

SHOOTING ASSIGNMENT: Theme: Halloween



There are plenty of subjects around to photograph at Halloween ranging from the traditional jack-o-lantern through to people in costume, to trick or treat 'treats' and more. It's a time of colour, emotion and lots of interesting subjects. The keys to great Halloween Photography are not that different from the normal keys of good composition in photography so as you photograph Halloween this year keep in mind the basics.

It's easy to be distracted by the flashy parts of a time like Halloween but it's often when you step back, take a look around and notice the smaller details that you find the great shots. Halloween is filled with all kinds

of smaller details and photo worthy moments including decorations, carving the pumpkin, people getting dressed in costumes, bags full of treats at the end of the night, close ups of food etc.

The type of images that come to mind when I think of Halloween are fairly dark and spooky ones – candles in pumpkins etc. After all, the real action of Halloween seems to happen after dark. As a result you'll want to think carefully about the light sources for your shots. To really capture the mood of these situations you'll want to avoid the stark and bright light of flash photography and so you'll need to switch off your flash and do one (or all) of three things to some extent:

- increase your ISO – the larger your number the more sensitive your image sensor is to light and the darker conditions you can shoot in without having to slow down shutter speed. On the downside you'll get more grainy/noisey shots.
- slow down shutter speed – choosing a longer shutter speed lets more light into your camera. On the downside you'll see any movement in your shots blur (which might add to the spookiness of the image but could also ruin it). Consider using a tripod if you lengthen your shutter speed.
- use a larger Aperture – this widens the hole in your lens and lets more available light in. It will also lessen the depth of field in your shots.

