

Headshot Checklist

Simple things to look your best!



Having a professional headshot session can feel daunting and give butterflies to even the most experienced individual. Set those worries aside - I'll make sure your session is fun, relaxed and most importantly, reflects you at your best. Here's a set of brief tips -

- Always bring clothes that match your style and personality.
- Stay away from clothes with busy patterns. Solid colors are best. No logos.
- Try to stay away from black and white. If you are a person who relies heavily on black, think about branching out to some colors that flatter your natural coloring.
- Stay away from makeup that has an SPF rating - it will generally be somewhat more glossy when exposed to bright lights like flashes.
- Any color is great for tops, but remember that very bright colors can draw away from your face so pick something slightly more subdued. There are even colors of clothing that are so bright that a camera has trouble reproducing them and they look completely different in the final image.
- Bring an undershirt or camisole if you are shooting in multiple outfits. It saves time to be able to change tops quickly in the studio for more headshot looks. For men, wear an undershirt with a v-neck if possible as it is less likely to show up in the photos that way.
- Men should shave with enough time to avoid five o'clock shadow if the session is later in the day.
- A recent haircut and some light mousse/hairspay will help minimize fly away hair or unexpected hair fringe. Bringing a brush/comb to keep the hair looking fresh is encouraged, especially if there are going to be multiple outfit changes.
- For men in particular, correct fitting of shirt collars is vital. A pinched neckline or a gap between neck and collar due to weight loss really detracts from the photo. Bring a couple of matched ties that can help manage through ill-fitting collars.
- A suit jacket on a man often produces the cleanest lines which results in the best looking pictures in my experience.

- In a headshot session, your lower half will not likely make it into the photos, but make sure that whatever bottoms you have are clean, pressed and match your tops. You never know what we might be able to get out of your session. If you are wearing a suit, be sure to bring the pants.
- Undergarments. Make sure to include the right undergarments for the tops you bring. You might be disappointed if you bring that super cute tank top or strapless dress but you forgot a strapless bra.
- Make sure any clothes that you bring are clean and neatly pressed. This goes double for collared shirts and suits. We do not remove wrinkles in Photoshop.
- If you want to bring jewelry, make sure that it matches. Gold earrings don't look great with a silver necklace, etc. Bring some options that you love but keep in mind that a headshot is about your face. For entertainment, unless you are shooting specific character shots, keep jewelry to a minimum. Simple studs or hoops and simple necklaces are fine, but nothing that will take away from your expression.
- Bringing a makeup kit is a good idea - there will be a mirror available for quick fixups.
- Before you head out the door, make sure to grab a unique article of clothing or two. Do you have some cool fedoras? What about a really great leather jacket or a scarf you love? You never know what might come out of a shoot so grab that item and bring it with you. Do you play guitar? Golf? Do you kick-box or collect swords? Bring something that's unique to you and we might just be able to fit it in to the session and create something really cool.