Main Features

- **Perfect portrait lens**
  - Ideal focal length for portraits
  - Gentle, pleasing bokeh through round iris at all apertures
  - Shallow depth of field through T1.3
  - Close focus of 0.95 m (37”)

- **Master Prime image quality**
  - High resolution
  - High contrast
  - Virtually no breathing
  - Low distortion

- **ARRI Lens Data System**
  - Automatically provides lens metadata
  - Increases efficiency of VFX and 3D post

- **Matched to all other ARRI primes and zooms**

- **Film-style ergonomics**
  - Master Prime standard position of focus and iris rings
  - Master Prime standard front diameter of 114 mm

ARRI’s continuous dialogue with cinematographers, operators and directors, who have used Master Prime lenses on numerous productions worldwide, has revealed demand for a new Master Prime with a focal length of 135 mm. This is the ideal portrait lens for many situations, fitting nicely between the Master Prime 100 and 150. The Master Prime 135 brings the Master Prime set up to an astounding 16 focal lengths.

In discussions with cinematographers and photographers, ARRI and ZEISS have identified five crucial criteria for a perfect portrait lens: the right focal length, a gentle bokeh, high image quality, shallow depth of field and the ability to get close to the subject.

A focal length of 135 mm is sufficiently telephoto to separate the subject from its surroundings, but not so telephoto that the perspective becomes flat, allowing faces to maintain a pleasing three dimensionality. For a gentle and natural bokeh, the Master Prime 135 is equipped with the same precision iris that has allowed all Master Primes to project beautiful round out of focus highlights at all apertures.

Also like all Master Primes, the 135 mm shows a high resolution, high contrast image with very low flares and veiling glare. In this age of a digital cameras with a wide exposure latitude it is increasingly important for the lens to transmit the full contrast of the scene to the sensor. This is a task that the Master Primes, with their unique lens coating, carefully crafted light traps and a number of specially formulated light-absorbent internal paints excel at, resulting in the maximum contrast range on the sensor for clean highlights and deep, rich blacks. Through the use of unique technologies and years of experience in lens design, the Master Primes deliver an exceptionally rich starting point from which the cinematographer can shape and sculpt the image creatively, be that through lighting, filters or digital manipulations in post.

The widest aperture of T1.3 and the Master Primes’ unique ability to maintain their high image quality even wide open allow the creation of an extremely shallow depth of field when desired. Depth of field can be used to create more or less separation between the subject and its surroundings. And last, but not least, to facilitate close-ups, the Master Prime 135 has been designed with a close focus range of 0.95 m (37”). Even at that close focus range, The 135 mm maintains its high image quality.

In keeping with the rest of the Master Prime range, the Master Prime 135 is equipped with a built-in Lens Data System (LDS) that allows the ALEXA range of cameras to embed all lens metadata straight into the image for more efficient post production. Additionally, it has its iris and focus rings at the expected positions, making lens switching fast and easy. The front diameter also remains at the customary 114 mm to allow the use of the same matte box for almost all Master Primes.
Master Prime 135 Prototype Testing Gallery

As part of the Master Prime 135 development project, we have provided a prototype of the lens with a PL modified Canon 1D Mark IV to a number of prominent cinematographers and photographers to see what they would make of it. Not only were they very exited about the lens, but they created some stunning images.

Tom Fährmann, BVK

Gavin Finney, BSC

Andrew Zuckerman

Fred Elmes, ASC

Amy Vincent, ASC

Kramer Morgenthau, ASC