

ADDING DRAMA

SOFTWARE: PhotoImpactXL

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TITLE: Adding Drama

SKILL LEVEL: Intermediate

TOOLS USED: Effect, Format / Level,
Fill

DESCRIPTION: Create drama in an image by selecting a focal point and adding background effects.

INSTRUCTIONS:

Save often.

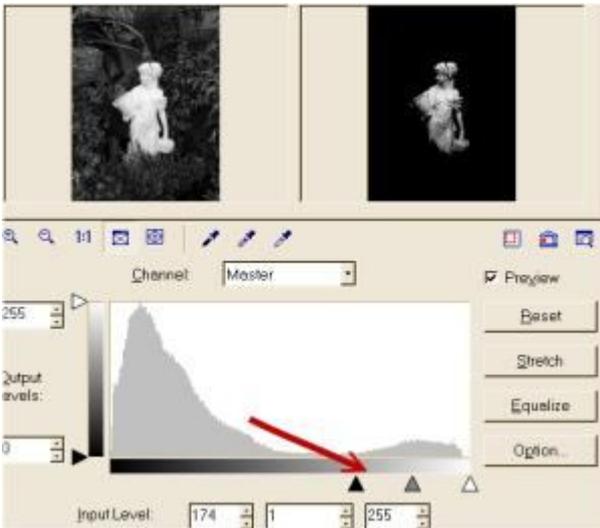
1. Open your image. **Save As** so you are not working on the original.



2. **Effect / Monochrome.**



3. **Format / Level:** drag the left hand arrow to the right until all 3 arrows are arranged evenly (this will look a little different for your photo) and the main part of your photo comes into focus against the dark background. Click **OK**.



4. Use the **lasso tool** to make a selection near the focal point but not too close. We want to retain some of the drama / black. **Snap to edges** unchecked, **Sensitivity** 10, **Soft Edge** 50. Click **Finish** on the **Attribute Bar** when done or double click inside the selection to Finish.

5. **Selection / Invert.**



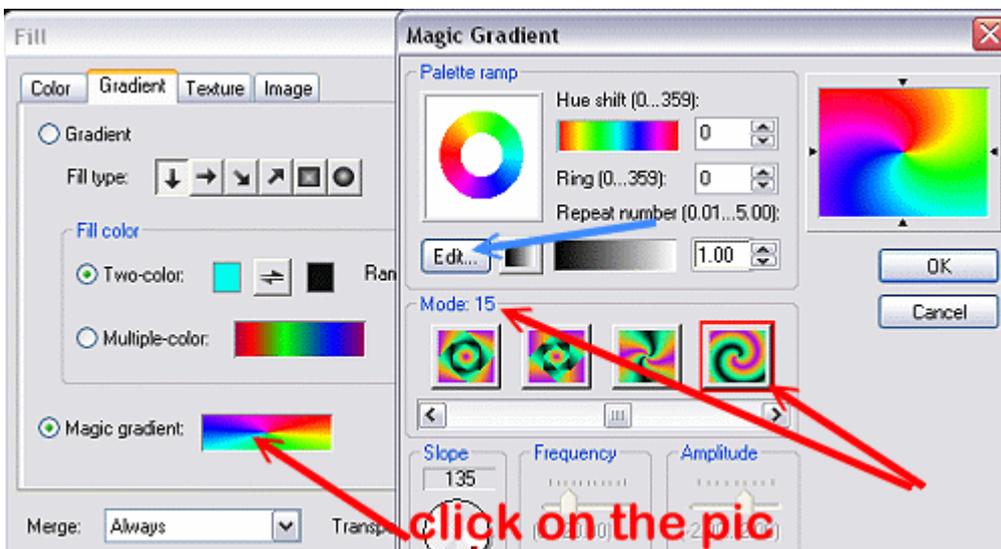
6. **Edit / Fill (Ctrl F) / Image tab / Fit the image.** **Browse** to your image of choice. Grab an image that has dark areas to suit so that the black in the original image you're working on fits in. Click **OK**.

7. **Selection / None.** I click on the **Brightness** button twice to darken a little.



VARIATION:

1. **Lasso** close to the image (same settings as above).
2. **Selection / Invert.**
3. **Edit / Fill (Ctrl F) / Gradient tab.** Click on the coloured picture next to the "**Magic Gradient**" **Radio Button** down towards the bottom of the dialogue box. The **Magic Gradient Palette Ramp** will come up. Click on **15** in the **Mode Box**, then click the **Edit...** button to select a background fill to suit your image. I chose **057** in the **Palette Ramp Editor** dialogue box.



4. Click **OK** and **OK** again. Back in the **Fill** box, choose a **Merge Mode** from the drop-down box. I chose **Lighting** with **Transparency** at 0.

5. **Selection / None.** I could have left it at that but decided to go further.



6. I lassoed all the dark areas, **Selection / Convert to Object.**



7. I filled with the same sunset image, making sure my **Merge Mode** was back to **Always.** **Object / Merge all.**



TUTORIALS INDEX: <http://www.hillies-imageneration.com/pi-tutorials.html>

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