

Folger Studios

Houston, Texas

August 30, 2009

Steve,

I was delighted when I read about your "Create Your Own Course" offering through Prairiefire Productions. This is exactly the opportunity I was looking for to quickly learn the skills I knew I needed to shoot a model in a studio environment. I shoot with a Nikon D3, so I knew I had the right camera, but I have never been pleased with the results I was getting in my own small "garage" studio...I could never get the lighting just right. I contacted you to learn more about the course and after speaking with you about what I wanted to do and learn, we arranged a time for a shoot in your studio. I had a model and the equipment, but I didn't have any idea where to begin with the overall process. You recommended we meet with the model to share ideas about the shoot, what I wanted to do, etc. The meeting was very productive. We agreed on the poses I wanted, the clothing and props we would need, laid out some ideas in a storyboard fashion and set a time for the session.

When I arrived at the studio to prepare for the shoot, the learning began. You talked to me about how the lighting needed to be arranged for each "look" I wanted, helped me understand how the progression of the shoot should go to minimize setup time, went through my camera settings, all the basics that I needed to know. My model, Stephanie Vostry, was great. She even showed up early for the shoot, ready to go with all the garments we had agreed upon. We set up the lights, set white balance, metered for the shot, posed the model and the fun began. The first shot out of the camera was incredible. There it was, the quality that I knew was there but didn't know how to get. You showed me various ways to use the lights to get different effects. Different camera positions for different effects. Moving the model for different effects. Using reflectors, soft boxes, beauty dishes, gels, the list goes on and on. What a wealth of information in just a few hours.

The quality equipment in your studio is incredible, but more important I think, is the instruction that you provide. You helped me as the photographer, and Stephanie as the model, understand why we were doing the things we were doing. Your knowledge of the studio environment, lighting and posing techniques was presented to me in a way that made sense and in a way that I will remember in future shoots. I cannot tell you how pleased I was with the entire session, from initial consulting to the shoot itself, to post processing and to all my questions following the session. Steve, this is a great concept you have and I would highly recommend "Create Your Own Course" to anyone who wants to quickly learn anything from the fundamentals of a photo session to more

advanced topics like lighting or posing techniques. Thanks for making this available to people like me who need help taking that next step.

I'm also attaching a few of my favorite shots from the session. Please feel free to use these photos and my comments any way you want as a testimonial to quality of the "Create Your Own Course" concept.

Tom Folger
Folger Studios
www.folgerstudios.com

Model Credit:
Stephanie Vostry
<http://www.modelmayhem.com/1296964>

