



July Photo Assignment

FILM NOIR





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Film noir is French expression for “black film”. It is a film term which characterizes a certain cinematic period that took place from the early 1940s and lasted something about to the late 1950s. As a rule it was a period of stylish Hollywood crime dramas, which contained a criminal plot, gloomy atmosphere of cynical fatalism and pessimism, relative realism of action and dark illumination of the scene, usually night.

Some hallmarks of the film noir shot, or film are low key, low light scenes and skewed angles or low-angle, wide angle or dutch tilt type shots. All are ways to give disorienting or disfiguring effects as are images in mirrors.



The lighting is sometimes either stark dark or light contrasts as are the dramatic shadowing effects known also as the chiaroscuro style. Chiaroscuro is a style of light and dark patterning that came from Renaissance painting. One typical cliché and always notable scene type is the shadows of venetian blinds on the wall or across the face of the characters in the movie or photo.

Some classic examples of film noir lighting come from movies such as *The Third Man*, with the long cast shadows on the walls of the dimly lit streets along with the dutch tilted angle of the scene.



Another type of film noir imaging is silhouetting of the characters against a light background.

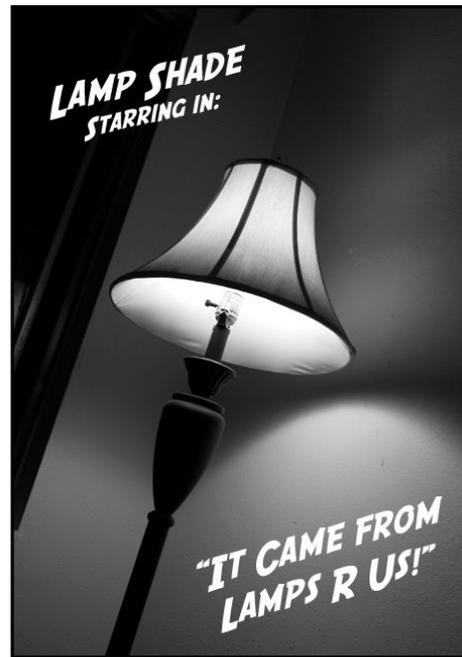


Typically low angle lighting pointing upwards, giving a stark evil feeling, along with a facial gesture can make all the difference in the world.



Long shadows on walls are a must in almost all film noir movies.

Sometimes a tilt of the camera can create an interesting or unusual effect. Used to disorient or convey disorientation, stress, dread or looming danger, the dutch tilt is a classic and simple to use technique.



***YOUR PHOTOS SHOULD BE INSPIRED
BY THE MYSTERIOUS ATMOSPHERE
OF NOIR FILMS.***