PINK × GREEN - COLOUR CONTRAST LIGHTING SETUP

Fashion Photography | Siddology

The concept

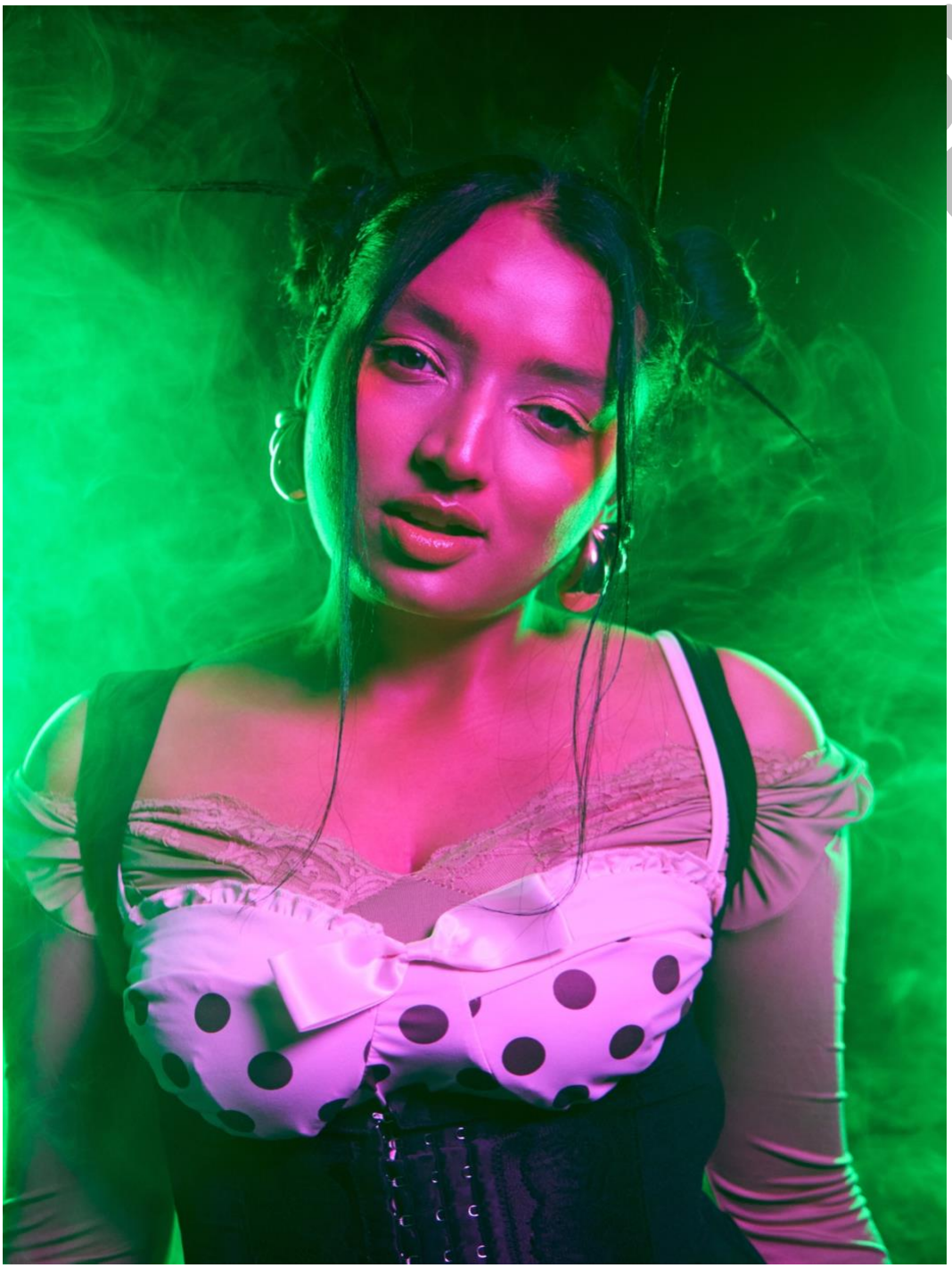
The objective of this setup was to create a bold, cinematic fashion image using two contrasting colours: pink and green. Instead of lighting the entire scene evenly, I wanted the background to remain dark while the model stood out through a combination of coloured backlighting, a controlled key light and atmospheric smoke.

The setup uses three continuous lights: two Nanlite PavoTube II 15C lights at the back of the model and one Nanlite 120C as the key light.



1. Key Light — Nanlite 120C with 60cm Octabox and Grid

Position: Camera right, directed towards the model.
Colour: Pink.
The key light is responsible for illuminating the model and maintaining detail in the face, outfit and body. I used the Nanlite 120C with a 60cm Octabox to create a relatively soft, controlled source.
The octabox softens the light and helps create smoother transitions between highlights and shadows. This is particularly useful in fashion photography, where I want the subject to look well-defined without making the lighting excessively harsh.
I added a grid to the octabox for an important reason: spill control. With two green lights already illuminating the background and smoke, I didn't want the pink key light washing over the entire scene. The grid helps keep the pink light more concentrated on the model.
This creates a cleaner separation between the pink illumination on the subject and the green environment behind her.



2. Backlights — Two Nanlite PavoTube II 15C

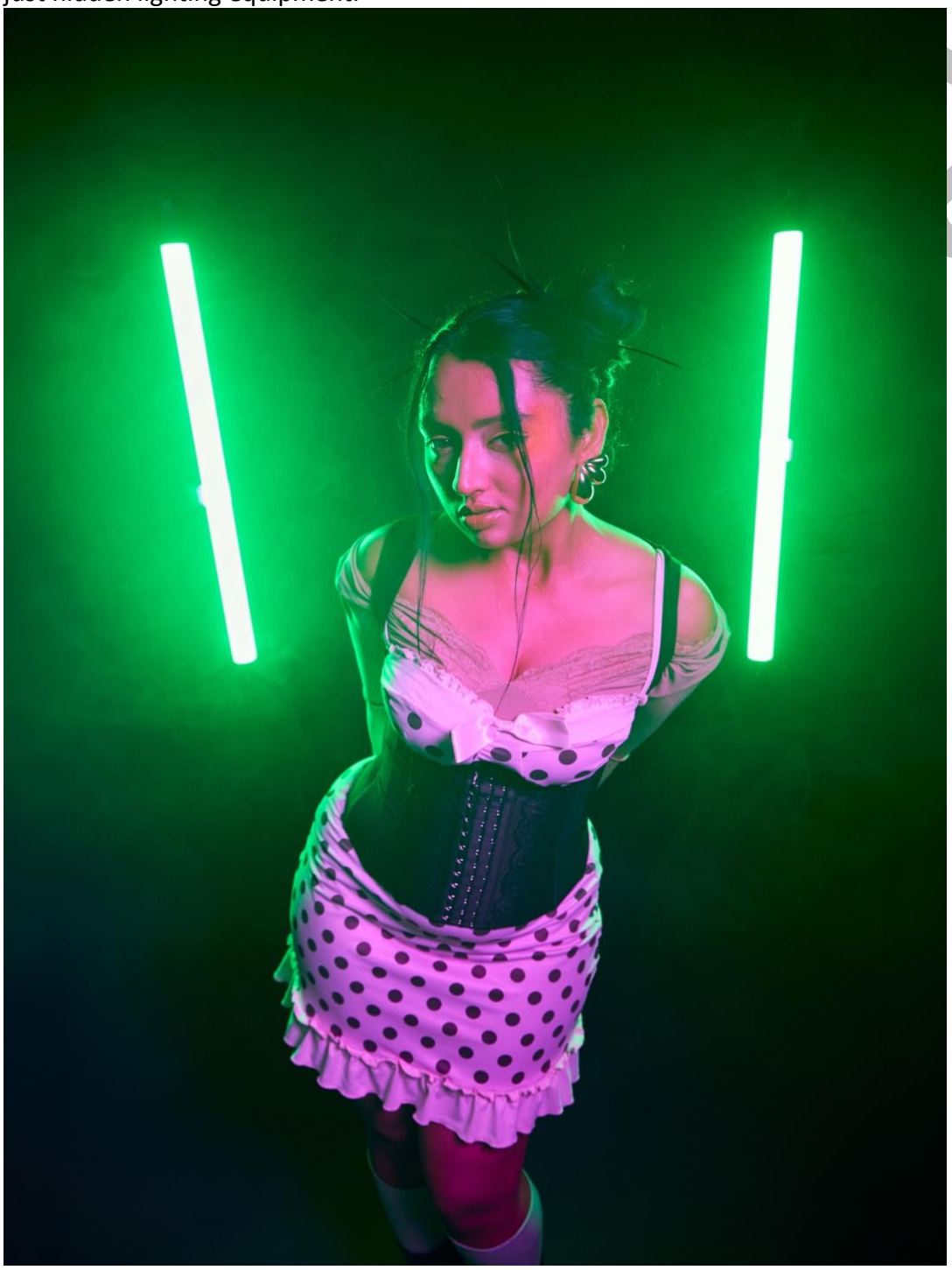
Position: Behind the model, one on either side.
Colour: Green.

These two lights are the defining elements of this setup. I positioned both PavoTube II 15C lights vertically behind the model and set them to green.

Their purpose is not simply to illuminate the background. They create coloured edges around the subject, helping separate her from the dark environment.

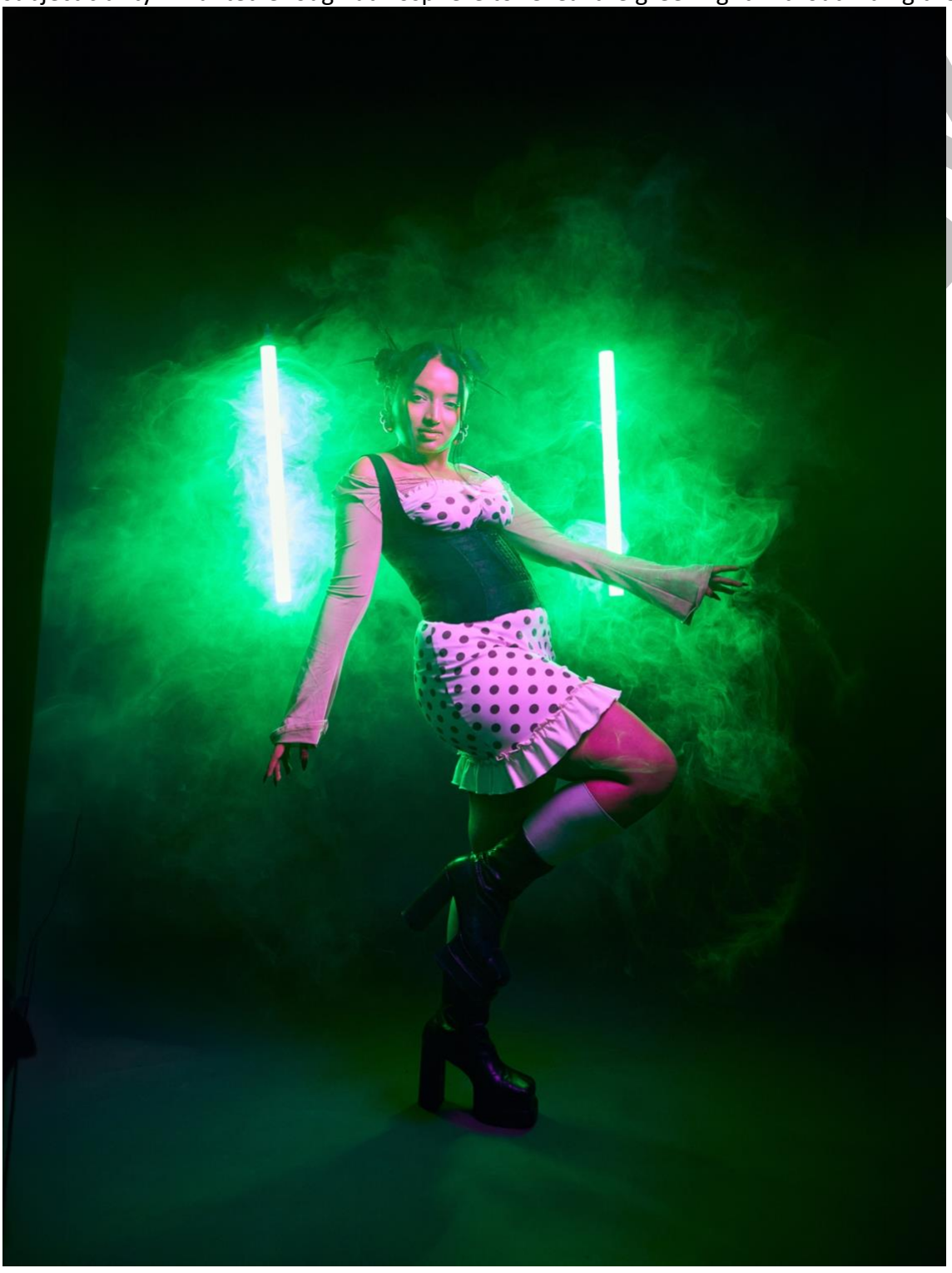
The placement on either side also creates a symmetrical visual structure. The green light interacts with the model's hair, shoulders and outfit, adding depth and giving the frame a more immersive, high-energy appearance.

Because the tubes are visible in some frames, they also become part of the visual composition rather than just hidden lighting equipment.



3. Smoke — Creating Atmosphere and Visible Light

Smoke is what takes this setup beyond a conventional two-colour lighting arrangement.
Without smoke, the green PavoTubes would primarily illuminate the areas they hit directly. By introducing smoke into the scene, the light becomes visible as it travels through the atmosphere.
This creates glowing green pockets around the model and adds depth between the subject and the background.
The smoke also makes the lighting feel more dramatic and gives the images a club-inspired, editorial fashion aesthetic.
The important thing is to use smoke in moderation. Too much can make the image muddy and reduce subject clarity. I wanted enough atmosphere to reveal the green light without hiding the model.



How the lights work together

Each element has a specific responsibility:

- **Pink key light:** Shapes and illuminates the model.
- **Green backlights:** Create separation, colour contrast and a glowing background atmosphere.
- **Smoke:** Makes the green light visible in the air and adds depth.

The key is keeping these roles separate. If the pink key spills too much into the background, the green atmosphere loses its impact. If the green backlights overpower the model, the subject can become difficult to read.

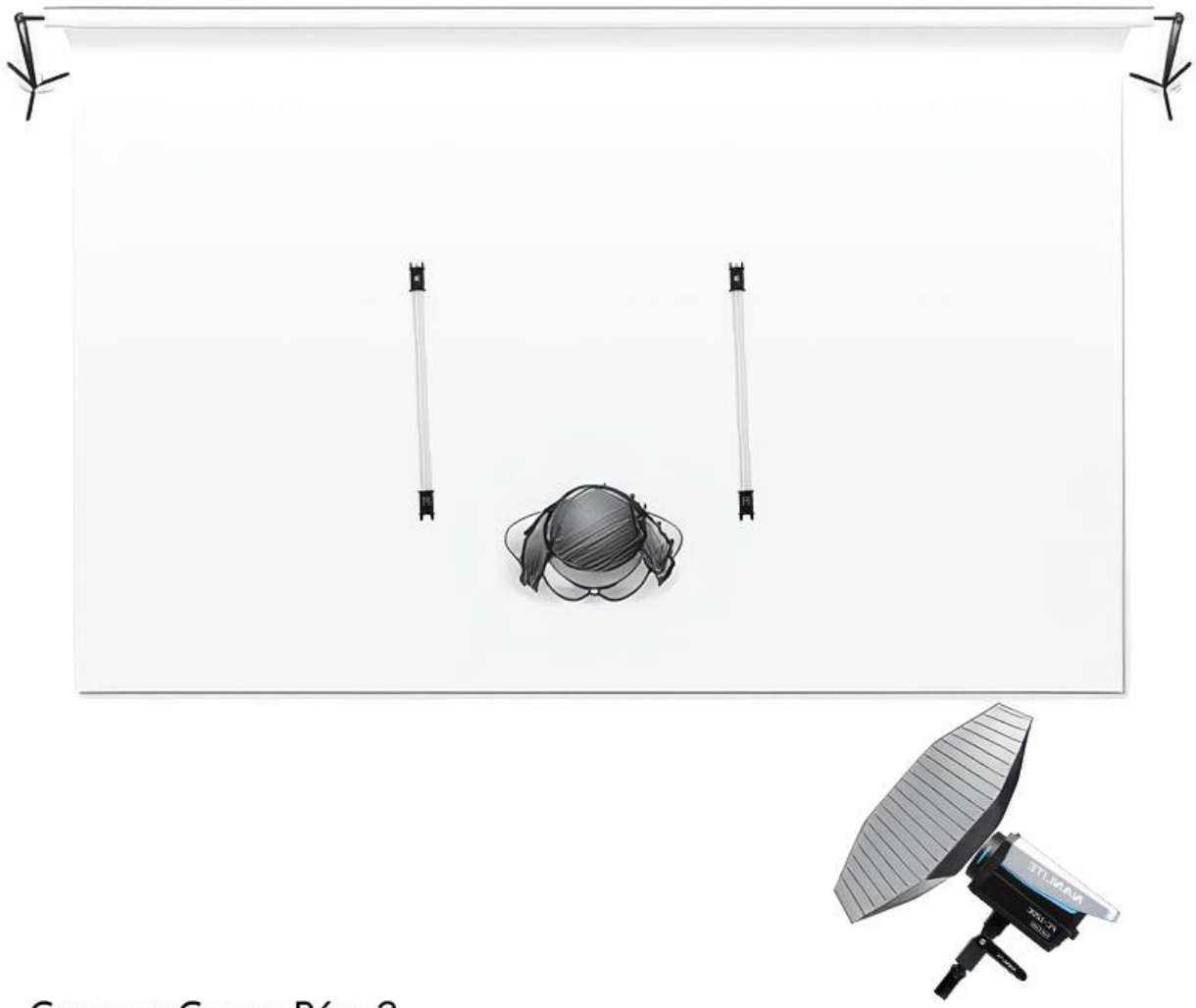
The balance between these sources is what makes the final image work.



Camera Settings

- **Camera:** Canon R6 Mark II
- **Lens:** 24–105mm f/4
- **Shutter Speed:** 1/160 sec
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** 4000

The ISO 4000 setting helps achieve the required exposure with continuous LED lighting while maintaining the selected shutter speed and aperture.



Final Takeaway

You don't always need a complicated lighting setup to create a dramatic fashion image. What matters is understanding what each light is doing.

Here, one light shapes the subject, two lights create separation and colour, and smoke gives the entire scene atmosphere.

Three lights, one atmospheric element, and a deliberate colour combination — that's the idea behind this setup.

Light it up by Siddology.



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