# Transcript of Decoy, a portrait session with a twist

Text on black screen:

6 photographers, 1 man, 6 perspectives

Decoy … a portrait session with a twist

Warehouse with photography equipment and two men, one holding a camera.

Organiser:

You’re about to meet Michael. He lives fast as a self-made millionaire.

Photographer 1 shaking hands with actor Michael.

Michael:

You didn’t have to dress up. It’s alright.

Two men, one holding a camera.

Organiser:

You’re going to photograph Michael.

Michael shaking hands with photographer 2.

Organiser:

He’s actually saved someone’s life.

Photographer 3 on screen.

Organiser:

Michael is an ex inmate.

Michael shaking hands with photographer 3.

Photographer 4 on screen.

Organiser:

He’s a commercial fisherman.

Michael shaking hands with photographer 4.

Organiser:

Michael claims to be psychic.

Organiser standing with photographer 5.

Michael shaking hands with photographer 5.

Michael:

Pleased to meet you.

Organiser standing with photographer 6.

Organiser:

Michael’s a former alcoholic. Here’s your camera. I’d like you to flesh out the essence of who he is.

Michael shaking hands with photographer 6.

Photographer 6:

What would you like out of this? What would you like the photograph to say about you?

Michael sitting and photographer 5 standing.

Photographer 5:

Do you find that being a psychic impacts much in your day-to-day life?

Michael standing with photographer 6.

Photographer 6:

I can see this is emotional for you.

Michael:

Yeah.

Photographer 1 standing. Michael sitting in a chair.

Photographer 1:

I’d like, to like, get to know the person.

Michael:

You’ve only got ten minutes, right?

Michael sitting on a box, photographer 6 standing beside him.

Photographer 6:

I think you're a guy that's put yourself out there. You're not hiding anything.

Photographer 6 being interviewed.

My plan was to find out about whoever it was and to try and get that and what I learned from him is he's incredibly brave.

Photographer 3 being interviewed.

Photographer 3:

That was really intense.

Photographer 3 reaches to adjust Michael’s shirt. Michael pulls back defensively.

Photographer 3:

Pull this shirt out. Sorry.

Photographer 4 pointing to Michael to pose.

Photographer 4:

I wanted to see the nature of the person which then present a challenge. How do you portray him as a fisherman?

Michael relaxing in armchair with his feet up.

Michael:

That’s perfect.

Photographer 1:

He’s a self-made millionaire, and sort of, a little bit intimidating. I wasn’t going for a beautiful nice, perfectly lit portrait.

Photographer 5 standing before Michael.

Photographer:

I just want to try … bring out something of who you are. I think you just treat people like they’re everyday people like everybody is.

Michael and photographer 3 shaking hands.

Photographer 3:

Pleasure. Thank you so much.

All photographers walking into warehouse to view photographs hanging.

Photographer:

I hope I've got that guy's bravery on film.

Photographer:

So it was a very intimidating environment.

Photographer 2:

I like the empty chair next to it too.

Photographer:

This is a totally different person.

Photographer:

Yeah.

Michael enters room.

Michael:

Almost looks like six different people. So not everything I told you today was true.

Photographers look at each other and images. Each photographers’ portrait of Michael appears on screen.

I’m not a fisherman.

I am not an alcoholic.

The GFC hit me hard, but I've never been a millionaire.

I’ve never been in prison.

I am a Bondi lifesaver, but the story we talked about never did happen.

I’m not psychic. Can barely spell it.

Photographer 6:

Before I knew there were different characters, I thought, that’s really strange. These don’t look like portraits of the character I thought you were. You’ve always got your own preconceptions and you’ve got your ideas.

Photographer 3:

It pushed me into a position and a space I wouldn’t normally be in.

Photographer 6:

You have to dig a lot deeper. I think you’re a lot more creative to work out how you’re going to play things.

Text on screen:

A photograph is shaped more by the person behind the camera … than by what is in front of it.

Six different portraits of Michael.

Text on screen:

The Lab. Shifting creative thinking behind the lens. No one see it like you. Canon.