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*Please note, some of the content within
this newsletter is of an adult nature.*

Please do not read if nudity offends.



*Craig Mitchell Photography
June 2013 Newsletter*

(February 2013 - May 2013)



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Content: Craig Mitchell
Editor: Emma Mouchet

Models featured in this issue: Emme, Roz, Dan, Sarah, Phoebe, Odette, Hayley, Laurena, Kim, Cassie, Poppy, Aaron, Kellie, Ranni,

Weddings featured in this issue: Shaun & Carly, Dan & Wendy

Make-up in this issue by: Lucie Hennelly

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Hello and welcome to the 5th newsletter from Craig Mitchell Photography. In each newsletter to date I have stated in the introduction that the last 4 months have been more hectic than before – well, I hate to disappoint so here it is again: “The last four months have been the most hectic I have experienced”. June’s edition is a bumper 19 page document, crammed with highlights from February to now. There are nearly 20 models, most of them new, featured in this issue, and the work we have produced consists of 3 ‘on-location’ shoots (at The Reflex nightclub, St. James’ park and The Camera Club side streets), 4 studio shoots (all at the Camera Club, Kennington), a couple of corporate engagements (one at Southend and one in Birmingham) and this edition will feature two weddings (one in Kent and one in good old Essex). This and, of course, all of the latest news, including

the introduction of fortnightly workshops which I am currently running.

There will also be a sneak preview of what’s on the horizon in the next few months. As well as featuring more studio shoots including portraiture with children and a fantastic ‘on-location’ shoot with Roz Ellis, I look ahead to my very first Asian wedding in July, my very first wedding abroad in Turkey covering the wonderful Kristina and Adam’s special day and my very first iPhone (yes, a wedding taken with an iPhone) wedding, both in September!

All in all it’s a very busy and exciting time for Craig Mitchell Photography.



Having been inspired by a workshop - which I would have loved to have attended - with the wonderfully talented John Denton (www.dentonphotography.co.uk) in January, I decided to try my hand at arranging a 'get-together' for like minded photographers, models and make-up artists to recreate the scenes which were shot there. I hired The Reflex bar at St. Paul's and arranged to meet fellow photographers Richard Jane (www.richardjanephotography.com), Ailsa Petchey (www.whiteonblue.net) and Graham Caille (<http://www.grahamcaille.co.uk>) to photograph Roz and Emme, who I had worked with before, and Dan, Phoebe and Sarah who are newcomers to our network. Along with make-up artist Lucie Hennelly, we created a whole range of images

across multiple locations during the 6 hours we were there. It was a wonderful experience to meet, work with, and share ideas with creative minds. Although we thought six hours was a long time, it seemed to fly by and we all found the experience extremely valuable. Needless to say it's an event that I will be holding again in the very near future. If you're interested in being part of such an event, please get in touch.

"Recently had the pleasure of modelling for Craig in a London Nightclub. It was an absolutely great experience. I was very nervous as an amateur model and he directed me and made me very comfortable! He is very professional, has a passion for what he does and is beyond talented at it! In addition, he got the images back to me very quickly. I am adding quite a few of his shots to my portfolio and am organising another shoot with him soon! Thanks a lot."



Odette Campbell is a part-time model who has appeared in numerous promotional videos and magazines. She approached me in February wanting a variety of shots; predominantly fitness editorial work for various websites and agencies. Odette is a wonderful model with a great personality and someone who, as you will see later in this issue, I would be happy to work with again on future assignments. This shoot allowed me to be a little more experimental with studio lighting and create more dramatic images.

“Craig offered me the first photo shoot that I ever did. Before I met him, I was quite nervous, but the day before, he very kindly took me out for coffee and by the time I turned up the next day, my worries had dissipated. I can’t stress how important it is to the quality of the photos that the model and photographer are both comfortable working together, and I really feel that this is reflected in the final result of the photos that Craig took. I was astonished by the venue, a lovely airy room in a welcoming photography club in Vauxhall, and Craig was professional and supportive. The experience was one of the best that I’ve had by far, there was nothing squalid or uncomfortable about the event, unlike several others that I have had since. Craig listened to what I wanted from the photos, and had me laughing the entire time: all in all, a skilled photographer with a flair for putting people at ease!”



Believe it or not, this was Hayley's first experience in a studio shoot. We hired the studio at Kennington for a couple of hours and within minutes she was totally relaxed in front of the camera and posing like she had been modeling for years. Some of the more low-key images here are my most favourite portraits to date.



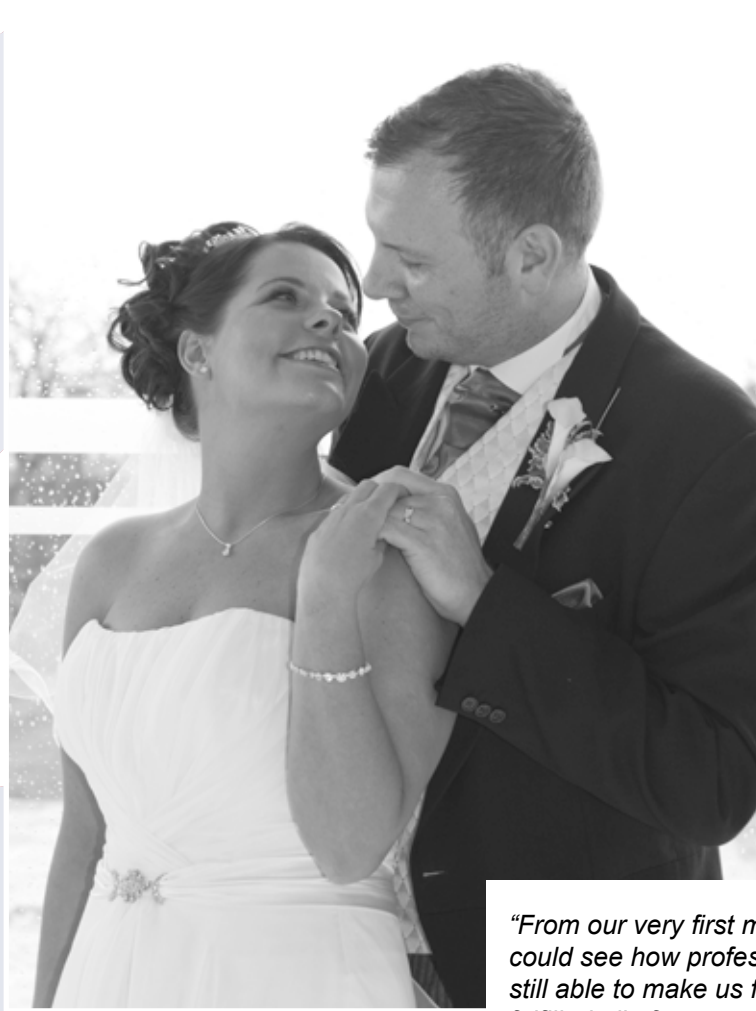
Opportunities like this do not come along too often: during March I had the opportunity to shoot with the globally renowned Irish model Laurena Lacey. As you might expect, she was thoroughly professional, fully prepared and full of ideas for images. This also gave me the chance to try out an idea I had been wanting to try for a long time – ‘Projection’ images. This idea is achieved by projecting various patterns from a projector onto the model and a plain white background. Some patterns didn’t work too well but the ones that

did work came out amazingly well and I was extremely pleased with the results. Whilst I love working with new models, much of the time can be spent directing and re-assuring them. This is not always necessary with more established models so you gain more images per shoot. Needless to say the post-processing workload is significantly greater as you create so many more images together. After my shoot with Laurena, I had hundreds of images to process.





Portraiture:



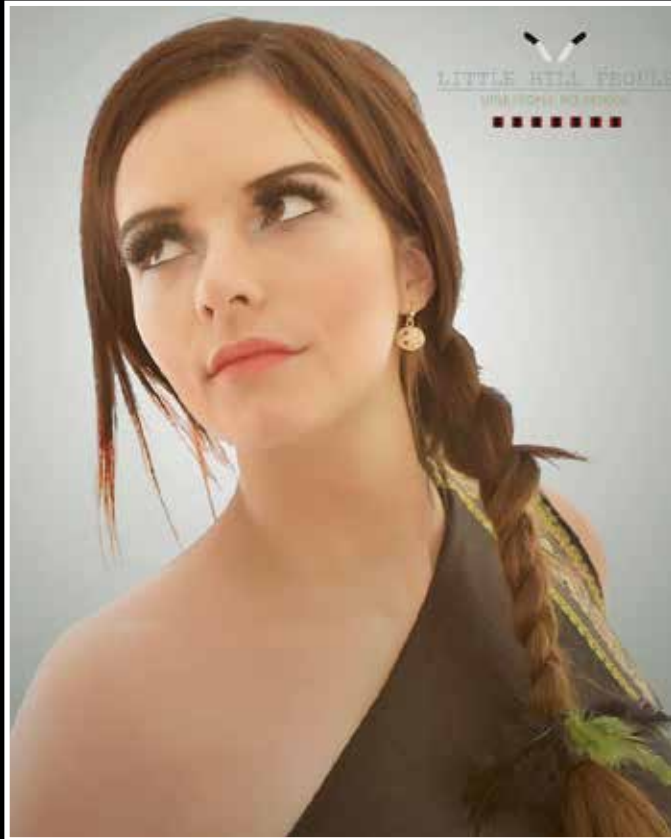
After being recommended by a friend, Shaun and Carly booked me to be their wedding photographer on the 16th March. The wedding took place at Friern Manor in Brentwood. Shaun and Carly are an extremely down to earth couple and were very happy to work with me before, during, and after their special day to

create beautiful imagery, documenting their wedding. Despite the weather conditions presenting us with some challenges, we certainly made the most

"From our very first meeting with Craig we could see how professional he was yet he was still able to make us feel comfortable. Craig fulfilled all of our requirements and much more, capturing those natural, unexpected shots perfectly. At times we even forgot he was there. The editing is done to a very high standard, the only problem we had was choosing the photos we wanted from the huge selection. We would highly recommend this brilliant, professional but friendly service. Thank you for making our day even more special" - Carly

of what was available and their images are among some of my favourite wedding photos.





'Little Hill People's' (www.littlehillpeople.com) founder Stacey Aydeniz promotes the ancient art and practice of traditional weaving of undiscovered Northeast India in the fashion market. Stacey is aiding local people by buying hand made materials and fabric directly from them for a fair price. She then designs the bags herself

and helps other people by hiring them at a fair wage to create them into some really fierce bags, clothes and accessories. During March I had the wonderful fortune of meeting and working with Stacey and her models for a corporate shoot promoting the wonderful pieces she produces. Despite limited space and equipment, we

managed to produce some wonderful images. This was also an opportunity to show people the reality of some shoots: its not all about thousand pound studios, you have to produce consistently good imagery wherever you find yourself.





As mentioned earlier, it's great to strike up relationships and build networks with your peers. Odette returned in April requesting some editorial fashion shots. This was a wonderful opportunity to shoot away from the studio and work with natural light (and a little flash) in a wonderful location. St. James' Park provided a very traditional, unique and 'English' backdrop to the fashion-style we both wanted. These images are certainly among the more unique in my portfolio and these shots were captured during a very limited time slot of 45 minutes.

"I was extremely delighted to have the opportunity to work with Craig. He was very welcoming and friendly and we worked well together. I was very pleased with the images that I received from the shoot and had trouble picking which ones to use in my portfolio! I was also very thankful at the fast time in which I received the images, Craig is very reliable, and gives great advice it was a true pleasure to work with him" - Odette



Aaron was one of the young models present at the Little Hill People shoot and I knew instantly he was someone I wanted to work with again. For such a young man he is totally relaxed and comfortable in front of the camera and is willing to offer his own ideas as well as work with my own. I am aware that my current portfolio features a lot of female models and very few male models and this was something I wanted to put right immediately. This shoot was taken in and around the Camera Club at Kennington and I brought along a new (and talented) photographer, Victoria Rose, who was keen to learn from the experience. We all enjoyed the shoot and it was a great opportunity to take photographs whilst also teaching; something I have expanded upon more recently.

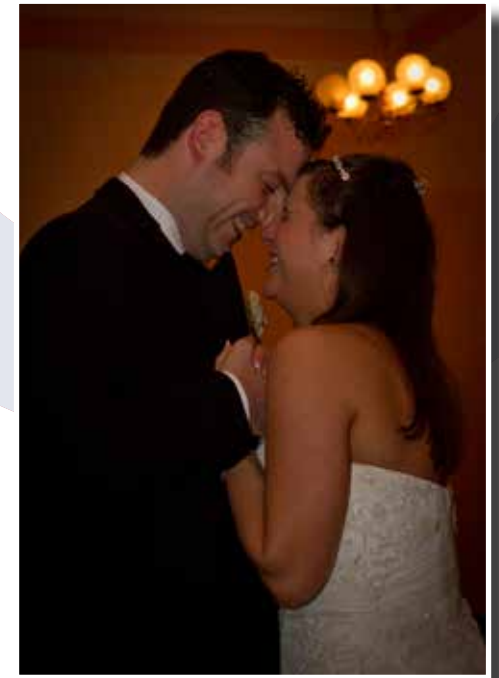
"Craig was kind enough to take me to my first ever studio shoot, it was a fantastic experience. He explained everything required of me before hand, made me feel confident and relaxed before I had even started. I thoroughly enjoyed this shoot and learnt more from this studio session with Craig than I did from reading a book on how to do it!" - Victoria Rose

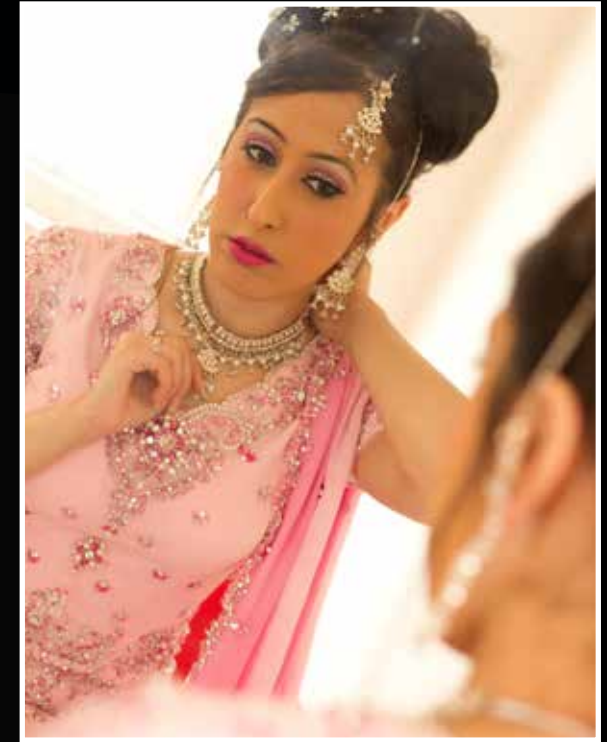




May the 11th saw the wedding of Dan and Wendy at Dorton House in Sevenoaks in Kent. This was an opportunity to work with my good friend and fellow photographer Richard Jane once more. Weddings are certainly 100mph and a lot of hard-work. Sharing this work load can be a huge relief to a photographer and to know, and work, with someone with whom I get along extremely well is of huge benefit to me during the day. Once again, it's great to share ideas and techniques as well as to seek inspiration from each other (even if there is a friendly rivalry to take the best image, which the couple inevitably benefit from!). The venue was magnificent and the couple were very down to earth which made our jobs that bit easier.







It was a chance conversation between a work colleague and a beautician in a beauty salon in Birmingham which, subsequently, led to a wonderful chance to photograph some beautiful Asian models in full bridal make-up and costume. This was also an excellent opportunity for me to practice and prepare for my first Asian wedding shoot in July. Sabah is a freelance make-up artist and beauty therapist based in Birmingham (www.sabzbridal.co.uk). The shoot took place in various rooms at Sabah's workplace and we produced some beautiful, colourful images. Sabah, her sister, and her three willing models, were all an absolute pleasure to meet and work with. I had an amazing time and will be returning soon not only to work with Sabah again, but maybe also with one of the models, Ranii, and potentially also to shoot another wedding – watch this space.





"I loved my shoot with Craig. Having never met him beforehand he quickly made me feel extremely comfortable and I was totally relaxed during the shoot. His directions were clear and his ideas were imaginative and great fun. I loved the finished results and would really love to shoot with him again" - Ranni



It has become apparent to me over the last few years that whilst the corporate, commissioned work is vital if you are to build a business, we should also take time to consider the underlying passion that drives our work during that journey; we must not lose sight of what drew us to our chosen business in the first place. It is therefore vital for me to produce images that “tick my own creative box”, whether that’s at home trying out new ideas, or on location trying out new techniques. Along with personal visits to Canary Wharf and my beloved home county of Cornwall, I managed to squeeze in a few home projects. The ‘Strawberry Splash’ is instantly recognizable, whilst the more colourful abstract images are actually small blobs of paint on a horizontal speaker covered in rubber !!









Whilst being acknowledged and respected is not (and should not be) the ultimate goal for a photographer, it certainly is flattering when your artistic eye is appreciated by your friends, colleagues and fellow photographers. The North Romford Camera Club is a wonderful group of people who I both admire and get along with extremely well. We meet each week and enjoy monthly, quarterly and annual competitions, talks and workshops. I was extremely proud to win the annual award in all three categories ('Digital', 'Colour Print' and 'Black and White Print') which were judged and recognized by external judges. The standard is extremely impressive and I will certainly need to maintain and improve my work if this feat is to be achieved again next year.

Following much persuasion (and, admittedly, a deep burning desire), I have started running workshops for fellow enthusiasts and photographers in 'Beginner to Intermediate Photography'. Although still in its infancy, both the first and second workshops were well attended and I have received encouraging feedback.

If this continues to be a success, I would like to run many more of these workshops in the future as this is an avenue I'm very keen to explore in the coming months.

in the next issue . . .



The next issue - due out in October - will feature some child portraiture, for the first time in a newsletter and another shoot with Roz, this time a beautifully themed 1920's to 1940's Hollywood shoot. It will also feature my first dabble into Asian weddings, my first wedding abroad in the beautiful setting of Turkey with Kristina and Adam and, in attempt to show it's 'not all about the kit', my first wedding taken completely with an iPhone – what have I let myself in for!? Take care!



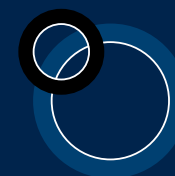
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