to the next level"
Rachel, USA, 2007

"You won't find a more friendly and delightful photo experience on the planet"
Steve, USA, 2007

"Thank you very much for another fantastic workshop. It is so good to be able to spend time thinking about what I love - photography and not having to worry about anything else because you have thought of everything before. I learned a lot, I had a rest, I had a fantastic time with very nice people, I laughed a lot and wasn't thinking about my work - this is priceless! I will check on your web on a regular basis as always and we will definitely meet again - Grazie"
Bob, USA, 2006