

PORTFOLIO

TIPS



FILM
STILLS
DIRECTORY



WITH NICOLA DOVE

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Choosing your best images for a portfolio should be straight forward right? Ha! As photographers we know the truth! It's often a fraught, time consuming process that can get more confusing the longer we spend on it. After a while it's hard to tell which is a good shot anymore by the time you've looked at your work a million times. So here are some tips to help you through....

- 1** Once you have narrowed down your selection, then you can kick in your analytical brain. Which images are the best compositions? Are they sharp and in focus? (this is a must!) Is there a clarity to the shot?
- 2** Do your images suggest a story? For film stills portfolios it's important that your images convey a story moment, after all that's what the role of film stills are - they aim to represent something about the film that entices people to watch the film or tv or short. A great character shot can still suggest a story. And the best story images are the ones that make you wonder what might happen next!
- 3** Wow them straight off the bat by putting your most engaging photos first. Producers, publicists, photo editors are busy people, and in case they don't have time to look through all your work, make sure you hit them up first with your most stunning shots. Don't be tempted to leave them for the end. How to tell which are your strongest images? Often the best images are the simple ones!
- 4** Think about the sequencing of your images. Don't just randomly arrange them any old way. How does one image flow to the next? Are there links between images that you could make by putting them next to each other? This can really help to keep a viewer engaged in your work as they look through your images.

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- 5** Think about how your work looks overall, is there a style that comes across, does it feel cohesive? Or is there a shot that stands out as completely different from the rest? This can be jarring when flowing from one image to the next.
- 6** If you have ticked the box for Gallery Poster shoots, then it's a good idea to include one in your portfolio. It's fine to include a poster shoot image, but better to show the final poster if possible.
- 7** Try to show a range of film stills and behind the scenes images. BTS shots are a chance to show your creativity and style, but don't make your whole portfolio about them. Better to show a mixture that emphasizes your ability to get the action of the story that's taking place in front of the camera.
- 8** Please ensure to resize your images to the required resolution and pixel width. This means your images will upload well, the site will operate smoothly, and most importantly your images will display consistently across the grid.

You're ready to go

Nicola