Shirley Eastwood

"My Learning Curve Portrait"

Featuring
"Oscar Harry Polite"

Portrait pre-planning

- I asked to take a portrait of a friend's new born baby called Oscar

- Oscar was 10lb at birth

- Photographs were taken when Oscar was 6 weeks old

- I duly arrived with my equipment plus tripod

- I took a very large scatter cushion to place him on

- Luckily Oscar had been fed beforehand and was very settled

- I placed Oscar near a window to use natural light – I prefer not to use flash

- I had a light reflector and I got assistance with this

- I used the white reflectors side as the light wasn't great – in hindsight I wished I tried the gold side as well

- I changed his position on the cushion and had several amusing hats and toy gifts for added fun

- Its important to have input from the baby's parents

Camera and settings Used

- Canon EOS 50D with 18-55 lens

- Hand held

- Aperture F5.0

- 27mm focal length

- 1/80th second speed

- ISO 800

- White reflector

RAW image

Hello I'm
Oscar
Harry
Polite

Key Lightroom processing alterations

- I always check that the camera and lens profile is correct

- Histogram showed Image was slightly under exposed, so I reduced the black clipping

- Used white slider to bring down the white intensity on Oscar's hat

- Other alterations in the BASIC panel to tweak temperature, shadows & highlights etc to get the image balanced

- I used the spot removal tool to remove skin blemishes

- Oscar was reasonably sharp, so I didn't use any sharpening tools

- Reducing the noise slightly and using the luminance sliders gave the skin tones a warmer, smoother look

- I was 90% happy with the image at this stage, but needed to rectify the area in the top right corner that was a little distracting, so I exported the image into Photoshop

Key Photoshop processing alterations

- I used the clone tool to cover over the light area in the top right corner of the image

- Then I very slightly reduced the brightness

- Improved the warmth of the skin tone with the luminance slider

- I also cropped the image prior to completing and saving

Oscar before and after

Raw Image

Lightroom processed

Photoshop processed

Any questions
or comments?