

The Cinematic Look



Film still assignment

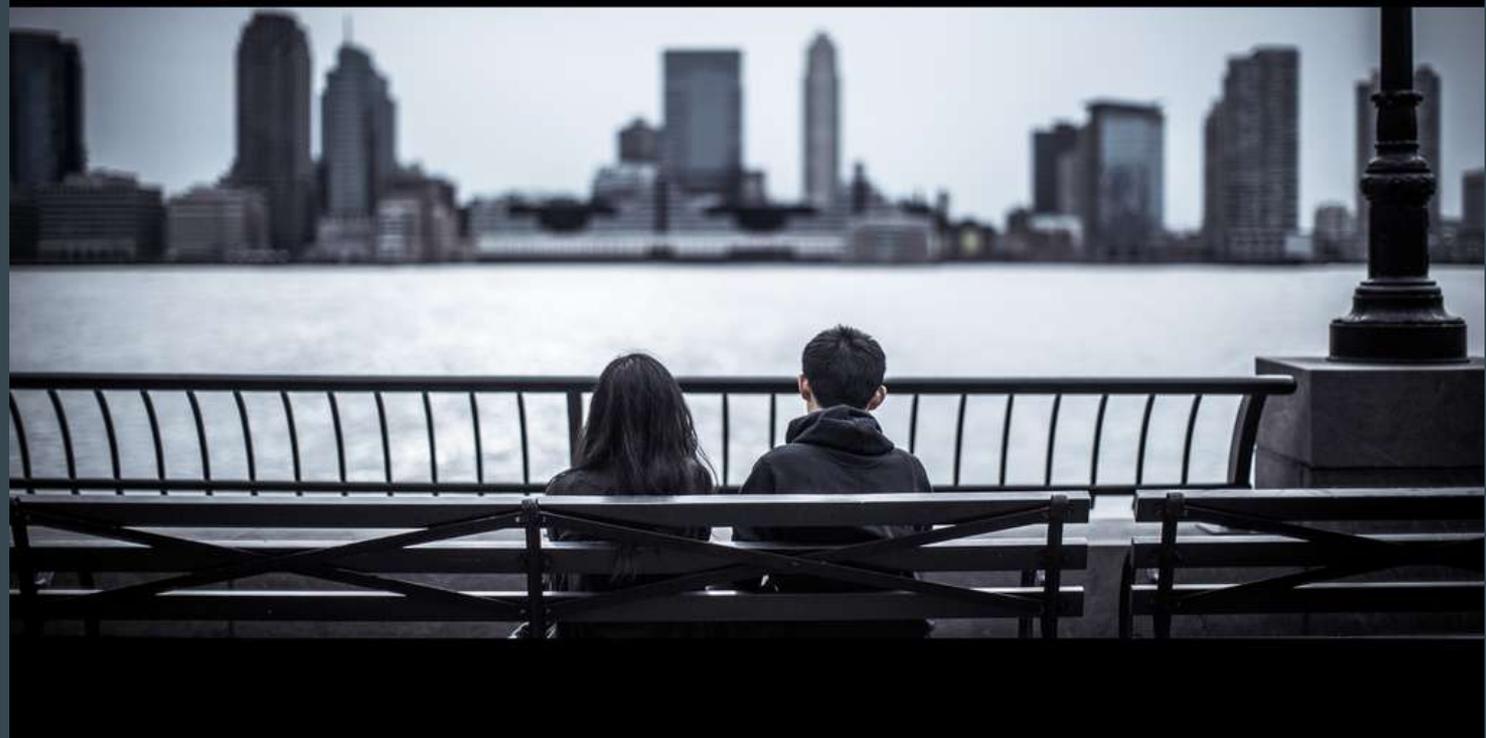
How to get it

1. Pull back - go wide! Shoot 16x9 or crop.
2. Show more than just a central subject
3. Use light to show depth
4. Use practical or hidden lights
5. Tell a moment in a story/narrative. No posed portraits.
6. Don't be afraid of the dark (if balanced with light)
7. Color grade image (Adobe Camera Raw or Lightroom)





Pull back - go wide! Shoot 16x9 or crop.





LETT TAAL
PHOTOGRAPHY



ONE DAY IN AMSTERDAM
BORIDOM









Don't rely on a single subject. Use different parts of the frame



Multiple subjects add depth to a frame





Use light to show depth











Practical Lighting







Extreme practical lighting



Deakin's stops down the iris more than most would at this time of day
contrast again playing a huge roll in actor/background separation

16x9 frame (1.77:1)

* headlights from car help with this edge

silhouette get's a small kick
from the police lights

60mm lens ?

almost every shot is enclosed with some sort of "frame"

SCENE'S GENERAL
COLOR PALLET





Hidden lighting source







Tell a moment in a story/narrative. No posed portraits.







Cindy Sherman Untitled film stills



Gregory Crewdson











Don't be afraid of the dark (if balanced with light)

Films were made to be shown in the dark, unlike photographs, and skin tones are shown darker.







Color Grading

USE ADOBE CAMERA RAW / LIGHTROOM

Play with split toning to achieve the start of a color look (see example where the warmth adds to the feel of Fall)



Before



After

Teal/Orange



BEFORE

AFTER



More Advice for Editing

Step 2 – Adjust color saturation and luminance to suit

Step 3 – Adjust blacks, color temperature, shadows and saturation

Step 4 – Add a slight vignette and grain, to make it more “film-like”, less digital and clean

Step 5 – Export out to PS. Crop image to 16x9. Or put black bars above and below.



BEFORE



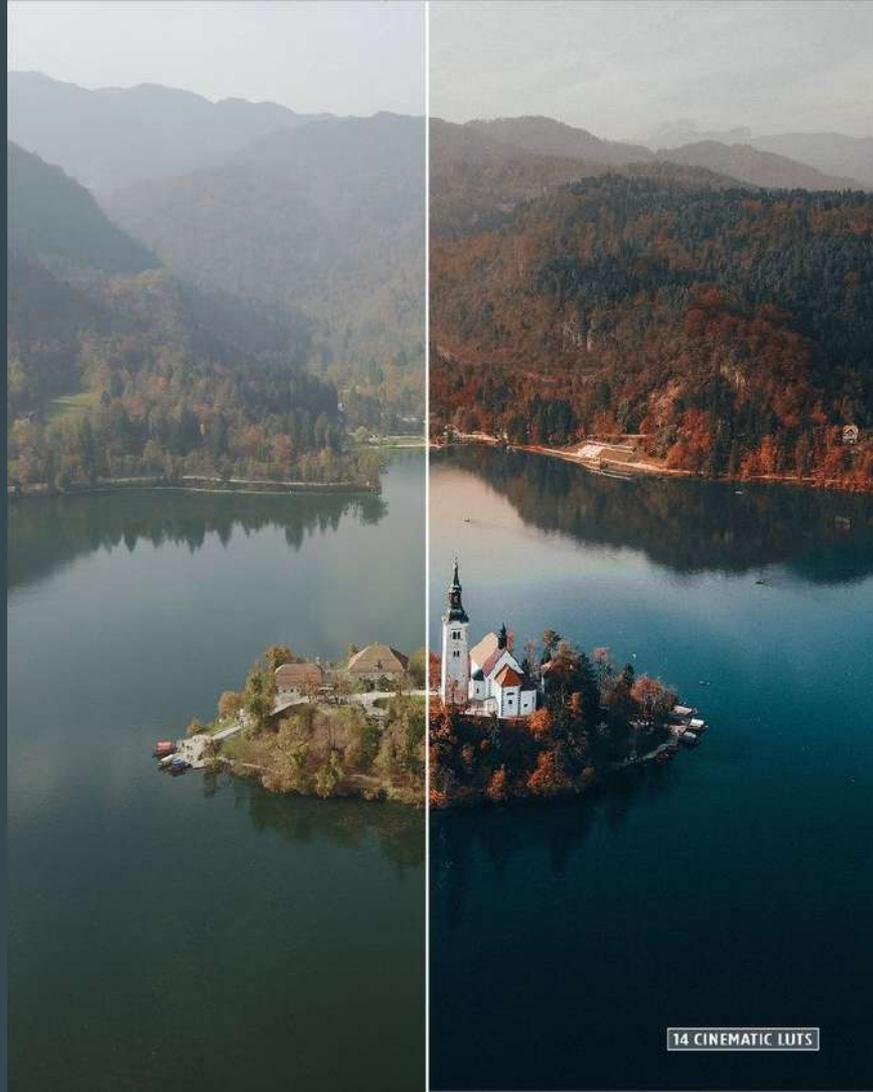
AFTER





BEFORE

AFTER



Some color grading tutorials

<https://blogs.adobe.com/creativecloud/cinematic-color-grading-in-adobe-photoshop-pt-1/>

<https://fstoppers.com/post-production/color-grade-pro-secret-cinematic-imagery-9545>

<https://photoshopcafe.com/create-cinematic-color-photos-photoshop/>