

focus on photography

For outdoor portrait: take it personal



MONTE NAGLER

Outdoor, informal portraits can be the most exciting and attention-getting of all your people pictures. Here is some advice on how to capture these most memorable shots on film.

First, remember that outdoor portraits should be natural. Your subjects should be dressed in what they enjoy and they way they wish to appear.

A teenager, for example, who is inseparable from that old pair of faded jeans should be photographed wearing them. Or that favorite sweater should be part of the shot. If your subjects are dressed in what they feel comfortable with, they'll appear far more relaxed in the finished pictures.

Build a rapport with your subjects. Whether it's a family member, a friend

or even a stranger, taking a few moments to chat will relax both of you. Also, your subject will be more likely to follow your posing suggestions.

Look for a meaningful outdoor setting. A cluster of trees, a quiet pond, an old farmhouse, even an urban setting will all provide a natural scene. Just make sure your setting complements, rather than dominates, your subjects.

For outdoor portraits, I prefer a normal focal length lens. This way, the subject will be shown in a pleasing size relationship with the surroundings. A wide

See Nagler, page D11

Taking it personal: Borca, Italy, was the setting for this Monte Nagler portrait. Notice how the cane and the cigarette give character to the shot.



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