



This is STROBIST[®] photo

YOUR SETUP GUIDE TO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY

DUSTIN DIAZ

THIS IS
STROBIST[®]
info

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DUSTIN DIAZ

 PEACHPIT PRESS

**THIS IS STROBIST® INFO:
YOUR SETUP GUIDE TO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY**

Dustin Diaz

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To Erin

She's pretty cool.

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INTRODUCTION

I swore on my mother's grave that I would never write a book again. With that said, Mom, I am terribly sorry for even insinuating that you weren't alive. I'll send you a copy once this is over, and I'll await that embarrassing phone call where you're all like, "Mijo, what was that all about?" And I'll be like, "Oh, yeah. Sorry about that. I didn't have a clever opener so I just went with it."

Nevertheless, this wasn't yet another painful experience to complete. Luckily, I had an amazing wife (Erin), a patient editor (Ted Waitt), and a plethora of friends (an excuse to mention JR and Ashley) who helped push me along (or took me away) to complete this book. Pro tip for first-time authors: Don't write a book immediately after having a first child and switching jobs. Just don't.

To the point—you see, this was all a big misunderstanding with one thing leading to another. And it all happened like this.

BACKSTORY

In 2006, I bought my first SLR camera, a Nikon D40. I took a lot of terrible photos. Like...just badly terrible. In 2007, I added more to that terrible collection. In 2008, I decided I liked taking terrible photos so I bought more lenses, figuring that would improve my ability to be a terrible photographer. Unfortunately, near the end of the year I caught a bug that made me care about taking good pictures. Then finally came Christmas 2008, when I decided to do one of those cheesy 365 "photo a day" projects for 2009. Long story short, it became stupidly successful. I wrote some things about lighting and drew some diagrams. I learned a lot of things, many hardships were had, and I am now a better person. Years later, I wrote a book about it. The End.

ON STROBIST® INFO

Just to be up front, Strobist® is part of the David Hobby Hair Club for Men brand. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend you take a visit back to the old town and know your flash roots. Visit strobist.com for more information.

But seriously, if it weren't for David pouring in countless hours of blood, sweat, and beers, I can honestly say I'd be doing something else other than pretending to act like I'm a writer. David Hobby is *the* Godfather of Flash Photography.

THIS BOOK

Considering this book made it into your hands one way or another, it's highly unlikely you'll ever read this introduction thing. For example, chicken butt banana brains! Am I right? Given that this book is filled with full-page, high-resolution beautiful photos (just sayin') accompanied by detailed setup shots, there seems very little reason to bother reading about gear, light travel, and the inverse square law. And to your defense, I'm right there with you! Photos speak a thousand words! But for what it's worth, in the spirit of terseness and not wasting your time, you'll be a thousand times better off reading the accompanying text chapters before trying to decipher the photo diagrams. So if you're learning about flash photography for the first time via this book, first off, good choice, and secondly, don't skim out on the words. Everything from aperture settings to softboxes to rock music is covered, helping you streamline your way to becoming a professional flash diagram decoder and allowing you to recreate any image shown in this book. So just read the text, for you and for me. Together. We can make a difference. Now queue the happy music and read on.

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three! This Is Strobist® Info

You've now arrived at the part of the book where you can skip to any page you want. With that in mind, use each photo as a guide to provide means to your own ends. So get out there, take some pictures, rock the lights and...*oh my gosh I sound like every other photographer giving advice!*

Oh well, I tried. Good luck, and may the schwartz be with you.

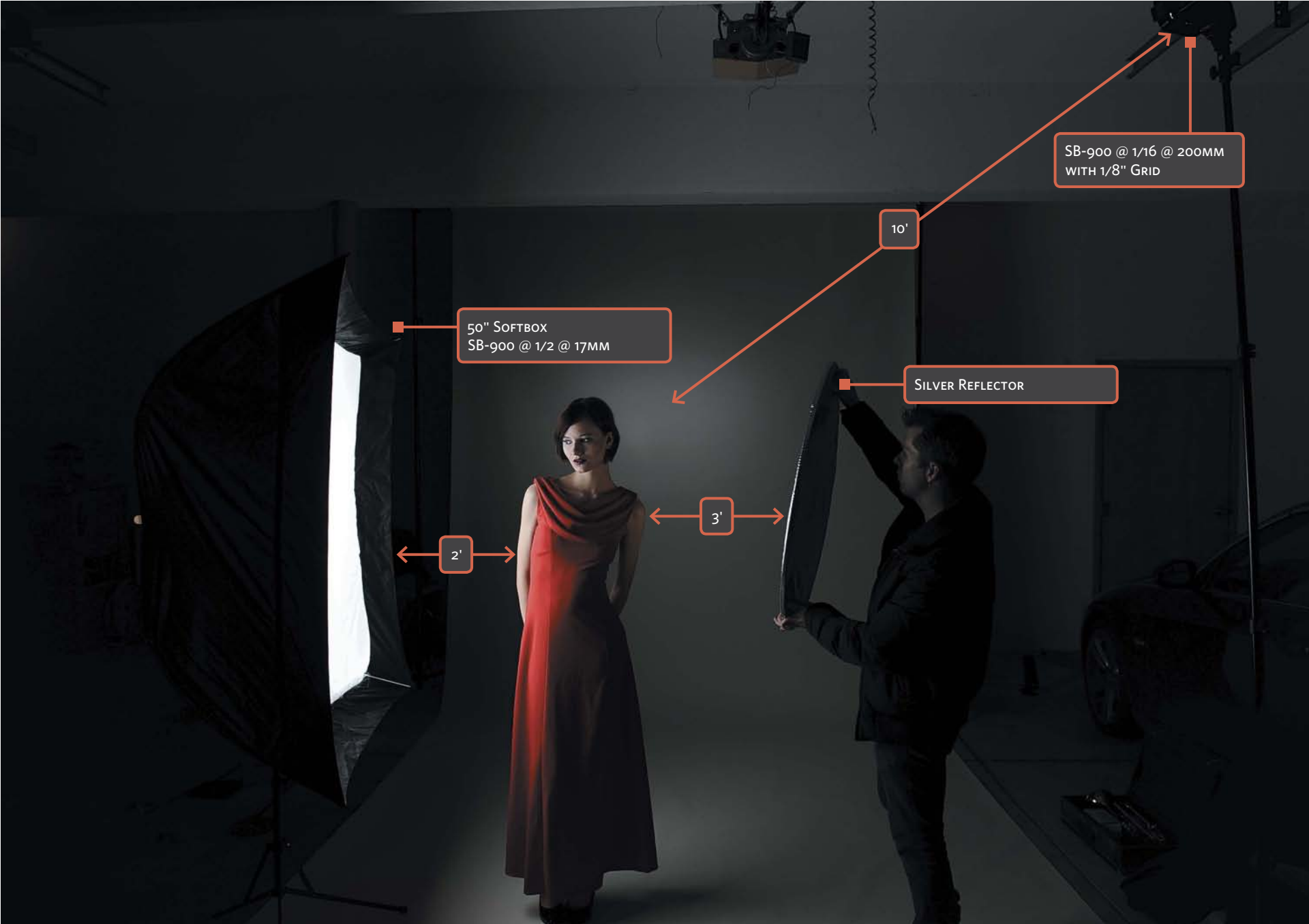




50" SOFTBOX
3 x SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

*Note the dust spots by the
San Francisco Bay Bridge.
Lens in dire need of a
cleaning.*





50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

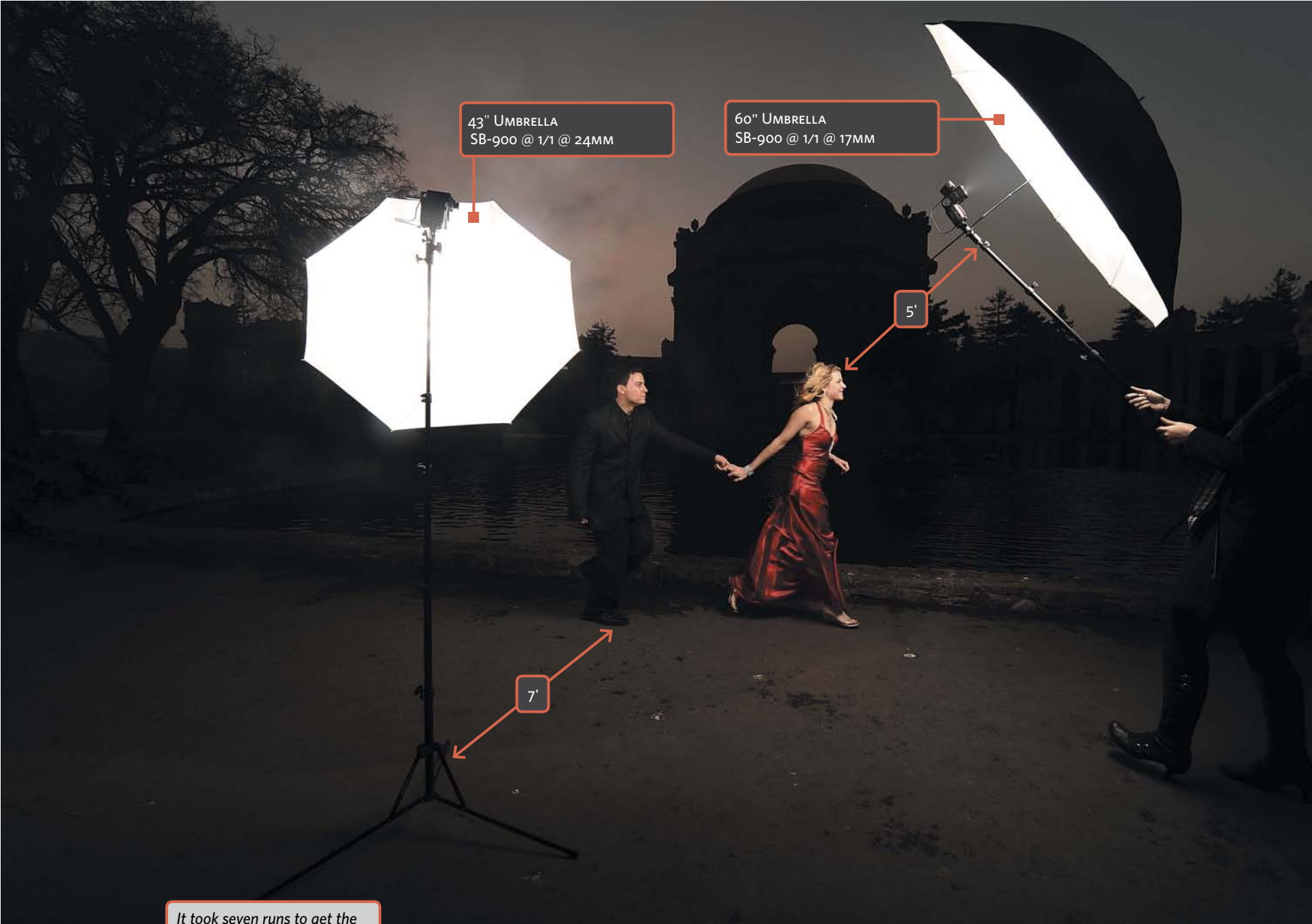
10'

SILVER REFLECTOR

3'

2'





43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 24MM

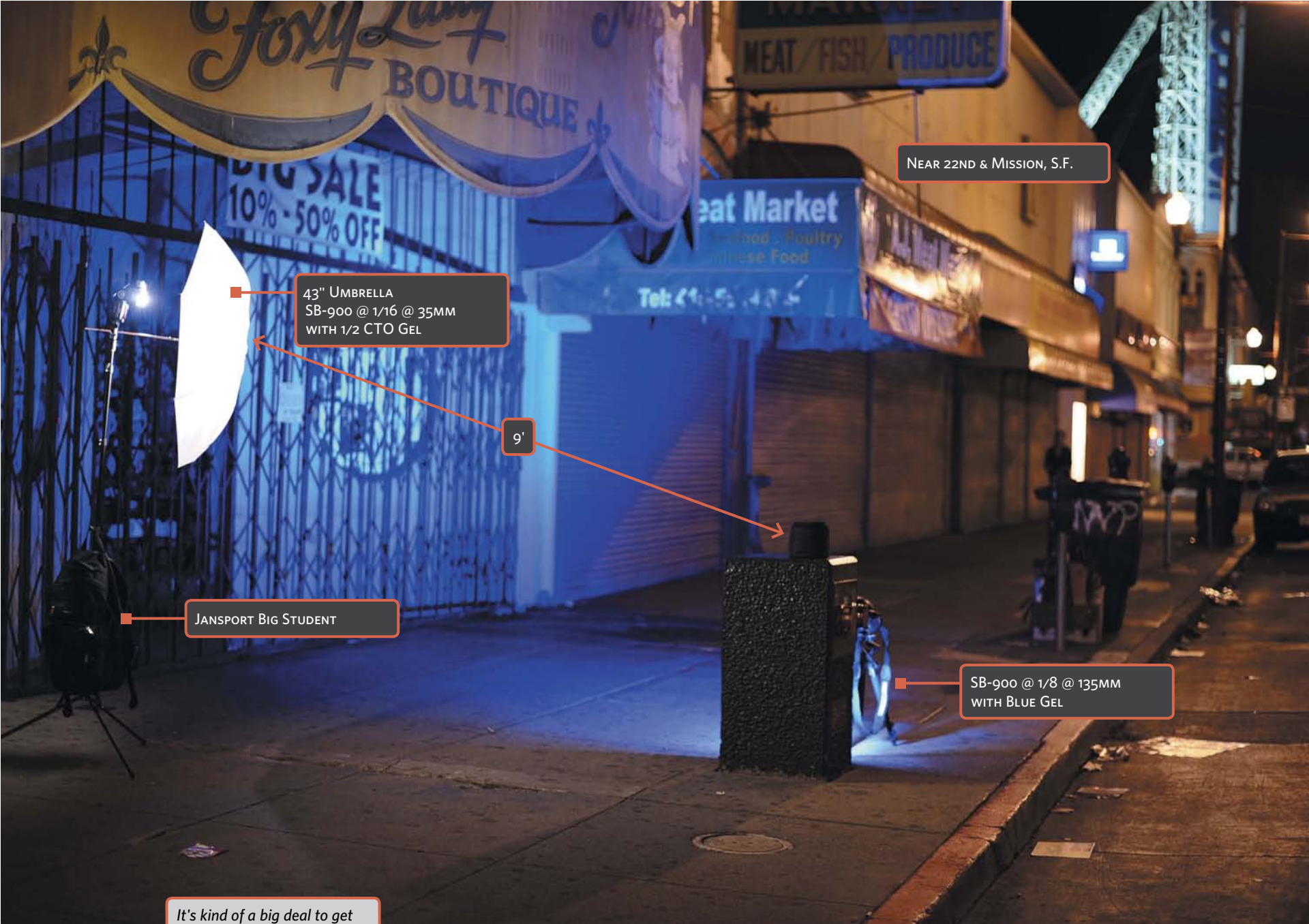
60" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

5'

7'

It took seven runs to get the final shot.





NEAR 22ND & MISSION, S.F.

43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 35MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

9'

JANSPORT BIG STUDENT

SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 135MM
WITH BLUE GEL

*It's kind of a big deal to get
50% off at Foxy Lady's.*





45" COLLAPSED UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

4'

60" COLLAPSED UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

3'





SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM

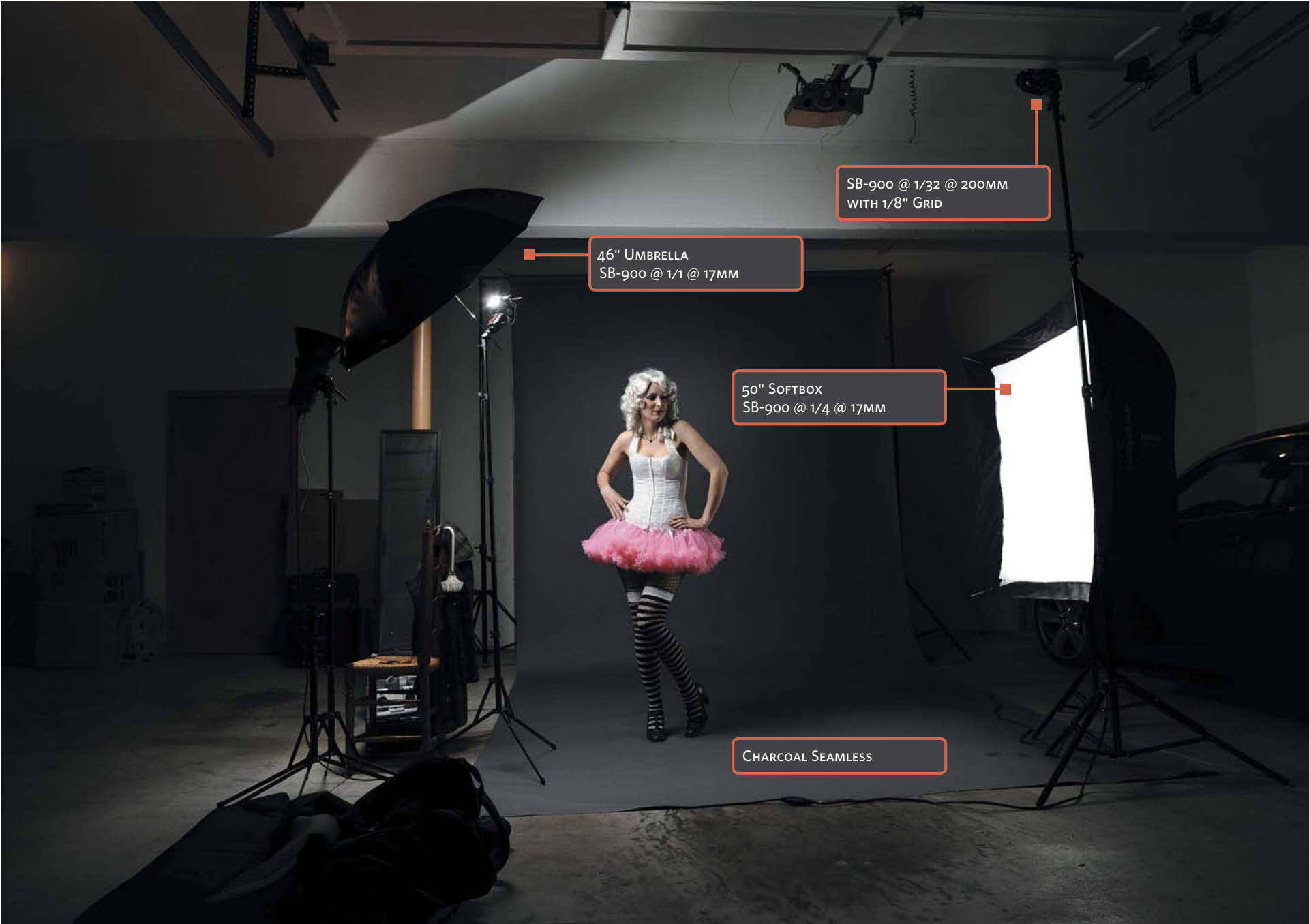
60" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

10'

4'

Husbands make great light stands.





SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

46" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

CHARCOAL SEAMLESS





SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 200MM

28" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM
WITH BLUE GEL

SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

42" SILVER REFLECTOR

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM
WITH 1/8 CTG GEL

CHARCOAL SEAMLESS

*Use a Windex bottle filled
with water for shining up hair.*





50" SOFTBOX
2 x SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

2'

28" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

3'

Apparently, the theme of the night was "twins."





SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM
BOUNCED TO CEILING

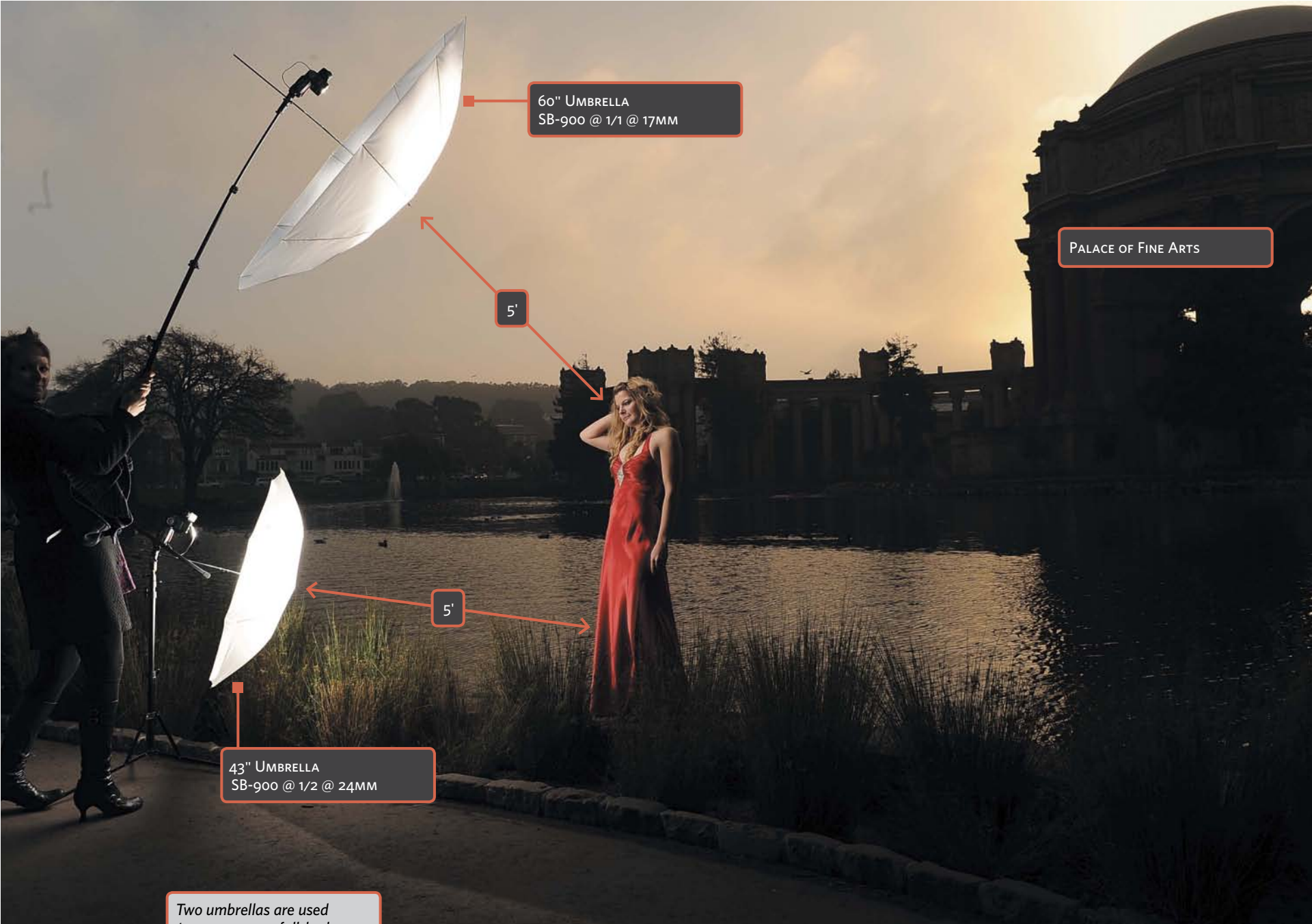
43" REFLECTIVE UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 24MM

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

28" GOLD REFLECTOR

Happy bride.





60" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

PALACE OF FINE ARTS

5'

5'

43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 24MM

*Two umbrellas are used
to ensure even, full-body
coverage.*





WHITE SEAMLESS

28" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
(BEHIND SOFTBOX)

42" SILVER REFLECTOR

The reflector adds just the right amount of fill light.





28" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

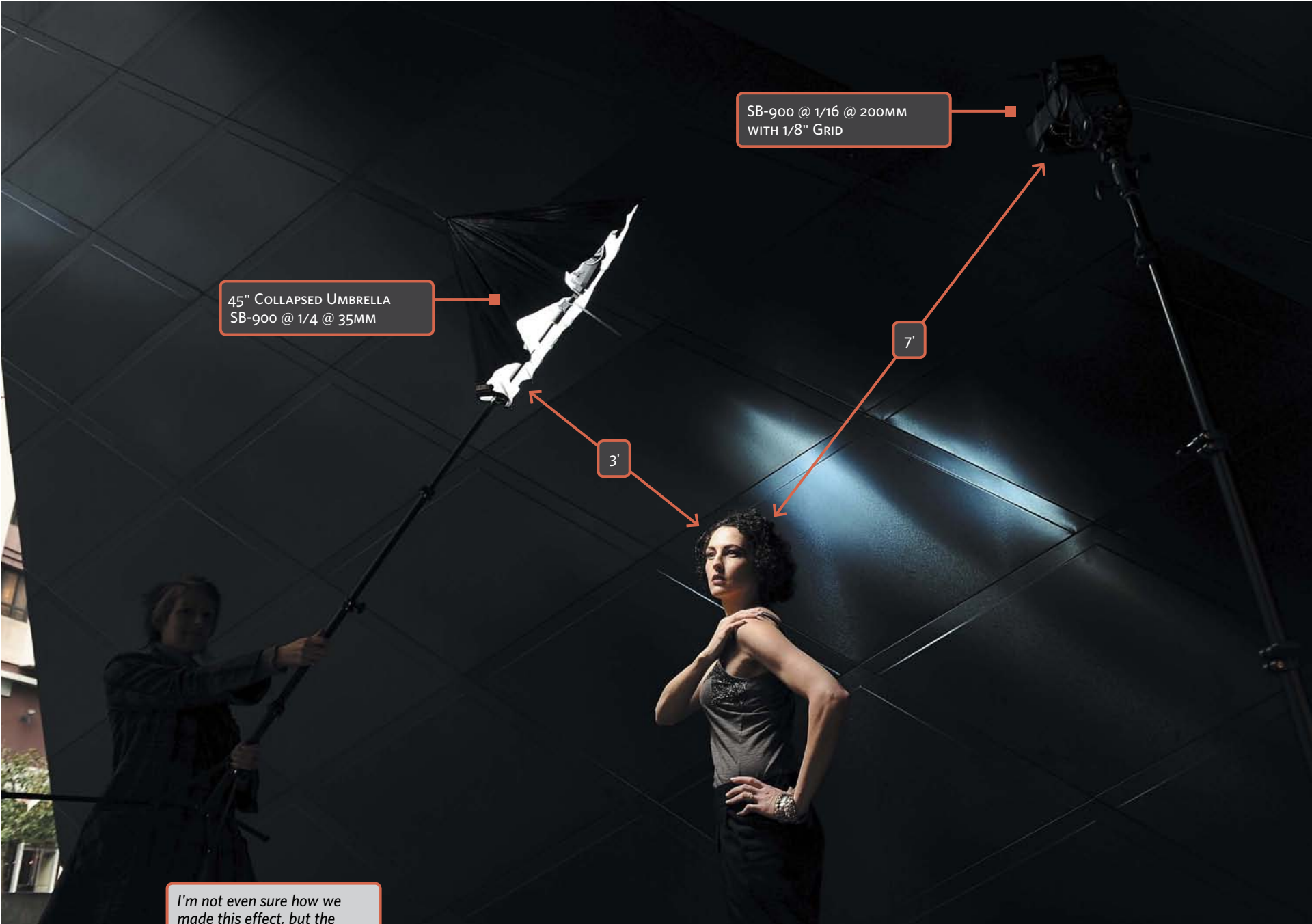
580EX II @ 1/32 @ 24MM

7'

CAMERA 25'

I carried all this stuff!
You can, too.





SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

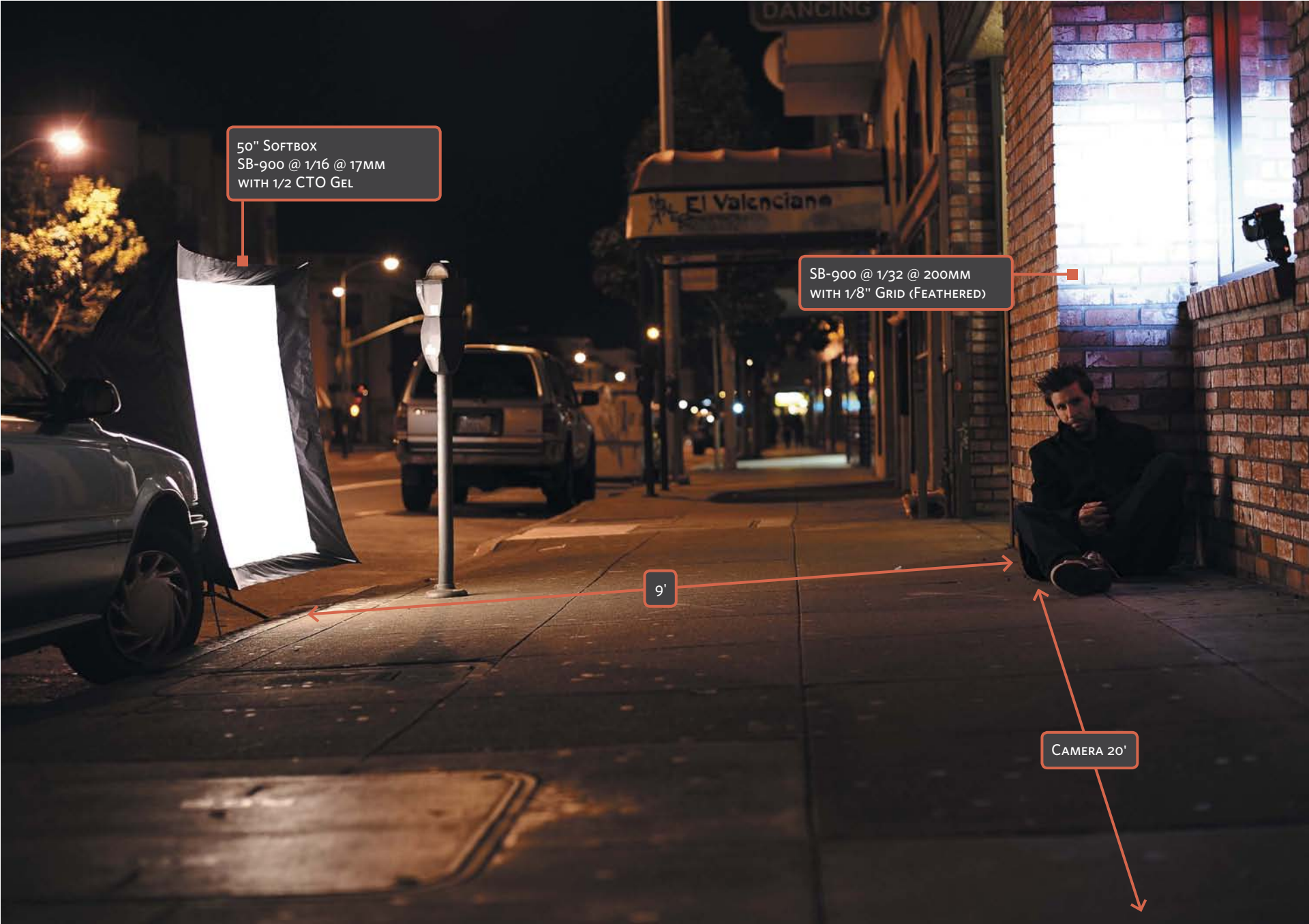
45" COLLAPSED UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 35MM

7'

3'

*I'm not even sure how we
made this effect, but the
building made a neat
reflection and we went with it.*





50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID (FEATHERED)

9'

CAMERA 20'





46" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

CHEAP ENTERTAINMENT

CHARCOAL SEAMLESS






SB-900 @ 1/64 @ 200MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

15'

*Note the unimpressed
security guard.*





A person is sitting on a concrete ledge at dusk. To their left is a large, rectangular softbox light source, which is illuminated from within, creating a bright white glow. The background shows a dark sky with orange and yellow clouds. The person is wearing a dark t-shirt and pants. A red line points from the text box to the softbox.

50" SOFTBOX
2 x SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

5'

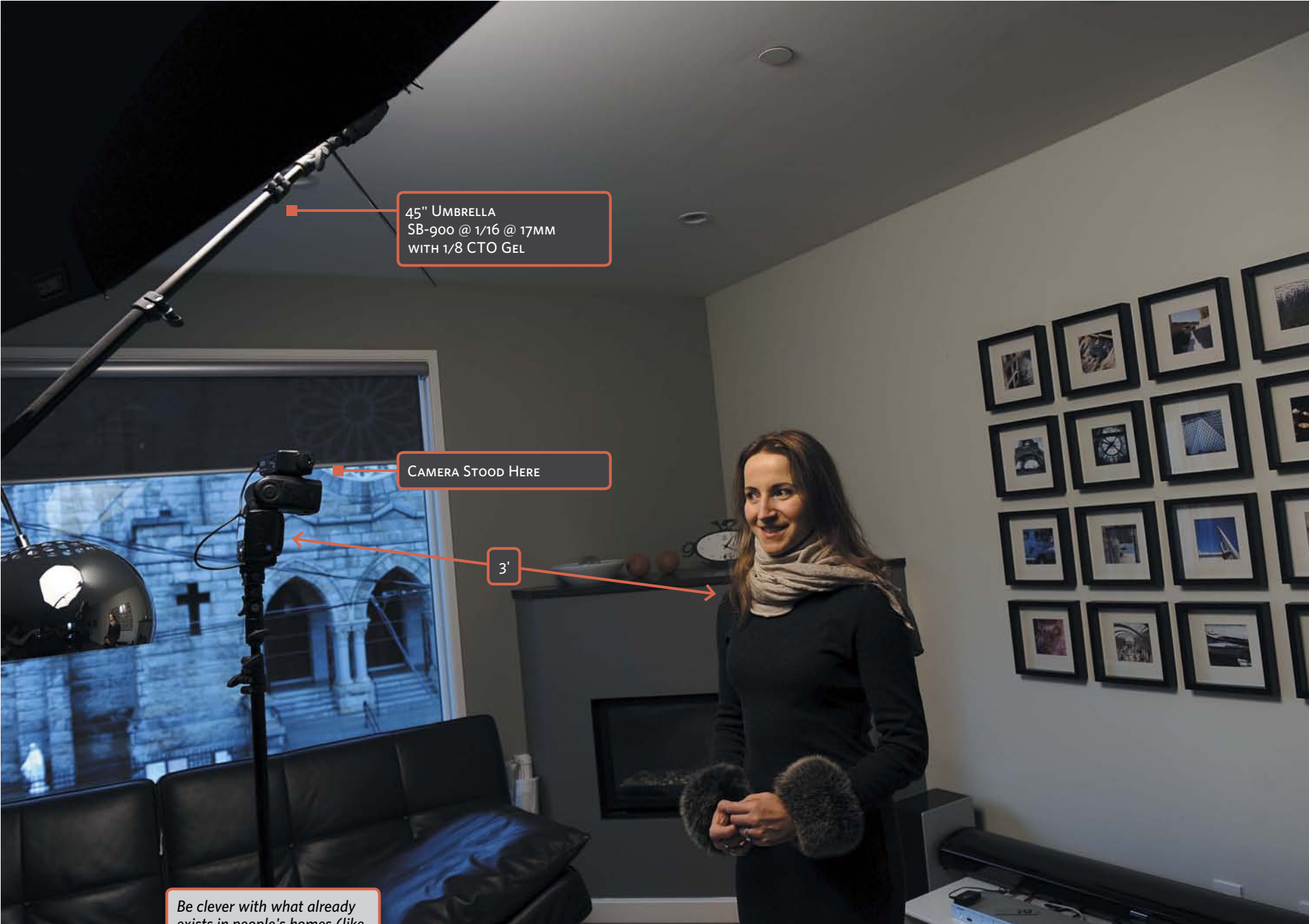
Beware of the Mary Poppins effect these softboxes have, and take extra precaution when shooting alone.





60" COLLAPSED UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM





45" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 17MM
WITH 1/8 CTO GEL

CAMERA STOOD HERE

3'

*Be clever with what already
exists in people's homes (like
this photo collage).*





50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

SB-900 @ 1/64 @ 200MM

7'

20'

This place gets crowded in the mornings.





43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 14MM
WITH DIFFUSER

1'

WHITE REFLECTIVE PAPER

There was an attempt to shoot some fruit, but that idea was abandoned in favor of the gnome.





*Never be afraid to leave
Speedlights in the shot. They
make cool starburst effects.*

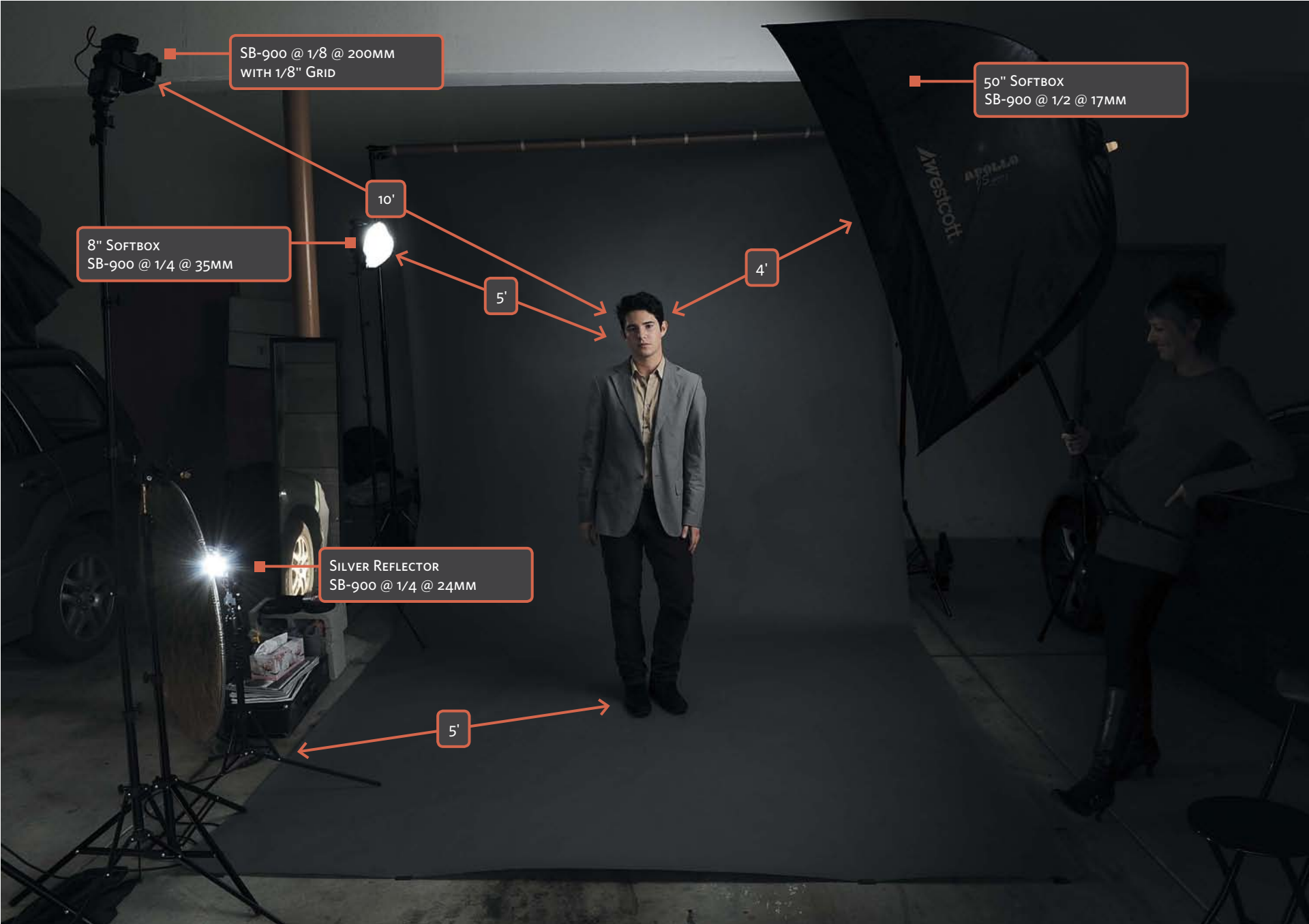




46" COLLAPSED UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 24MM

3'





SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

8" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 35MM

SILVER REFLECTOR
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 24MM





46" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 24MM

GOLD REFLECTOR

3'

Red brick walls are overrated.









SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

42" SILVER REFLECTOR
SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 35MM

CHARCOAL SEAMLESS

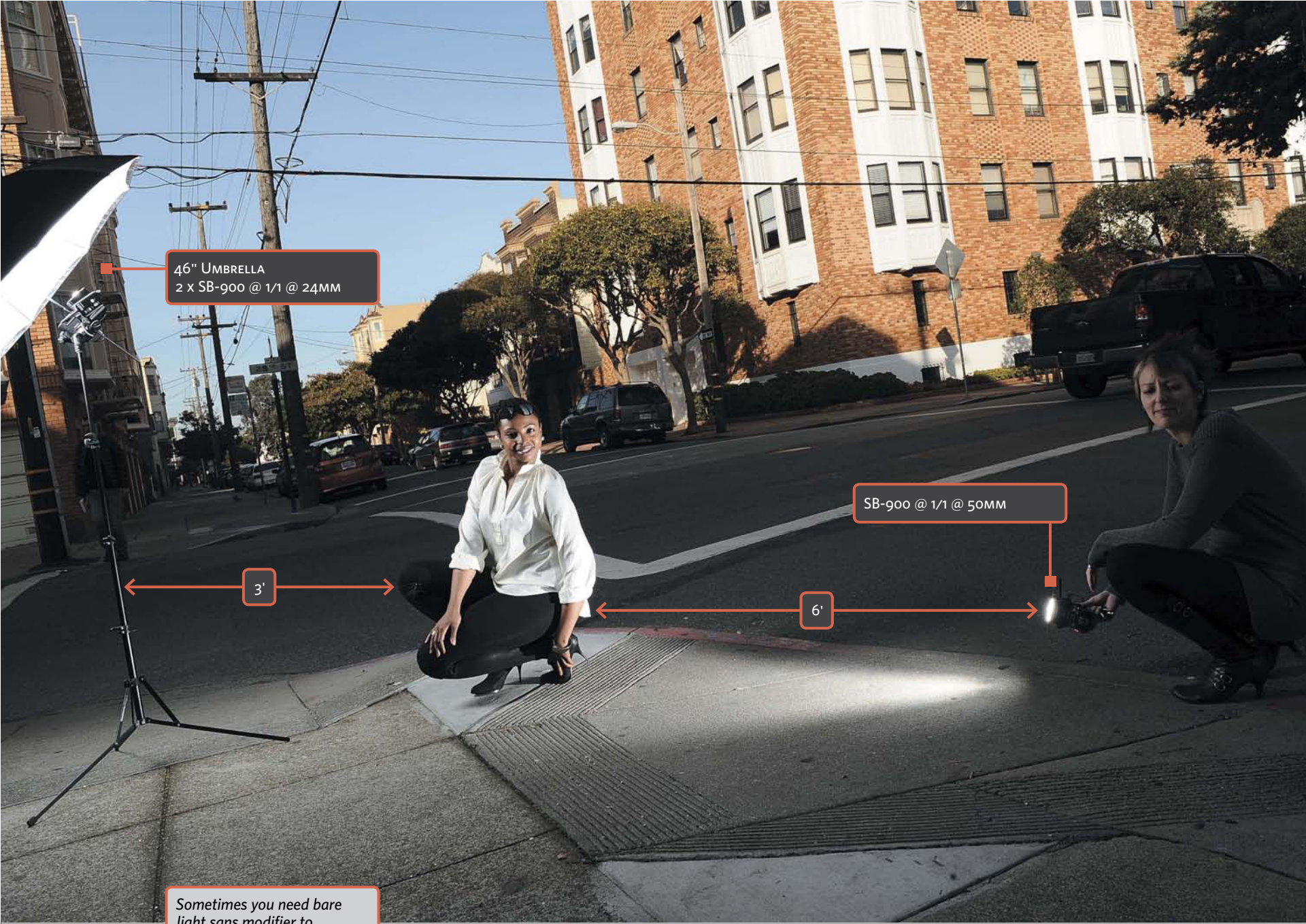




45" CONVERTIBLE UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 18MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

Interested bicyclist.





46" UMBRELLA
2 x SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 24MM

3'

SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 50MM

6'

*Sometimes you need bare
light sans modifier to
overpower the sun.*

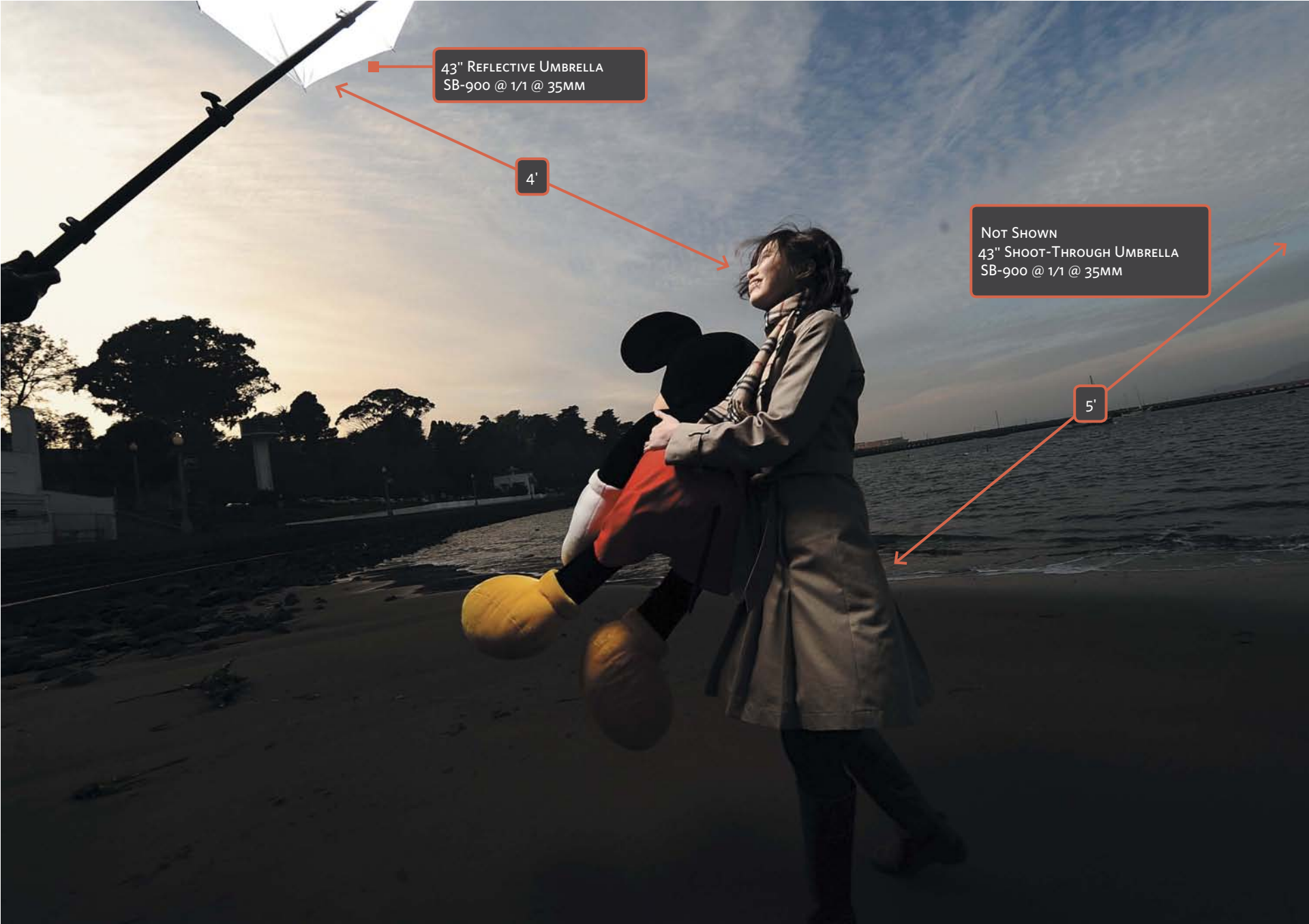




43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 24MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

8'



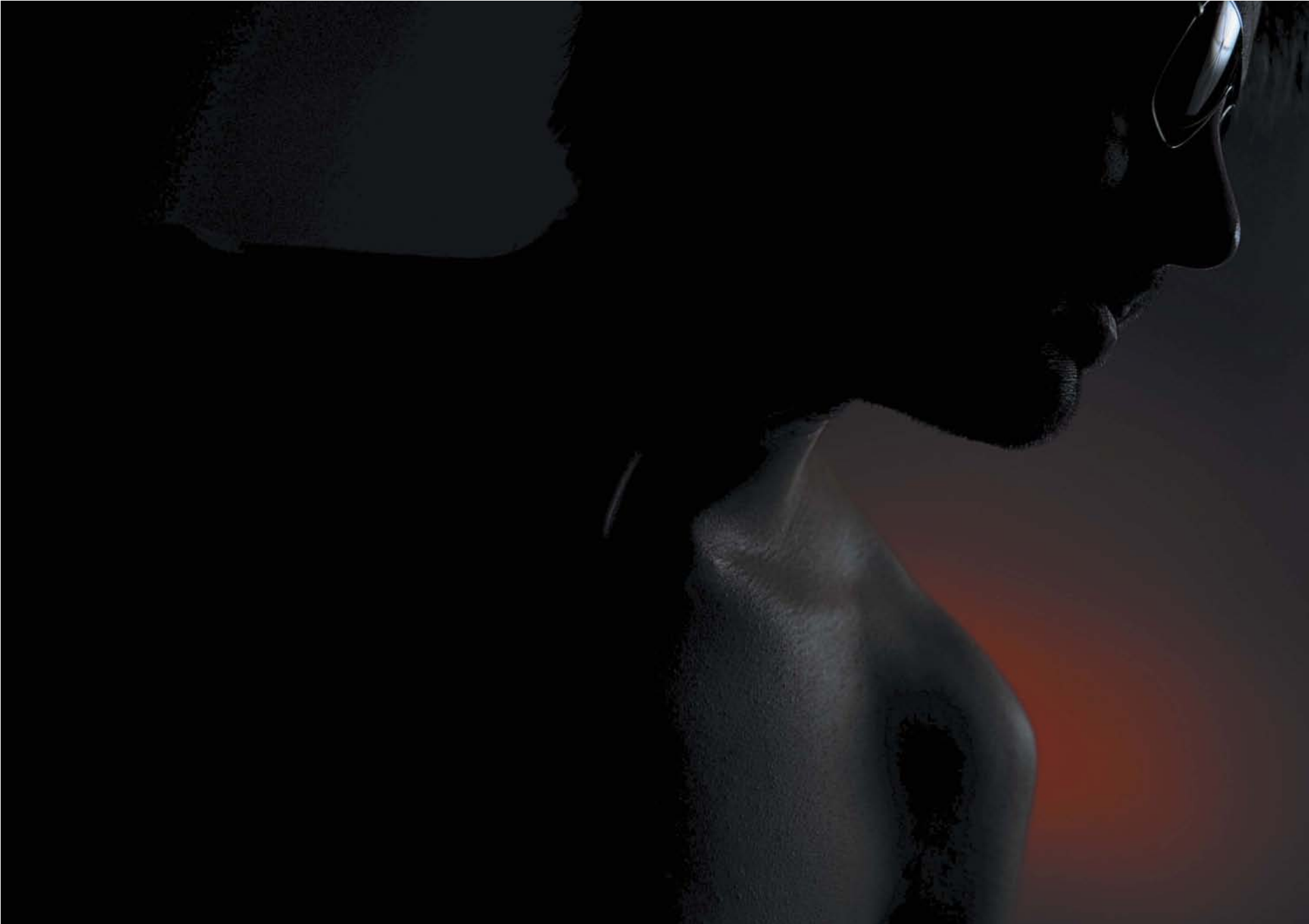


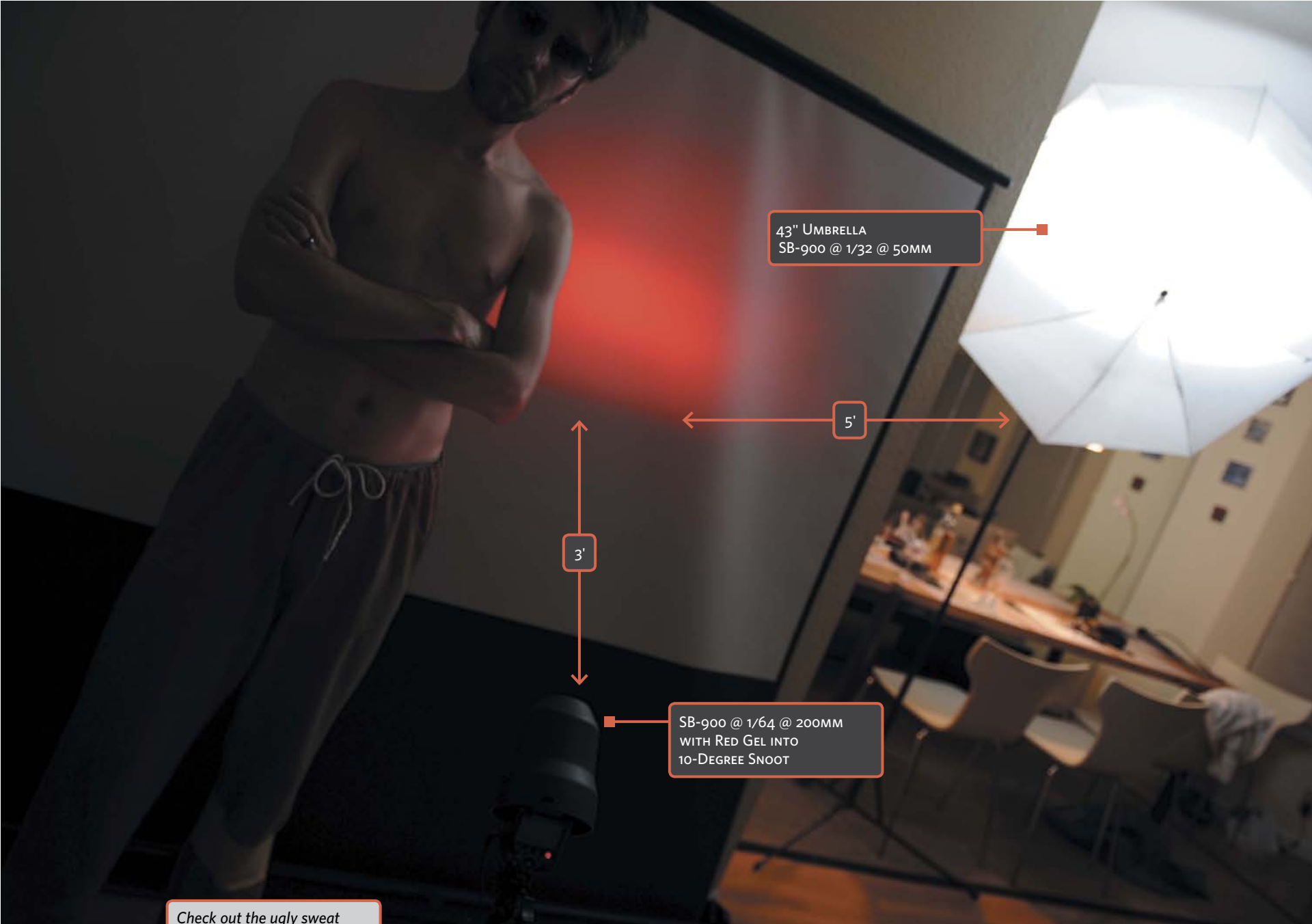
43" REFLECTIVE UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 35MM

4'

NOT SHOWN
43" SHOOT-THROUGH UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 35MM

5'





43" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 50MM

5'

3'

SB-900 @ 1/64 @ 200MM
WITH RED GEL INTO
10-DEGREE SNOOT

*Check out the ugly sweat
pants from 1996.*





50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

8" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 105MM

6'

2'

SILVER REFLECTOR
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 35MM

4'





45" CONVERTIBLE UMBRELLA

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 20MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

12'

ERIN (HUMAN LIGHT STAND)

ROHE FAMILY

TRAIN TRACKS

They stood vertical for the actual shot. All settings remained the same.



60" UMBRELLA (NOT SHOWN)
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

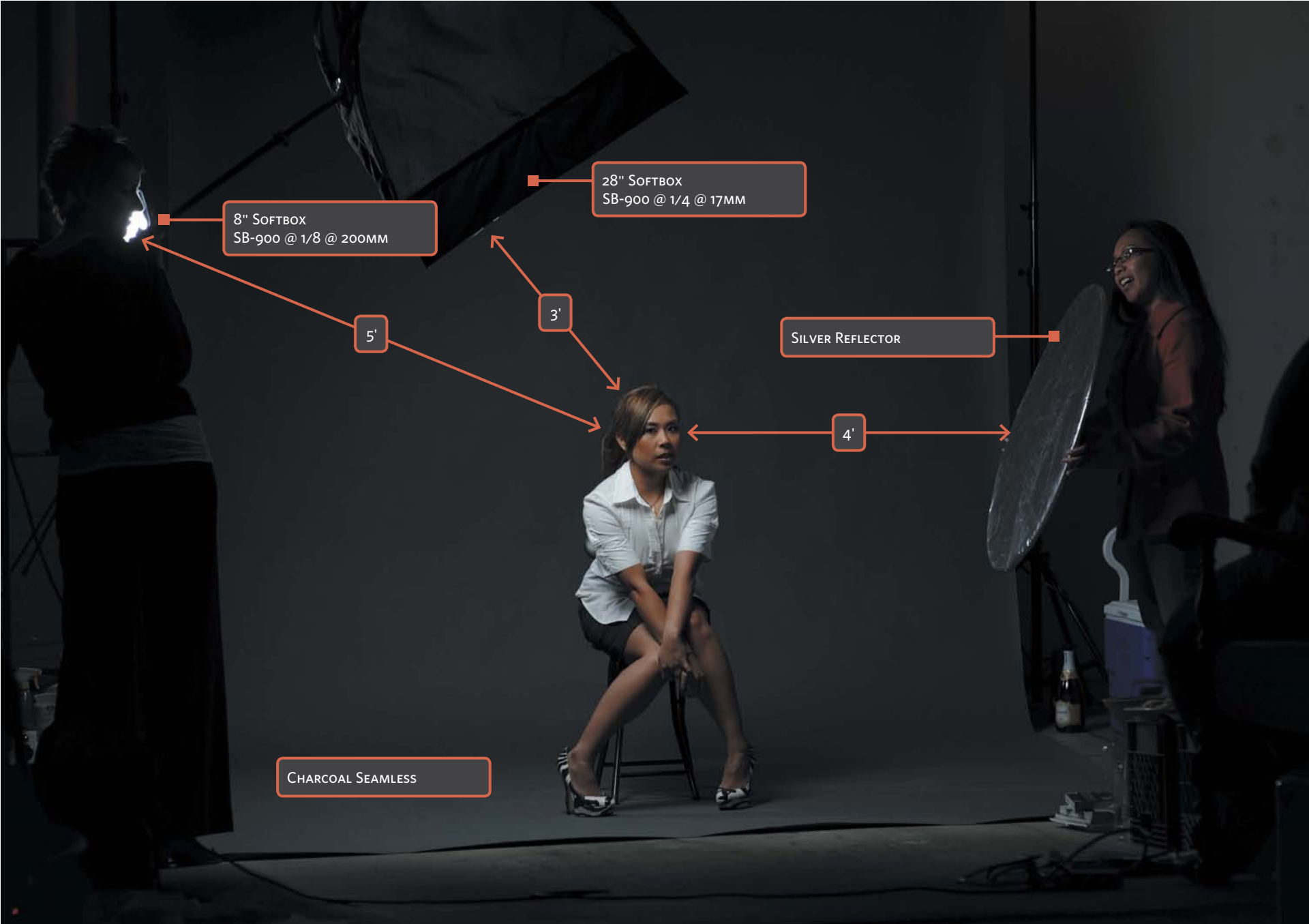
4'

SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 200MM

SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 200MM

If the light stands are masked well, why not leave the lights in the final shot?







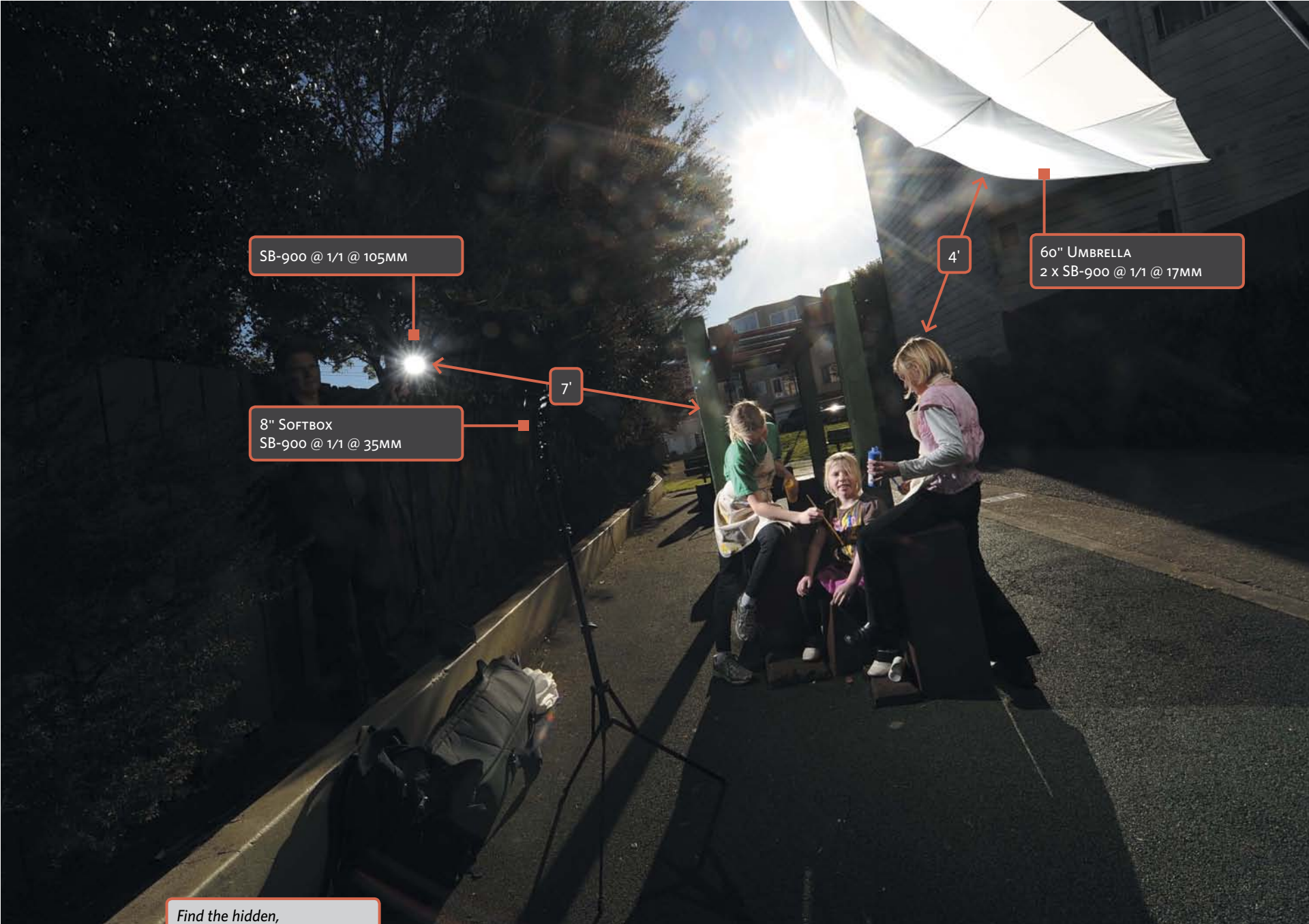


50" SOFTBOX
2 x SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 200MM

Found a shopping cart.





SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 105MM

8" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 35MM

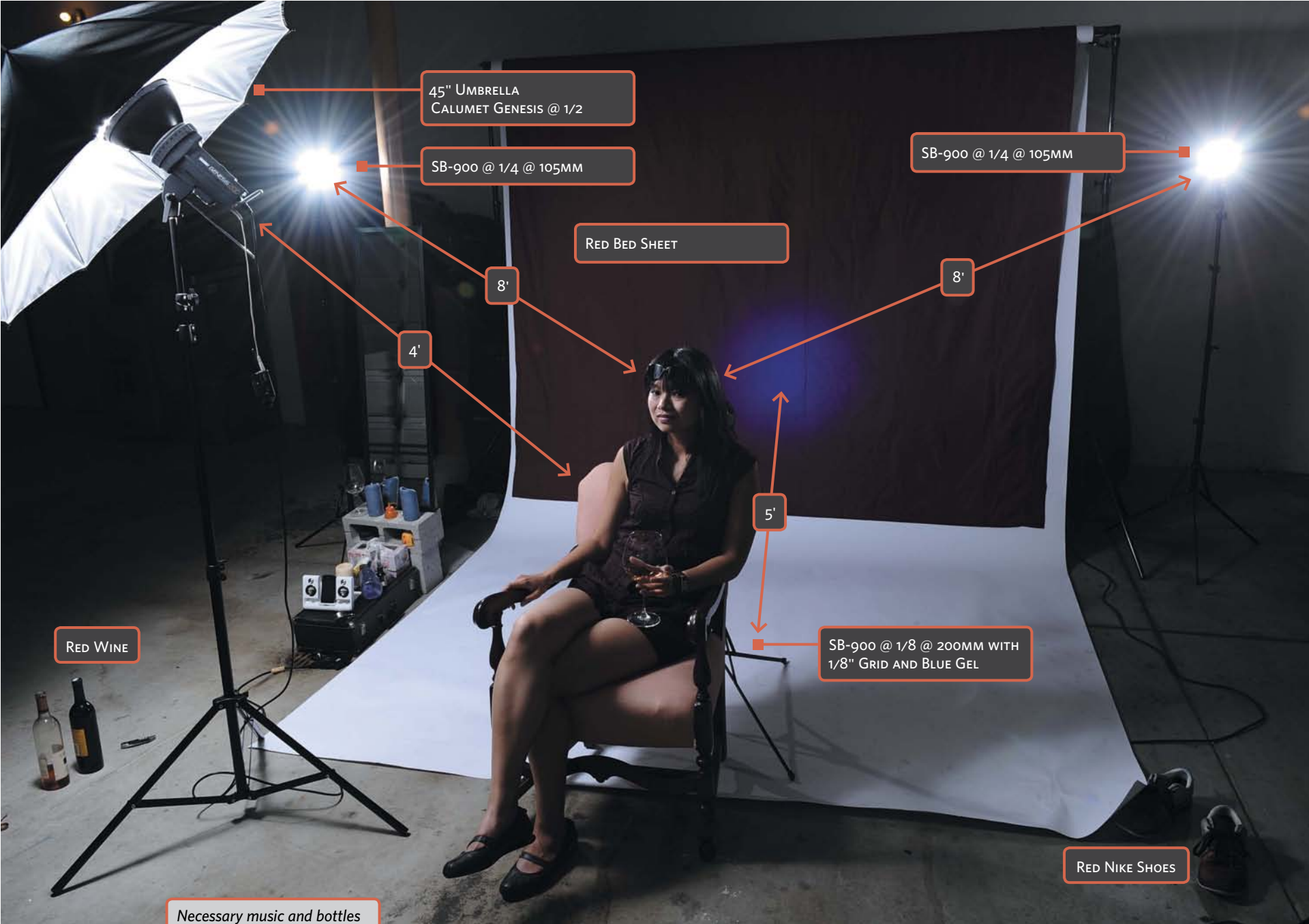
7'

4'

60" UMBRELLA
2 x SB-900 @ 1/1 @ 17MM

*Find the hidden,
watching dad.*





45" UMBRELLA
CALUMET GENESIS @ 1/2

SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 105MM

SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 105MM

RED BED SHEET

8'

8'

4'

5'

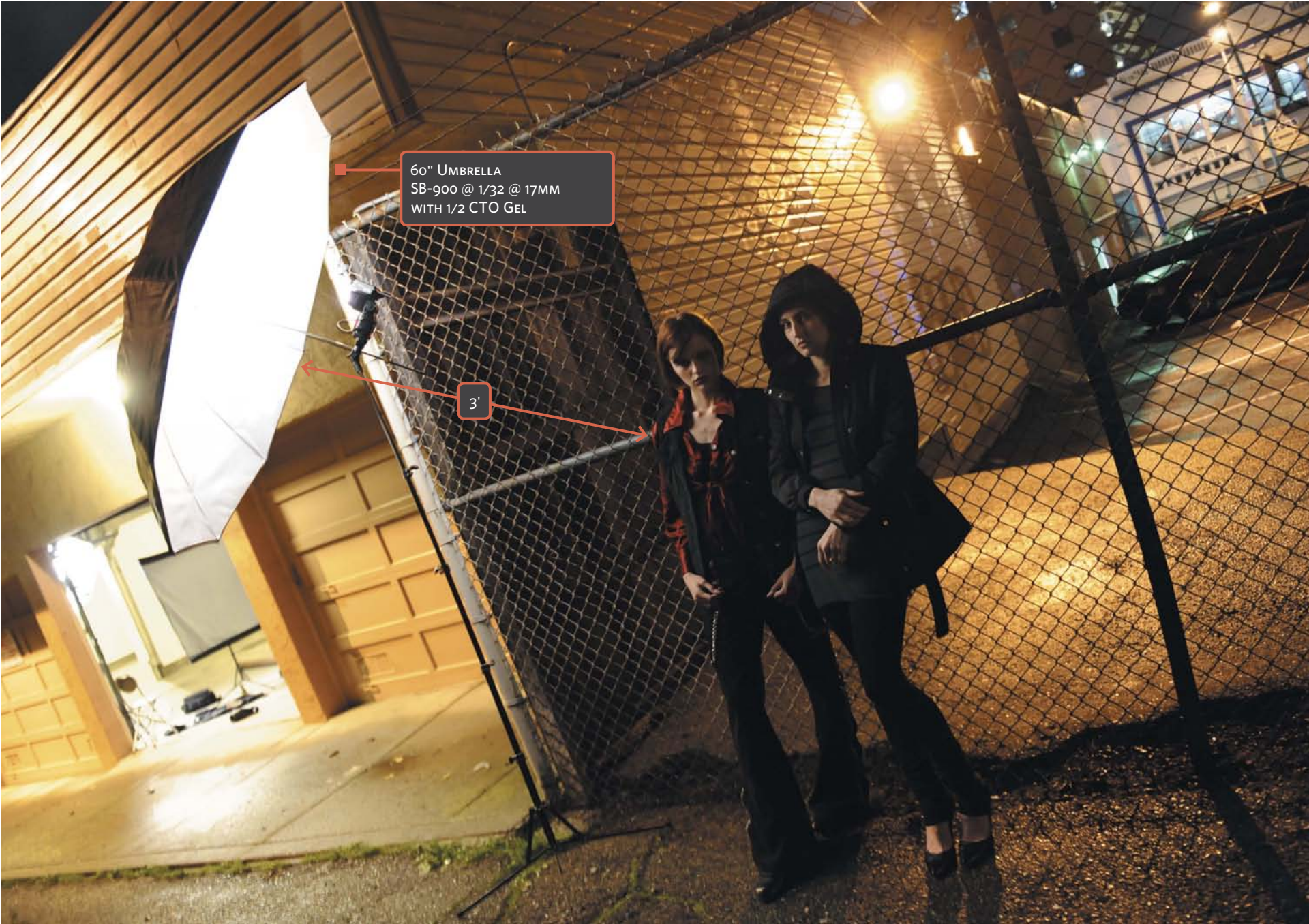
RED WINE

SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 200MM WITH
1/8" GRID AND BLUE GEL

RED NIKE SHOES

Necessary music and bottles
of wine.

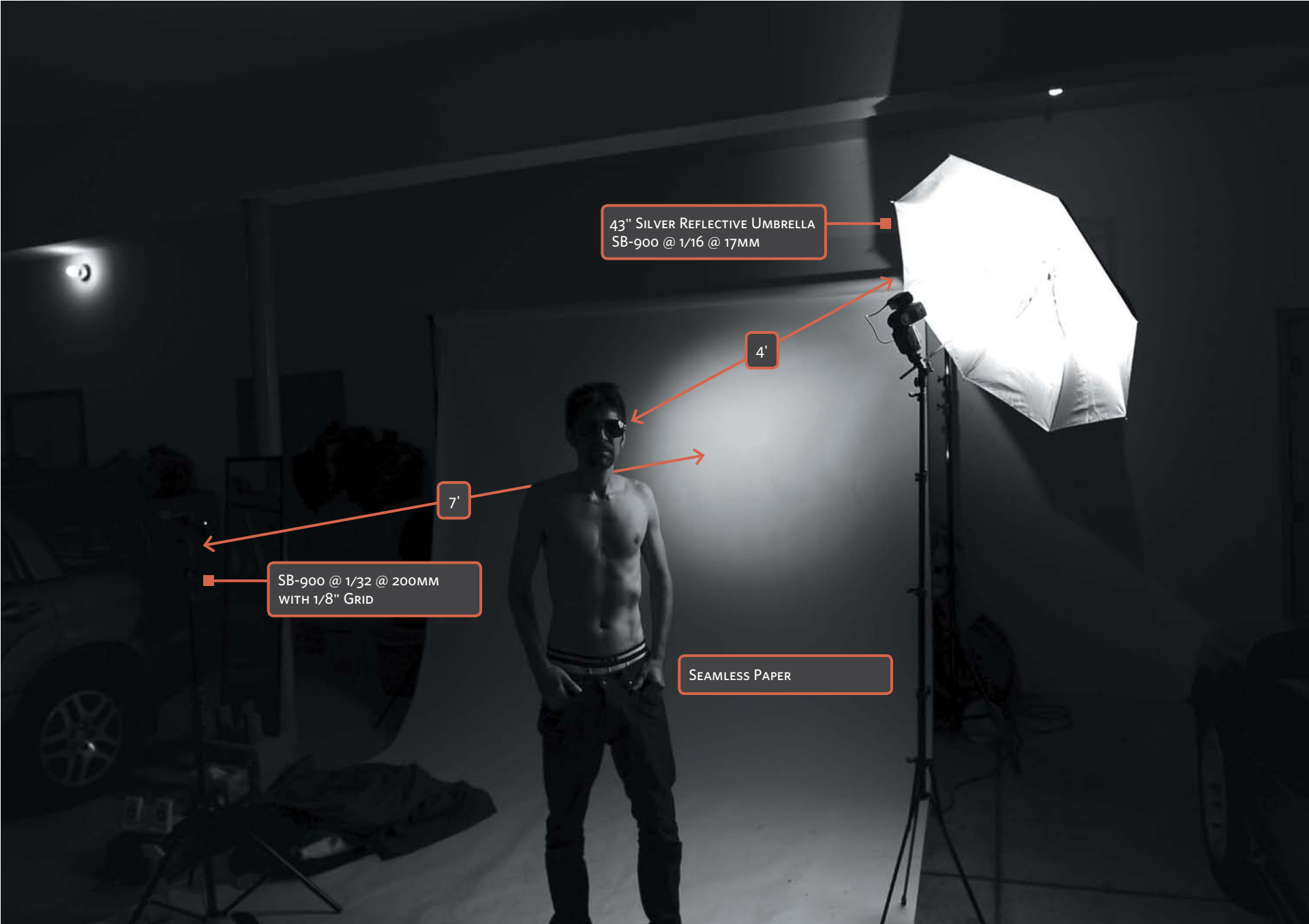




60" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

3'





43" SILVER REFLECTIVE UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 17MM

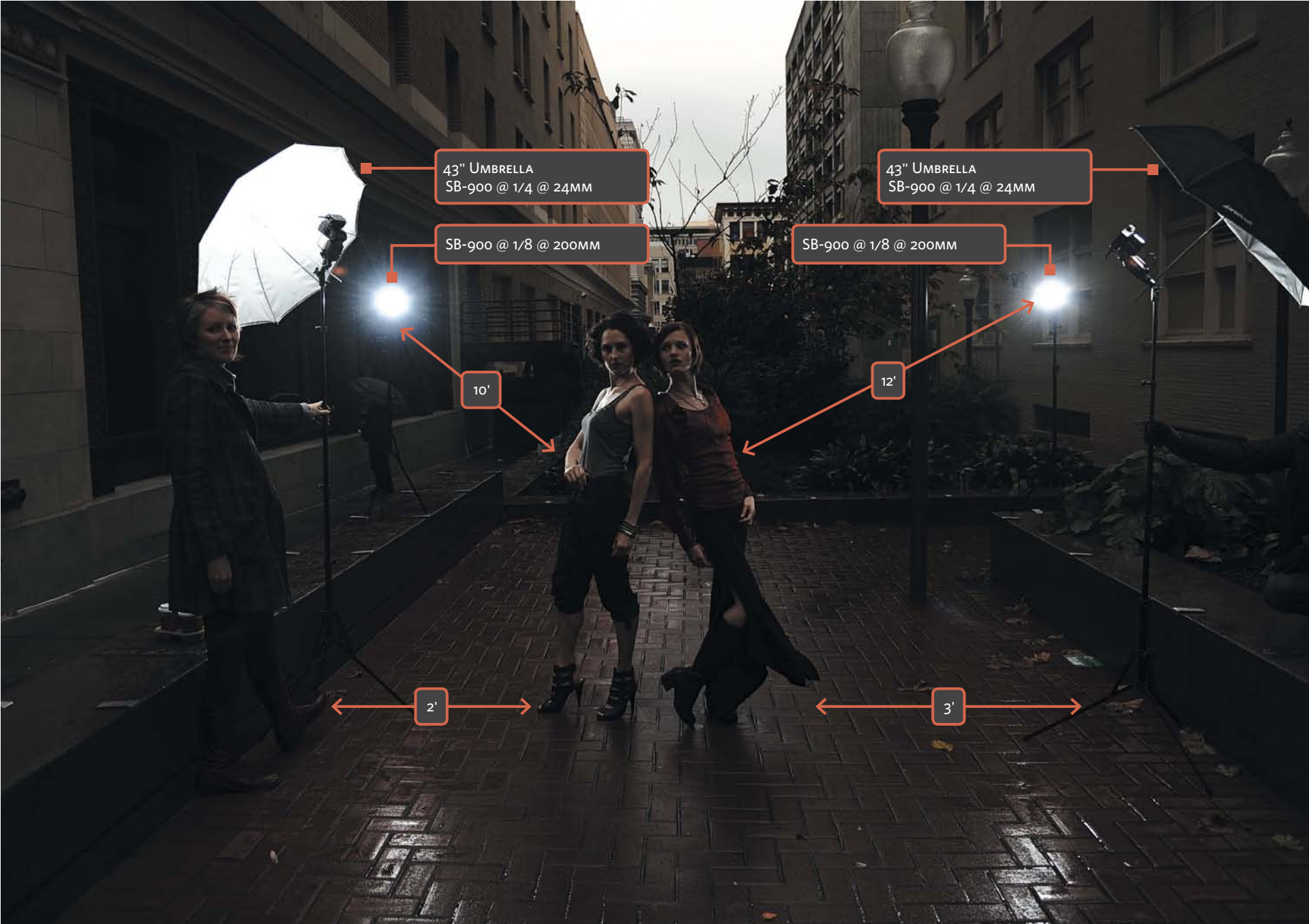
4'

7'

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

SEAMLESS PAPER









46" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 24MM

SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM

4'

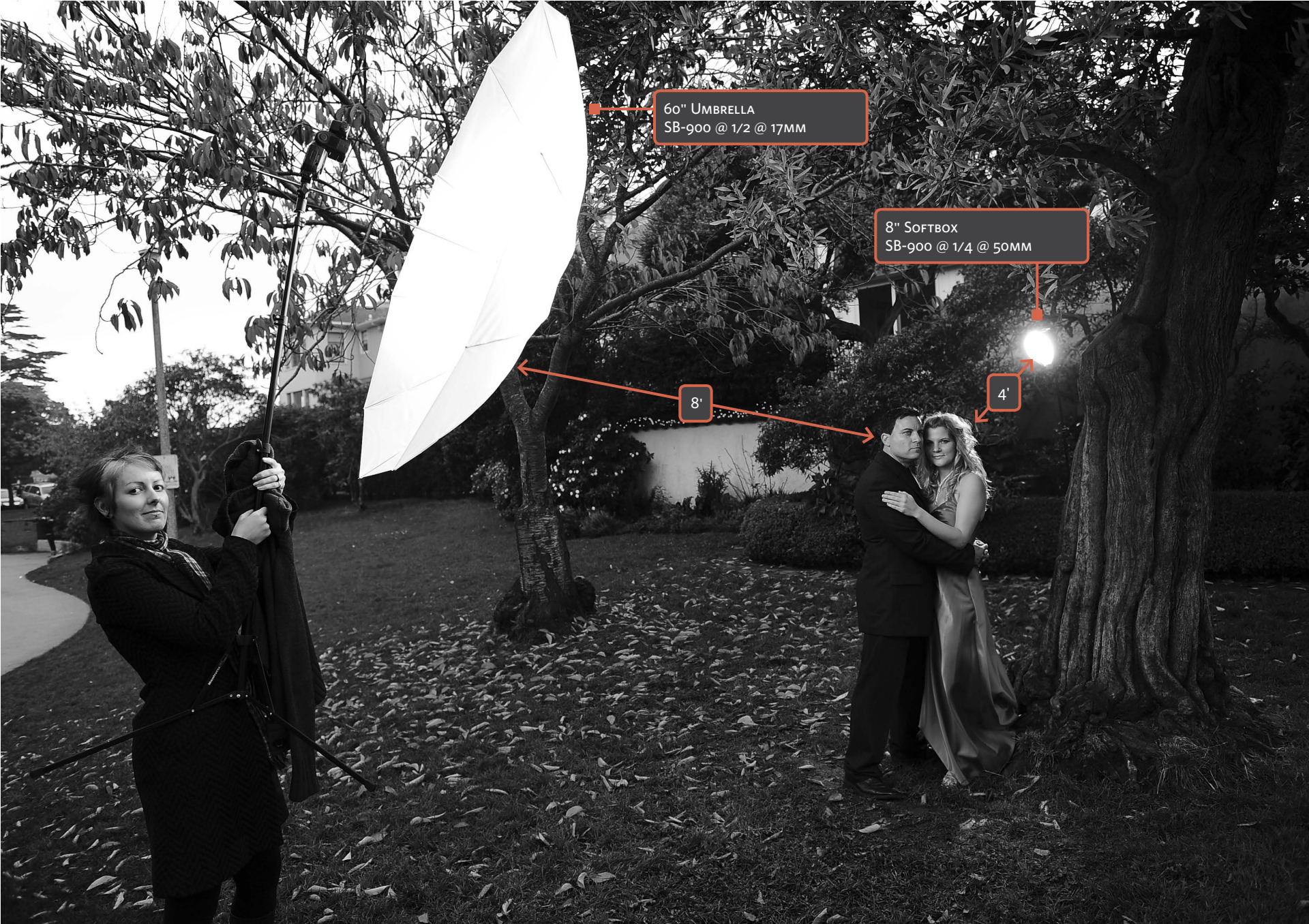




43" SILVER UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/64 @ 35MM

4'









43" SILVER REFLECTIVE UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/16 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

10'

TINA

ROBERT (HUMAN LIGHT STAND)

CAMERA 40'

Powell & Market, S.F.





SB-900 @ 1/8 @ 200MM

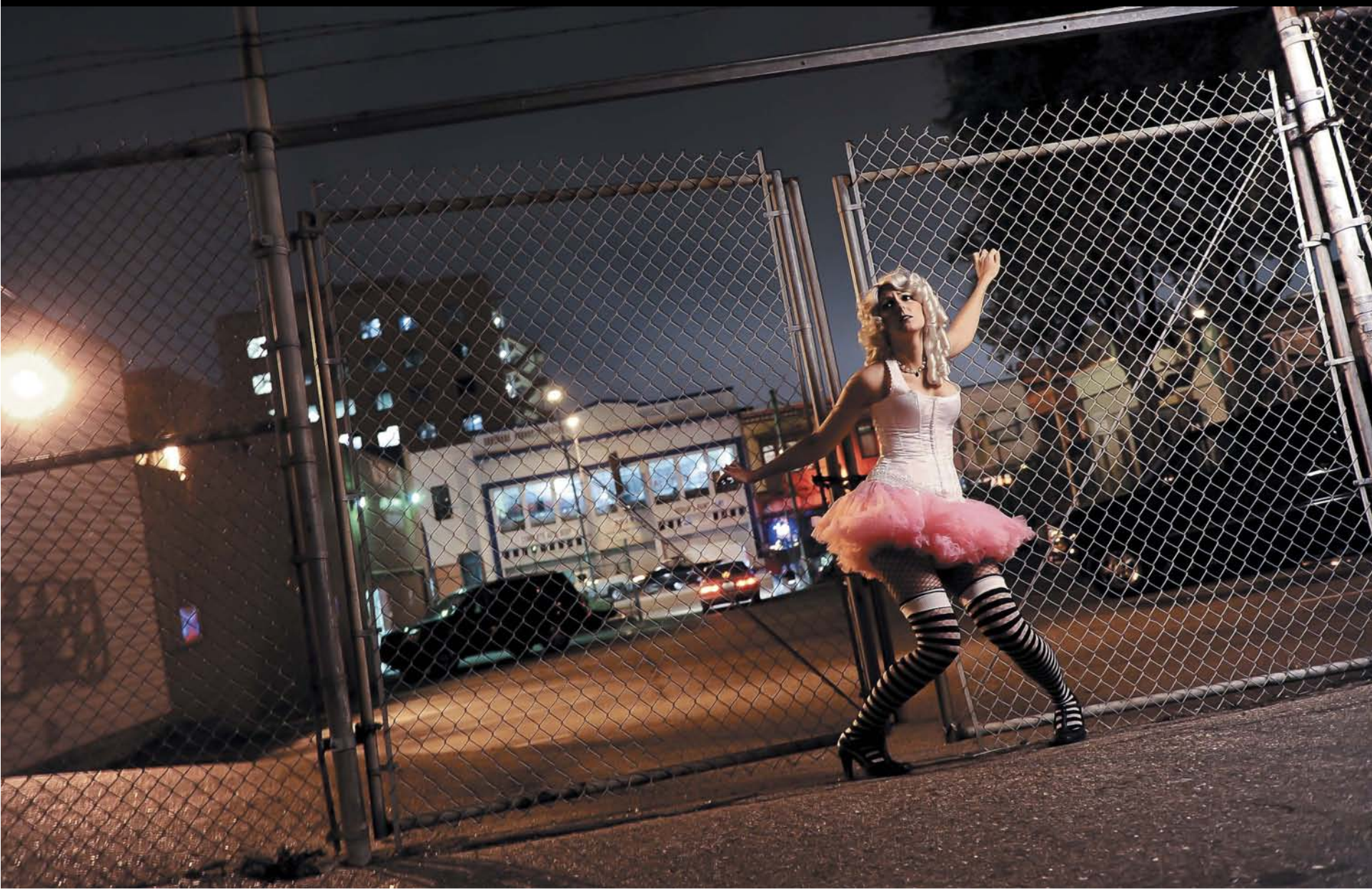
28" SOFTBOX
580EX II @ 1/2 @ 24MM

42" GOLD REFLECTOR

50" SOFTBOX
SB-900 @ 1/2 @ 17MM

SB-900 @ 1/32 @ 200MM
WITH 1/8" GRID

CHARCOAL SEAMLESS





46" UMBRELLA
SB-900 @ 1/4 @ 17MM
WITH 1/2 CTO GEL

7"

*You wouldn't even know
she was two months
pregnant here.*

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