

## SHARON'S TIPS

### QUICK PHOTOSHOP ACTIONS:

- Press B to bring up your brushes
- Press X to alternate between a black and a white brush
- When you have added a layer mask you can see where you have erased by pressing the backwards slash key \. This will show a red mask to indicate where you have erased, press it again and the red mask will disappear.

### MIST:

- Take pictures of clouds and make them into brushes
- Persuade a friend who vaps to blow smoke in front of a black background and take lots of images
- White smoke bombs are also good
- Or make your own within Photoshop:
  - Open your image
  - Add a new transparent layer on top
  - Make sure your brush colours are black in the foreground and white in the background
  - Go to Filter - Render - Clouds. It will open as a horrid fuzzy layer
  - Select the rectangular marquee tool and draw a small rectangle anywhere in the image
  - Press Command and J on a MAC (Control and J on a PC) and this will appear as a new layer
  - You can now delete the original fuzzy B&W layer
  - Command T (transform box) and drag the corners to enlarge the mist and move to wherever you want to add mist
  - Lower the opacity of the mist layer to approx 25%, each image will be different
  - Add a layer mask and with a soft black brush size 1000 on around 80% opacity paint out the top straight line. Use a wiggle motion to do this as straight lines are a give-away
  - Make the brush smaller and lower the opacity to around 30% and remove areas of mist you don't want.

### COLOUR MATCHING CUT-OUTS:

- Have your background image open
- Open your model cut-out layer
- Duplicate the background layer - COMMAND J on a Mac (CONTROL J on a PC) and drag this layer to the top of your layer stack
- Make sure you are working on this top layer. Go to FILTER - BLUR - AVERAGE - this created the "average" colour of our image
- Now create a CLIPPING MASK to this top colour layer  
Go to LAYER and down to Clipping Mask or the short cut Hold Option on a MAC (ALT on a PC) and click between the two layers
- This now clips itself to the model layer only
- Go to BLENDING MODES and go down to the bottom and select COLOUR and the model becomes the average colour of your background
- Make sure you are working on the top layer and lower the OPACITY slider until you are happy with the effect. Each image will be slightly different I usually start at around 25% and move the slider depending on the image.