

PCQC Video Presentation

Fundamentals of Photography II with Joel Sartore—National Geographic

Lesson 23: Live Event Photography: Family Fishing Night

In this lesson we'll use a family fishing adventure to tell a story. Remember that a pictorial representation of a story has a beginning, a middle and an end. The beginning usually sets the theme, setting and background; the establishing shot.

Lesson Takeaways

- Begin with an establishing shot. Get above the scene, use a wide-angle lens if possible. This will give viewers an overview of where the action will take place.
- Take some detail shots (that is, a still life) which will set the theme: a tackle box, a boat, some fishhooks, lures etc.
- Capture some human moments
- If someone actually catches something, it could be a decisive moment. Be on the lookout for it.
- Pay attention to backgrounds, framing and layering. If outdoors in the evening and shadows are distracting, wait for the moment of sunset when everything will be evenly lit
- When shooting a landscape or wide scene, have your subject stand out against the background
- Include some portraits. Watch the background...no tree limbs sticking out of your subject's head please!
- If possible, set your camera on aperture priority. Underexpose your shots
- Look for human interactions. Watch for "decisive moments"
- When darkness arrives, try shooting some moving lights at a slow shutter speed

Assignment

Photograph a family outing. Pretend you are a photojournalist. Tell a story. Try shooting in light so low you think that the picture might not be properly exposed.