



photography

Monte Nagler

Shooting candid: surprise vs. blending into background

Most of us remember the excitement of "Candid Camera," the popular television show from many years back. Well, with a little thought and planning, you too can become an Allen Funt with your camera.

After all, people are among the most fascinating of photographic subjects. Posing deliberately in front of the camera, they often become still and self-conscious.

But if you catch them unawares, you'll end up with shots that are natural in expression and exciting in content.

THERE ARE two basic approaches to candid photography: 1) You can intentionally provoke a reaction by attracting your subject's attention and snapping the camera at that instant, or 2) you can try to be unnoticed and capture life as it happens.

The first approach will freeze people's snap response to your camera.

You'll get expressions of surprise and humor that can be very revealing.

The second approach, shooting unobserved, will produce natural looking pictures of people going about their daily lives. If photographing in public places such as an airport, stadium, or crowded street, try to attract minimum attention to yourself. Blend in with the surroundings and become a quiet observer of the action.

TELEPHOTO LENSES are certainly helpful in candid photography because you can fill the frame without having to get too close to your subject. With a telephoto, you often can get striking shots of people absorbed in work or play, and they won't even know you're there.

But don't rule out normal or even wide angle lenses. They'll give you more of the background in your shot which can be valuable in placing subjects in their natural environment.

Wide angle lenses, due to their increased angle of view, will enable you to include people in the viewfinder without having to point the camera directly at them. People rarely believe they're being photographed unless the camera is aimed in their direction.

DON'T FORGET candid close to home. Whether it's a family gathering at holiday time or a ball game in the back yard, candid shots will provide you with natural looking, lasting memories.

On vacations, too, don't overlook that joyful expression just as the fish is hooked or Junior's glow of accomplishment as he completes his sand castle at the beach.

To help you get these shots, try to have your exposure predetermined so that you can trip the shutter without having to fuss with the camera's controls.

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