



Bravo748 Military and Combat Speakers Bureau

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## STACY L. PEARSALL

### Keynotes, Lectures, Workshops

#### **KEYNOTES and MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKING**

##### ***Shooter: Combat from Behind the Camera***

Stacy Pearsall's empowering presentation draws upon the hardships she faced as a woman and photographer in combat. She's documented some of the most dangerous battles of our time, has been wounded in combat and lived to tell her story. Hers is an amazing visual journey of personal and photographic growth. Not only do the images tell the story of the soldiers she's documented, but also her own tale of friendships she made and tragically lost. You'll see what combat is like from behind the camera. You'll laugh, you'll cry. Most of all, you'll be in awe.

##### ***The Best of Me: A Woman's Journey in a Man's World***

Her mother raised her to be independent, witty, tough, tenacious, and resilient and the military put those virtues to the test. As one of the most decorated combat photographers of our time, Stacy Pearsall overcame more than the average soldier. She had to prove her mettle every day to demonstrate she deserved a position amongst the men. This speech is perfect for Women's Appreciation Month, and other empowering events geared toward gender equality, as Pearsall speaks about overcoming sexual harassment, marginalization, and gender bias to become the first female to win Military Photographer of the Year - twice.

##### ***Art and Healing***

It all came crashing down the moment the medical evacuation helicopter took off. For six years, combat photographer Stacy Pearsall documented the military story in 41 countries including Iraq twice. She was highly decorated with combat medals and illustrious titles like Military Photographer of the Year. But that didn't save her from the traumas of multiple blast exposures and the subsequent post-traumatic stress. In this speech, Pearsall talks about the long journey of physical and emotional healing and how her passion for photography brought her back from

the brink. By harnessing her ability to tell stories through pictures, she channeled her positive energy toward the betterment of others, thus bettering herself.

### ***Veterans Portrait Project***

After suffering debilitating injuries during combat operations in Iraq, former combat photographer Stacy Pearsall found herself out of the service, out of uniform and out of hope. The doctors emphasized all the things she couldn't do, inadvertently causing Pearsall to focus on the negative situation she now found herself. She was in physical pain, emotional turmoil, and contemplating suicide until fate brought a WWII veteran into her life. It was then she realized she still had something to contribute to the world – her photography. She began taking portraits of veterans at her local VA hospital and providing free images as gifts of thanks for their service. In the first year, she captured over 300 portraits, including the WWII veteran who inspired her. Since that faithful day, she's documented over 6,500 veterans' stories and captured their incredible portraits in over half of the states in the US. In this presentation, Pearsall shares the genesis of the Veterans Portrait Project along with the amazing tales of her travels and the incredible stories of the veterans she's met along the way.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY LECTURES**

### ***Starting a Personal Project: Photography That Helps You Grow Personally and Professionally***

Stacy Pearsall is a photojournalist, portrait artist, and former combat photographer. Her many honors include twice being named the National Press Photographers Association's military photographer of the year. In this presentation, she will share what it takes to create a personal project of your own that makes an impact on you individually and professionally, while also providing a platform for creative growth, client visibility and financial value. Her wildly praised Veterans Portrait Project has been shared in galleries across the nation while continuing to grow and tell the stories of millions of military veterans in the United States.

### ***The Art of Body Language in Portraiture***

In order to succeed at being a portrait photographer, you must be able to look past the facade an individual presents upon first meeting, and observe their non-verbal language and cues to best interpret who they really are behind the artifice. This pretense isn't intentional – it's human nature and rarely do people bare their soles to a stranger. Award Winning Photography Stacy Pearsall discusses how to gain your subject's trust through genuine care, unselfish energy and intent observance. She'll discuss the art of communication, and the signals your subject is emitting, so you can best identify and capture your subject's genuine likeness. Visual perception is everything. Capture amazing and true portraits by learning to see the body language a person brings into your session and knowing how to gain their trust to show the vulnerability within.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS**

### ***Back to Basics***

The Back to Basics course will provide the tools you'll need to create consistently well-executed images. Over the course of the workshop, students will learn how to properly meter, make unfailing manual exposures and focus accurately. Moreover, students will learn how to use function buttons to improve their shooting as well as finesse their cameras to their shooting styles. Using the methods taught in this class will allow students to focus on the creative aspect of image making versus the technical, often frustrating, facet of photography. Whether a seasoned photographer, or brand new to the field, this workshop will teach something valuable – consistency. This course is the foundation for all other courses, and is highly recommended. Without the brickwork laid in this course, students will lack the proper foundation for any other advanced-level workshop.

**Students must have:** Camera with charged battery and Lens such as 24-70mm or comparable.

### ***Portfolio Review***

The Portfolio Review always gives the attendees the opportunity to have their work assessed and critiqued by Stacy Pearsall. Useful guidance, suggestions and tips are provided to each photographer, so they may work to improve their skills. Portfolio Reviews are conducted in a group setting and projected onto a screen where other attendees may observe and listen. Not only does the individual being reviewed benefit from the evaluation, other students do as well.

**Students must have:** A portfolio of 10-20 images.

### ***Walk About***

The Walk About is just as it sounds – it's a photographic journey alongside Stacy Pearsall. Students will go on-location where they will explore the environment around them and learn to see in new ways. Stacy will discuss pre-visualization, composition and approach. After, she'll demonstrate and execute. Students will have the freedom to explore, visualize, compose and shoot on their own while Stacy floats around. This experience challenges students to conceptualize and be creative.

**Students must have:** Camera with charged battery and Lens(es).

### ***Picture Stories***

Picture Stories is broken into two parts – lecture and practical application. During the Picture Stories workshop, students will learn story and subject research and development, varied story approach and execution. From there, students will be asked to shoot a picture story from predetermined subject matter, make contact with the subject's point of contact (POC) and shoot. After the students complete their first shoot, their images and story development will be reviewed

and critiqued. Stacy Pearsall will provide story development guidance and offer suggestions for story direction. Students will then shoot the same subject a second time. Upon completing the second shoot, students will have a final edit. The chosen images will be presented in a final slide presentation to the entire class. **Students must have:**

- Two story ideas
- A point of contact established ahead of workshop
- Camera with charged battery
- Lens(es)
- Laptop
- Power cable
- Flash card reader
- Thumb drive

### ***Creating and Modifying Light***

This workshop will focus on light modification to enhance daily photography. This workshop will cover ambient light, diffusers, reflectors, small flash, and studio flash. Stacy Pearsall will discuss and demonstrate how to read and modify light. She'll show how to properly use various soft boxes, diffusers and reflectors to obtain specific looks. Providing hands-on instruction, Pearsall works through each lighting scenario with a live model. Students will have an opportunity to set-up and shoot each lighting scenario as the workshop progresses. Both on-location and in-studio shoots will be conducted. **Students must have:**

- Camera with charged battery
- Lens(es)
- Small strobe (hot shoe, ex: Nikon SB)
- Plenty of batteries
- Studio
- Lights
- Light stands
- Backdrop(s)
- Stool/chair

### ***Additional recommendations for gear (not required):***

- Multiple small strobes
- Light box for small strobe (ex: Glow HexaPop 24")
- Justine Clamp with hot shoe adaptor
- Light stand (ex: Manfrotto 107" Air Cushioned Stackables, 3-Section Riser, Pack of 3)
- Counter weight
- Lastolite Tripgrip Diffuser
- Lastolite Tripgrip Reflector
- Rosco Gel packs for small strobe
- Compact strobe (ex: Elinchrom ELB 1200)
- Compact strobe soft box (ex: Rotalux 29" Square)

- Rolling Case (ex: Think Tank Production Manager)

### ***Personal Projects***

Stacy Pearsall's personal project, the Veterans Portrait Project, began while rehabilitating from combat injuries sustained in Iraq. Spending hours in Veterans Administration waiting rooms surrounded by veterans from every generation and branch of service, Pearsall was compelled to honor and thank them in the only way she knew how - photography. With 6,000 veterans photographed and growing, Pearsall's personal project went from some-of-the-time to all-of-the-time. She will discuss how to identify your interests and turn them into personal projects, how to grow them into being profitable, and perhaps even into a niche business.

### ***Forensics Photography***

Stacy Pearsall will start the two-and-a-half-day workshop by providing a camera operations and fundamentals refresher course where she'll recap camera operations, modes, functions and exposures using digital cameras. Additionally, Pearsall will explain color and light theory, composition, background control and pre-visualization. The refresher portion of the course ensures all attendees are on the same knowledge level before moving to the next portion of the class - flash photography.

Pearsall will explain and demonstrate small strobe lighting techniques and when/where to use them. She'll talk about subject matter and strobe light application.

Finally, Pearsall will discuss the forensics photography. She'll provide step-by-step instructions on the discipline of forensics photography, discuss various techniques, explain how/when to use them and provide visual examples of each. On the last day, Pearsall will take the students through a battery of forensics scenarios, where they'll need to photograph each scene as if it were a real-life situation. Over the course of the two-and-a-half-days, students will have a combination of classroom instruction and practical application. **Students must have:**

- Camera with charged battery
- Lens(es)
- Small strobe (hot shoe, ex: Nikon SB)
- Tripod

### ***Additional recommendations for gear (not required):***

- ABFO #2 Scale: The ABFO #2 scale is the preferred scale for photographing injuries.
- Angle-Finder: An angle finder is used to help position a camera for photographing certain types of evidence at the crime scene.
- Flash Light: A flashlight not only helps see in dark areas, but is useful for previewing lighting during evidence photography.