

# Bitesized Review

By  
John Hallett Photography

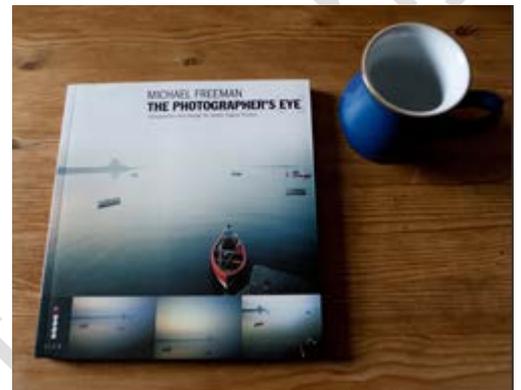


## **Bitesized Review: The Photographers Eye DVD course - by Michael Freeman**

Way back in 2011, in a previous edition to this website, I posted a book review on Michael Freeman's book "The Photographers Eye". Here's what I said about it:

*This is a great book. It is aimed at photographers who already have basic experience so it doesn't tell you how to use your camera or what settings to use. It is all about the next step: - understanding composition and the elements that go together that turn an ordinary photograph into a special one. This is not a 'coffee-table' book that you can dip-into and look at the pictures, it is one where you need to sit in a quiet room and read. It is also a book you can come back to time-and-time again since there is no-way that you can take it all in the first time.*

*The illustrative photographs are good examples and complement the text well but the first three chapters are by far the best ones and as you get towards the end of the book it can feel as though the author is starting to clutch at straws.*



Recently I discovered this: *Michael Freeman's The Photographer's Eye - Complete Book and DVD Course: A Master Class in Practical Photographic Technique & Composition.*

Intrigued I investigated further. The DVD course is available from Amazon as a [book and 2 DVD's](#). However, I was only interested in the DVD course and, after a good deal of searching, I found that it was available at the [Vimeo video website](#). You can join for free, just needing an e-mail address and password. You can then choose to purchase the entire DVD set (about 5 hours viewing) or any of the 35 individual episodes, most of which range from 4 to 13 minutes long although the last one is a whopping 26 minutes.

I purchased the entire set and this entitles you to view each episode as a streaming video or to download it to your hard drive. The price (as of August 2014) was \$39 - which equates to about £24. Now you may see that for just £2 more you get the DVD's and the book from Amazon - but don't be fooled. The book isn't the original Photographers Eye that I reviewed years ago - but just a companion to the videos which, from what I can see from the preview, doesn't add anything to the experience.

Anyway, back to the videos. There are 6 chapters which are then subsequently split into the 35 episodes:

1. Camera & Lens
2. Framing & Composition
3. Exposure & Light
4. Light & Colour
5. Locations
6. Storytelling in pictures

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Each episode starts with an introduction clip with some fairly upbeat music supplemented with the sound of an ever-increasing focus confirmation bleep. It does have the effect of increasing the anticipation of what is to follow.

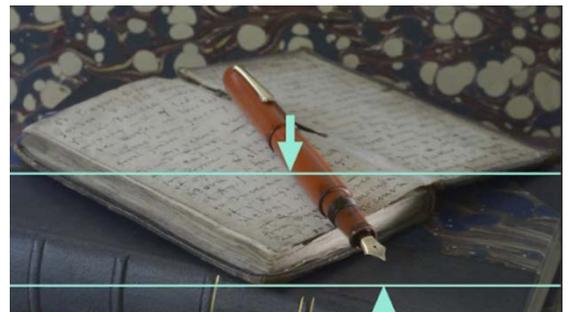
Typically the episode will start with Freeman sitting in a chair looking straight at you talking about the subject matter. It really does feel as if you are having a one-to-one discussion with the man himself.



Occasionally, though, he will look at his laptop....



..... which then seamlessly leads to a section explaining the point in more detail.



Finally, at the end of each episode, there is a summary of the points covered.

**POINTS TO REMEMBER**

- SMALLER APERTURE MAKES DEEPER FOCUS
- DEPTH OF FIELD IS A ZONE OF SHARPNESS FROM NEAR TO FAR
- MAKE BEST USE OF DEPTH OF FIELD BY FOCUSING A SHORT WAY INTO THE SCENE
- THE PRICE OF DEEP FOCUS IS SLOWER SHUTTER SPEED

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It's entertaining to watch, well put together and you can learn a lot. There's plenty of content here and it is certainly worth the money. If I have one negative, the scenes with Freeman and his 'assistant' Carolina made me feel slightly uncomfortable - as though I was intruding in a private conversation that was going to develop into something else any second.

## Pro's

- Good quality
- Loads of content
- Stream or download available
- Good value

## Con's

- Misleading title
- Some scenes seems a bit too intimate

*Similar products from other photographers are also available.*

If you found this review useful please let me know by leaving a comment on my Facebook page (or just 'Like' it) at <https://www.facebook.com/johnhallettphotographs/> . Thanks