



## Genuine Fractals 5 in use

Top: Before processing, the GF window briefly shows the pixels of the image enlarged.

Middle: After processing, you can see how the fractal software has created new sharp edges and enhanced textures.

Above: comparison between the GF 5 result and Photoshop CS3 Bicubic Smoother enlargement, in both cases to full A4 page size - 2516 pixels wide - from an image starting just 565 pixels wide. This is a 445% enlargement.

Left: Full screen version of GF processed image above: 445% enlargement from an image starting at just 565 pixels wide

or have a very badly calibrated monitor.

PhotoTune is a revelation, because you may think, as each step is taken, that your picture is looking worse not better. Then, when the final corrections are all applied together and compared to the original, it will nearly always prove to have transformed your image for the better. In fact it's rather depressing, as you rapidly come to view all your archived work as slightly short of the mark!

SkinTune, included in PhotoTune, uses a palette of skin colours based on four ethnic types, to restore the best possible visual skin appearance. Again, you soon realise that auto WB and the limits of digital SLRs can produce face tones which look ok at first, but are not ideal. SkinTune will bring portraits into line with the best expectations of the sitter. The results are geared to how we expect to see skin look, not how it really looks.

## Conclusion

The free download of PhotoTune 2.2 makes Plug-in Suite 3 very good value. Most will buy the suite for Genuine Fractals 5, Mask Pro or PhotoFrame Pro. You can get a job which demands GF 5 for scaling up dozens of pocket digicam shots a client has taken, or needs Mask Pro for a series of difficult cut-outs. That's when the decision to buy the package is taken.

Having done so, you may find PhotoTune 2.2 becomes part of your workflow or that PhotoFrame has some style presets you can turn into 'products' for your portraiture. **f2**



Right: An uncorrected stock portrait from iStockphoto, taken in artificial light with a strong colour cast.

Above left: PhotoTune2 does a reasonable job of correcting the cast and making a more commercially acceptable portrait image.

Above right: Intellihance 4.2 with its presets adjusted carefully does not offer as much control as PhotoTune2, but in this case works well

