Don't be afraid to be different.
Be afraid to be the same as everyone else.

Anonymous

T-Max 400, rated 400

Black + white film.

Black and white film is timeless. I love the look of it. But almost every single time I've shot black and white, I've always missed the "could have been" color image. I know...that sounds weird. I get it. I still have tons of rolls in my fridge and I'll shoot one every once in a while at a session, but I pretty much always wish I would have used color instead.

So for client sessions, I pretty much stick to all color stocks BUT end up converting a handful of images to black and white for my client galleries. I do this for two reasons: 1) my clients typically prefer color images and 2) I can get more out of my film scans by converting a "softer focus" image or moodier image (that just didn't work in color) to black and white. It works for me. And it's totally fine if it doesn't work for you.

If I HAD to shoot black and white - or if I'm just feeling fancy and want to see if I love it with clients, I would probably pick Acros 100 if I had enough light or either Tri-X 400. I like a little more contrast between the whites and blacks of my image and these two have the perfect balance.

T-Max 400, rated 400

Tri-X 400, rated 400

Acros 100
Available in 120 and 35mm format. LOVES light and is wonderful rated at ISO 100! Fine grain. Has a great balance (for me) between the highlights and shadows of an image.

Kodak Tri-X 400
Available in 120 and 35mm format. Is a finer grain black and white stock and is super versatile in various lighting conditions. Also has a great balance between the highlights and shadows of an image.

Kodak T-Max 400
Available in 120 and 35mm format. Moderate grain. Not great in low light situations and has even more grain when rated at a higher ISO and pushed in development, especially in 35mm format.

Ilford HP5 400
Available in 120 and 35mm format. Small, fine grain but apparent and visible in scans. Low contrast and softer blacks. Has a very wide exposure latitude and can be rated up to 3200 and pushed during development.

HP5, rated 1600, pushed 2 stops

T-Max 400, rated 400

Acros 100, rated 100