

Narrative Videos for the Storytelling Photographers:

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Video is so widespread and heavily viewed these days that nearly every photographer wants to know what's involved in catching that fast moving bus! This presentation is a standalone primer for photographers using DSLR and mirrorless cameras who are interested in using their existing strengths as visual storytellers to enter the world of video. You will enjoy this presentation whether you are telling stories just for the love of it or as a way to make money. The talk is an overview of narrative video making. It is less of a list of technical requirements and settings, but is more focussed on the storytelling aspects. You will come away with a better understanding of how you too can make brief, compelling videos maximizing ambient sound and compelling visuals, while minimizing talking heads.

Relevant links:

- <https://vimeo.com/150040145>
- <https://vimeo.com/216434196>
- <https://vimeo.com/235236443>
- <https://vimeo.com/90048922>

Bio:

David Helfer Wells, director, cinematographer and editor, brings decades of experience making still images and narrative films for publications and websites. He has worked on assignment for such magazines as Fortune, Life, National Geographic, Newsweek, The Sunday New York Times, and Time, among others. Awards for his film-making work include "Best of ASMP" and "Best New England Documentary Short" from SENE. His short films have been juried into film festivals around the globe, including Ankara, Bangalore, Jaipur, Lahore, Lisbon, Mumbai, New Haven, New York City, Philadelphia, Providence, Rome, Sacramento and San Francisco.

The tools of travel photography to make your travel photos work with David H. Wells

Making exceptional travel photographs requires skills in many different types of photography, from street photography to still-life work to portraits. In a typical day of travel, a photographer may shoot busy festivals, quiet buildings, open landscapes, or close-up nature. The best travel photographers are versatile in their skills and fluid in their process, using minimal gear to achieve a maximum of results.

This presentation explores the following topics:

- The traveling photographer's camera and bag
- Being in the right place at the right time
- Varying the time of day and understanding light
- Portraying people
- Composition
- Stopping action vs. showing motion
- Framing and scaling; tripods
- Using the appropriate lens

The best travel photos are symbolic images that convey the mood of a place as they “bring” the viewer to the place. The best ones are made not from the viewpoint of an observer but rather from the viewpoint of someone who is actively engaged in the event. Good travel photographs make seemingly boring things interesting, even unique and magical. You also need to be comfortable taking pictures in unusual places, which requires you to carry yourself confidence as well as to treat your subjects with respect. For many people, travel photography combines two of their favorite passions, travel and photography.

David H. Wells is a free-lance photographer based in Providence, R.I. and affiliated with Aurora Photos. He is a specialist in intercultural communication and visual narratives that excel in their creative mastery of light, shadow and sound, stills and video. Wells' photo essays have been published in Life Magazine, National Geographic, the New York Times Magazine and the Philadelphia Inquirer Magazine where his essay on the pesticide poisoning of farmworkers in California was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He is also a photo educator, with previous workshops at such institutions as the International Center for Photography in NYC and the Maine Media Workshop. David teaches workshops around the world, and he was featured in Photo District News as one of "The Best Workshop Instructors." He has launched an online educational tool with video podcasts and other useful information for photographers called "The Wells Point", at thewellspoint.com.

David H. Wells

11 South Angell St. #171, Providence, RI 02906 / (401) 261 4528

Email » David@DavidHWells.com (Don't forget the "H")

Site » <http://davidhwells.com/>

Light Studies Exploring the Light Atmosphere of a Place with David H. Wells

Certain places call out to us to be contemplated and explored. Whether they are a big city or a small town, public or a private space. Bodies of work that explore the light and atmosphere of such places are often called Light Studies. Light, shadow, night and twilight are the tools that David H. Wells uses as he makes his award winning "Light Studies." Train stations, shrines, city centers, buildings and the like are just a few potential subjects for such "Light Studies."

David H. Wells is a freelance editorial photographer who specializes in producing "Light Studies" on location, across the globe. His finished "Light Studies" have been published in general interest magazines as well as photography magazines and have been exhibited in exhibitions around the world. Spend time with this master of light and shadow who will help you understand how to make your own "Light Studies." Wells will share specific techniques (and particular images that highlight those techniques) that he used to create his "Light Study" photo-essays.

Topics to be explored include:

- Specific issues of time of day / morning vs. evening light
- Quality and direction of light
- Scouting a location with a compass to plot the play of light
- The importance of the photographer's position
- The use of lines, light and dark
- Lens choice / composition
- Framing to create dramatic images when no dramatic light exists

Attendees will gain a better understanding of available light, how it is shaped by the time of day, seasons, the photographer's positioning, etc.

"Wells uses light and dark like a surgeon... His dynamic compositions have an almost surreal quality that reshapes our expectations of space. (He) uses light, carefully, to explore interior human complexities." Charles Biasiny-Rivera, a curator and critic

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The Career Path of a Photographer with David H. Wells

The best way to get better at almost any skill is to study how others before you have mastered that process. This is true whether flying a plane, cooking a meal or making a photograph. The lesson most photographers want to understand is "How did the pro I admire get from being an aspiring photographer, to being an established professional?"

Each successful photographer's career path is different, so studying the career paths of many photographers is the best way to understand what they did along the road from the start of their careers(s) to their success. You should note that these questions apply regardless of what style or type of photography you do, whether portraits, photo-journalism, landscapes or nudes.

In this presentation David H. Wells will take you through his career path, where his photos have been shown on everything from newsprint to an iPad. From an aspiring photographer in high school to an award-winning, world-traveling photographer, David took a series of steps, which he will trace in this presentation. As he takes you through his career path, he will show you work from different phases of his career including newspaper work, magazine work, stock photography and fine-art work. Since 1986 David has worked full-time as self-employed editorial photographer.

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David H. Wells is a photographer / photo educator in Providence, Rhode Island. He specializes in intercultural communications and the use of light and shadow to enhance visual narratives. He also focuses on photo-essays for publication and exhibition.

To produce his photo-essay on the pesticide poisoning of California farm-workers, Wells received the Nikon/National Press Photographers Association Documentary Sabbatical Grant in 1988 and a 1989 fellowship from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. His essay on the pesticide poisoning of farmworkers in California was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize