

# Hitchhikers guide to great senior portraits... this is required reading.

## DON'T PANIC!

When planning for your portraits, it's natural to be nervous. So, let's start by discussing this with your parents so that you and they are in agreement with the style for your portraits — be they traditional, classic or contemporary, fun or any combination of these. Sometimes a little compromise is necessary—so that everyone is happy!

Closets are big, and are probably chocked full of clothes — but you really have nothing to wear — right? Hopefully we can help by offering these guidelines. (Note: shopping may be an option.)

When choosing your outfits, keep variety in mind—in color, style & materials. Your outfits can be fashionable, timeless or interesting. Traditional wardrobe styles will stand the test of time and keep your portrait looking fresh for years to come. With trendy styles, your portrait may look dated and out of style in a year or two.

The outfits you look best in are probably the ones that you wear the most. For portraits however, **this is what you should gear towards:**

- Solid colors that go well with your skin tone.
- Darker clothing colors are more neutral and go well with darker backgrounds.
- Light tones work well with white or lighter backgrounds.
- Fair complexions are best with medium to medium-dark tone outfits.
- The best colors are the colors of nature — blue, green and brown in various hues — mauve, burgundy and wine colors are great too!
- While we caution against wearing bright colors, there are certainly ones you might look absolutely great in. The white or wood backgrounds work well with these.
- Darker clothes minimize body size on a darker background.
- Coordinate your outfits from head to toe.

**The focal point of a portrait** is your face and more importantly your eyes and the expressions Richard is capable of capturing. These are the types of outfits you will want to **rule out:**

- Short sleeves (except for fuller length poses, like in a prom dress). Long sleeves look better because attention goes to your face rather than the brighter upper arm.
- Stay clear of stripes! They do not photograph well because they make your portrait look too busy.
- Avoid large prints and patterns—these may help you to stand out at a party, but are not the best for portraits.
- Bright colors also attract attention and should be avoided unless of course you know you look great in one—then we go to a white or wood background.
- Make sure your clothes fit properly, especially guys wearing a shirt and necktie. An inch or two larger neck size may be comfortable, but it looks weird in a portrait.
- Wrinkled clothing. Please make sure your outfits are pressed and on hangers when you bring them in to the studio. Please, don't even think of putting your portrait outfits in a backpack.



Portraits & Dreams - Photography by Richard Bublitz

## How many outfits should I bring along?

Most seniors choose two outfits per pose. This way, we can pick and choose the best. And, even though it's summertime, your portraits can reflect any season, so it's OK to use fall and winter outfits for your in studio portraits.

## Here are some ideas....

**GUYS** — A sport coat, suit or sweater and tie looks great for your formal portrait. For the casual look, choose a comfortable shirt or add a sharp sporty jacket with your favorite slacks. Khaki's, jeans or cargo pants with a shirt, pull-over or sweater look great too—especially for outdoor portraits. A fresh shave is a must! If you have a beard or mustache, make sure it's neatly trimmed.

**GIRLS** — Start with a medium tone, long sleeved sweater or shirt for your traditional portrait. For your casual portraits, you'll need slacks, shorts, jeans and an assortment of tops – mostly without patterns and preferably long sleeved. Special items might include a prom or party dress, hats, etc. Don't forget accessories like ear rings, necklaces and shoes to match your outfits. Please avoid sleeveless tops, shoulder pads and baggy slacks—these usually add an appearance of weight where it shouldn't be. Also, avoid tops where straps and seams from undergarments will be apparent— unless you want them to be.

**MAKEUP** — Wear makeup the way you do for an evening date. Foundation helps even out your skin tones, and your lipstick should be a little darker than normal. At least one application of soft and light mascara on the upper and lower lashes will help bring out your eyes—please stay away from frosted eye shadow and lipstick. Fingernails look prettier with two coats of nail polish. Bring along your makeup, just in case you have to touch up.

## What about glasses and haircuts?

**GLASSES** — If you wear glasses most of the time, you'll want to wear them in your portraits. Just have your optician supply you with empty frames for the day of your photography. Not only do glasses catch light reflections, but they can also distort the face line behind the lenses of your glasses (this will add cost to your portrait order). Contact lenses are no problem.

**HAIR** — Try to have your hair cut at least one week before your session, to give it a chance to "fill in" a little. Please don't try a radically different haircut or style, chances are you won't feel it expresses the real "you."

## What else can I bring?

If you like, bring your favorite hat, musical instrument, sunglasses, hobby, jackets, uniform, boyfriend or girlfriend. Bring enough props and outfits to add variety and interest to your portraits. Your pet is also an option — but please make sure there is someone along to handle your pet. Above all, use your imagination — whatever ideas you come up with, Richard will do them for you!

Get your wardrobe, accessories, props, makeup, etc. ready the night before your session. Be sure you have all the outfits you want to bring.

**Artwork and retouching** is an integral part of Richard's portraiture — this is one of the things that makes Richards portrait prints of a higher quality. Much of the retouching is done automatically, but some things cost extra:

Retouching that is included:

- Remove minor blemishes and scars.
- Remove moles when requested.
- Soften facial lines.
- Brighten darkness under the eyes if necessary.
- Remove stray hairs.
- Whiten teeth.

Retouching that is an additional charge:

- Remove major blemishes.
- Reduce sunburn.
- Remove peeling skin.
- Blend tan lines.
- Reduce five o'clock shadow.
- Reduce eyeglass reflections and distortions.
- Raccoon eyes from wearing sunglasses.
- Remove visible under garment straps.

Retouching that is not offered:

- Rearrange hair.
- Remove wrinkles in clothing.
- Remove braces.

Simplicity is the key to a successful portrait—along with all the little elements that come together to create the end result. Each thing you do right will make a major difference in the end product. Get a good night's rest, relax and be ready for a great portrait session.

# Outdoor portraits and other useful information

## On-location portraits...

These are a specialty at Portraits & Dreams — done at a nearby park, home or other interesting location — we can spend a limited amount of time or a lot of time depending on your needs.

## Limited outdoor session...

This is when we spend about one-half hour around the studio and photograph you in one outfit. Scenes and poses will be varied to give you a variety of poses to choose from. This is offered when you need only one outdoor pose for your A la Carte selection.

## Regular outdoor session...

This is when we spend about one hour at your home or local area and photograph you in one or two outfits. Scenes and poses will be varied to provide a good variety. This is offered when you need more poses to choose from for your Artists Collection. Also great for your senior portfolio and panel.

## Ultimate outdoor session...

These are locations like your yard or fields with tall grass and shade trees or downtown street scenes to name a few. Interesting locations like a local park or Riverwalk areas are great ideas. This two hour session is offered when you need more poses to choose from for your Artists (5 or 8 pose) Collection or a 2 hour A la Carte session.

Location sessions are offered mid-morning on Wednesday or Thursday, or at the end of the day on Wednesday or Thursday.

## Wisconsin weather ...

It's been said that if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute. Typically, our outdoor sessions are scheduled in tandem with the indoor session. Outdoor conditions may dampen our activities however — in the event of rain, we will continue with the indoor portion and reschedule the outdoor session. Cloudy days are OK and perhaps preferable.



## How much money should I bring?

There are two retainers of \$125 each. The first is paid when you schedule your portrait session, the second one is due on the day of your portrait session.

## When will my originals be ready?

With our electronic portrait system, you will be able to see your in-studio portraits immediately following your portrait session. Initial selections and elimination's will be made at that time. A return appointment will be scheduled to make your final selections, determine sizes, retouching and finish options. If you have location portraits made, selections are available within three days.

