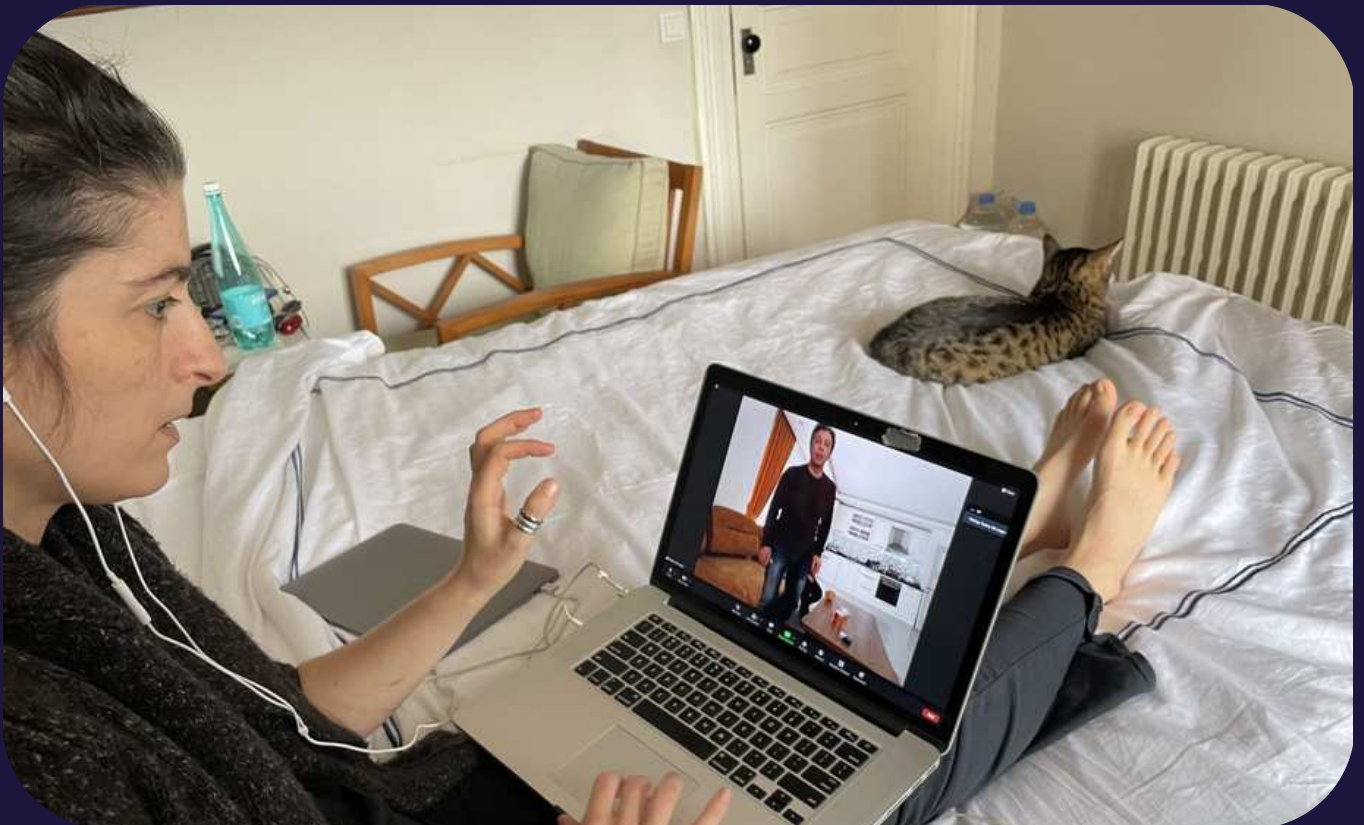




YOUR GUIDE TO

Online Photoshoots

with Tara Todras-Whitehill



TW VISUAL
STORYTELLING
AGENCY



WELCOME!

Let's start with the basics.

Why do online photoshoots work?

Most photographers ideally want to be face-to-face with their subject. However, taking the shots remotely has several major benefits:

- Gives privacy to the subject
- Saves money
- Solves scheduling/deadline conflicts

Our online shoots in print...



New York Times

"'We Have All Gone Into Debt': Soaring Bills Deepen Crisis for Turks"



New York Times

"Turkey Offers Uncertain Refuge for Iranians Fleeing Persecution"



Digital Action

"The Brussels bubble: Advocating for the rights of marginalized women and girls in EU tech policy"

Getting started is pretty simple.

1. Login to a video chat platform.
2. Connect to the participant's smartphone.
3. Ask the subject to share their screen.
4. Takeover the phone's camera app.
5. Start shooting.

While anyone can point and click, the true professionals rely heavily on being prepared. Check out the next page for our critical list of steps for stellar photos.





Checklist

Pre-photoshoot

- Set up an intro video call.**
Observe the participant's environment, and ascertain its strengths and challenges.
- Enlist an "assistant."**
Ask the participant if there's someone who could be at their location to help you take the photos.
- Conduct a test.**
Check the quality of these preliminary photos on an editing program (e.g. Adobe Photoshop).

Questions to ask the participant:

- What kind of smartphone is being used?
- Are the camera settings optimized?
- Has the phone's cloud drive been turned off?
- Do you have access to a camera shutter remote control?
- Does the "assistant" have any photography experience?

Live photoshoot reminders

- You're in control.**
It's okay to direct the participant to change their posture, move furniture, or turn off a light.
- This is not an action sequence.**
Steady, focused poses are key. They can be just as dramatic as an action shot, and are easier to direct.
- Watch out for moiré patterns.**
Ask participants not to wear thinly striped shirts that can create a distractingly wavy effect in photos.

Post-photoshoot checklist

- Get the RAW files.**
Ensure what's being sent are the full-sized, high resolution photos.
- Stay away from the trash can.**
Until it's confirmed that the pictures have been transferred onto your device, make sure the participant hasn't deleted anything.
- Select the strongest shots.**
Identify which photos should be presented to your audience.
- Get comfortable editing.**
A good photo isn't just taken, it's properly cropped, color corrected and adjusted for contrast.





HEY THERE, MY NAME IS

Tara Todras-Whitehill



I'm an award-winning photographer, who's passionate about changing the world through powerful visuals. My work has been featured on the front page of The New York Times more than 20 times. And my creative agencies have worked with the world's leading NGOs and news organizations for over a decade.

Share your projects in our Facebook Community.

Bounce ideas around in our Facebook community where we share news, tips and insights into the visual storytelling world.

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