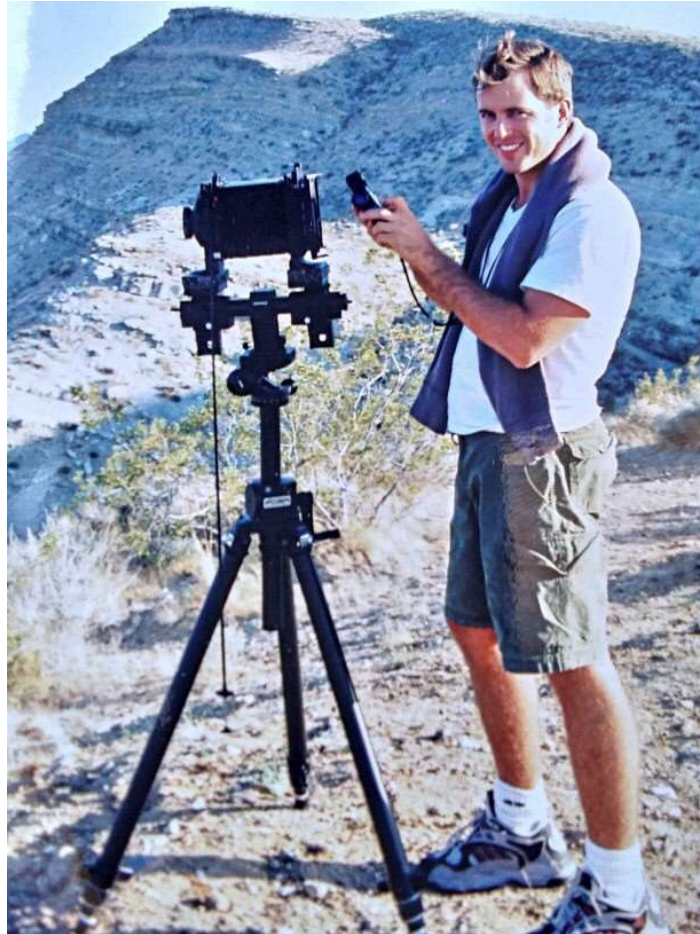


SPOTLIGHT – A Day in the Life of a Photographer

Tim Sabatino – Creator/Director/Producer at The Master Shot

Artist at Tim Sabatino Fine Art



Tim Sabatino is a California native and a US Navy Veteran of the Gulf War. Photography is his main occupation and has been for over 25 years. He specializes in advertising, fashion, beauty, and celebrity photography. Tim is also a director and producer of music videos and commercials and shoots commercial advertising. He has won Best Photography in the Valley (Los Angeles) awards several times in a row.

The number of hats he is worn in the entertainment industry is mind-boggling. Since 1989, Tim has not only worked as a Producer, Director, Cameraman and Director of Photography but he is also experienced success in Acting, Modeling and Stunts/Precision Driving, as well as behind the scenes with Lighting, Grip & Electric. He is most recently worked as a stunt driver on the new pilot for *Party of Five* (2020) and as an actor in the 2021 project *The Sleep*.

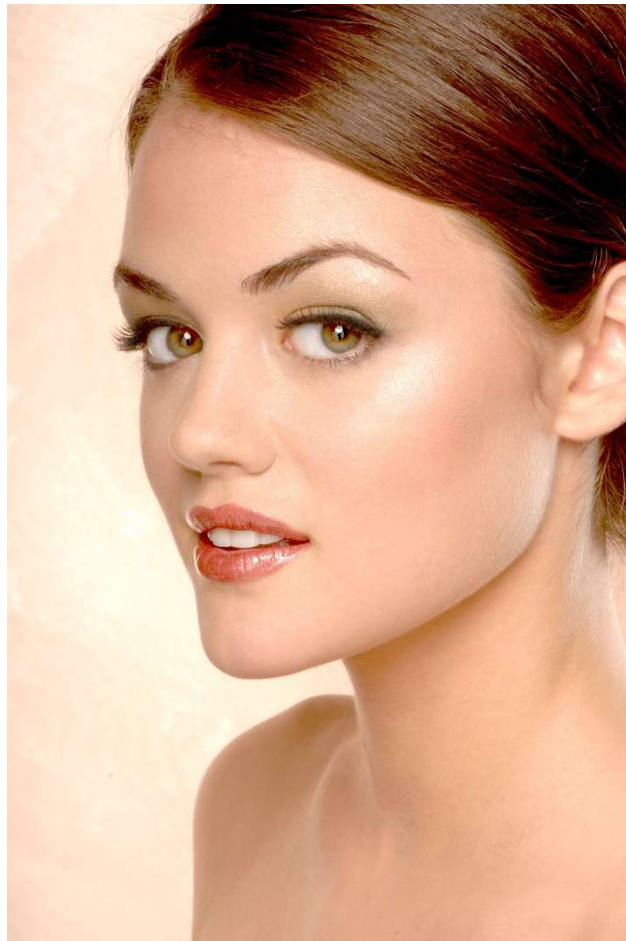
Tim has had gallery exhibitions of his oil paintings and photography at many galleries worldwide, including Mosaicos and Sensuelle, and won his first art contest at the young age of 5.

Tim grew up as an artist and portrait painter. When he was sixteen, he took his first photography class and learned basic black and white photography using a dark room with the initial interest to be able to capture subjects he could then paint.

After high school, he had joined the Navy and then planned go to college on the [GI Bill](#). At the time, he was interested in architecture and fine art. Photography became a hobby, and he got a job at a camera store to help with college costs. He worked there for seven years and in that time, developed a great love and appreciation for the visual medium.

Over the course of those seven years, Tim took advantage of a great perk of working at a camera store: he was able to take home and use any equipment in the store on the weekends. This gave him a hands-on learning experience for free! He was also able to buy equipment, lighting, tripods, lenses, and cameras with his employee discount. A bonus was meeting and working with famous photographers that were store customers Greg Gorman, Jim Marshall, Annie Liebowitz, Steven Meisel, and many more.

He learned that photographers find something to specialize in and then become an expert in that. It could be fashion, beauty, food, editorial, fine art, portrait, products, or real estate photography.



For Tim, that specialty was fashion and celebrities, including actor [headshots](#). At thirty years old, he took the leap and became a full-time self-employed photographer. He was responsible for everything: marketing and advertising his photography services, finding, and selling new clients, scouting locations, casting others when needed, post-production editing and retouching, and billing. Tim has found that utilizing social media is a must. He posts a lot of his work on Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube and does paid advertising too.

Tim's mom had an unexpected influence on his eventual career in fashion photography. He grew up watching her as a hair stylist. He chatted with her clientele and read and studied pictures in the salon's fashion magazines. Los Angeles is a natural place for Tim because it provides the clientele, fashion, and actors he loves to photograph.

As far as training, it is vital, Tim says. As with other creative and technical fields, things are always changing with technology and it is hard to keep up without some formal training. Although most photographers are independent (self-employed), it is particularly important to keep up on education and how things are changing in the industry.

- What Tim has learned from his career in photography:
 - Specialties and expertise can lead to different types of jobs, so get involved and branch out! If you learn to produce, scout locations, or cast shoots, you can open the doors to other creative work in the same field.
- Tim's advice for anyone interesting in pursuing a career in photography:
 - If you are new to photography, work at a camera store if you can and always set aside a portion of your income for equipment.
 - Know that your portfolio is your resume, so build it very specifically. Take free jobs and continually find ways to improve the quality of your pictures. Always strive for more, better, and bigger.
 - Understand that because photographers are artists, they can get attacked. Creative personalities often are. Keep working, never stop and never, ever give up. Find a way to rise above to flourish and prosper in your work.
 - Find what you want to specialize in and keep practicing until you are the best.
 - If you want to shoot portraits or headshots, try to get to celebrities because those pictures will be a great way to advertise your work.

Tim has photographed celebrities, fashion models, musicians, dancers and even The Dalai Lama. He has truly achieved outstanding success in photography and his other endeavors. He is a humanitarian and volunteer and regularly contributes to several different human rights charities. Tim is a proud father of his beautiful daughter Violette Sabatino. Find him on social media, visit his website at www.timsabatino.com and find him on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/user/ThetaCreato/videos>

Thank you, Tim!

