

# TRIGGER HAPPY

**The falling prices of cameras are contrasting with the rising interest in photography. Get your insider tips and possible headstart into the industry from the multi-talented Lisa Lum, owner and resident photographer at Colourful Faces.**



At first glance, Lisa Lum doesn't strike you as a photographer, much less a professional one. The tanned lady who sports a spunky short hairdo just doesn't fit into the stereotype of a broody male photographer with a goatee (okay, fine, so most photographers we know look like that).

"I started taking photos a long time ago; in fact, I started when I was very young," says Lisa. Young indeed – whilst the rest of us were playing with Barbie dolls, Lisa had already picked up her first camera at the tender age of nine.

"It was a film camera, you know, the sort that you had to manually twist and turn the knob for the next negative!" chuckles Lisa. "All I would do was to take photos of myself with my buddy, and we'd rack up an impressive count of one to two rolls of photographs every week! And that's probably why I have this huge stack of photos in my house now!"

"I'd spent about three years working in a talent agency, where I had to deal with models and talent in an in-house studio. This was when I first worked with a professional film SLR camera," recounts Lisa. During this period of time, Lisa also tried her hand at make up, and even upgraded her skills with a make up course at the School of Make up. "Make up is quite interesting, and it comes in useful now that I've set up my own company."

The bubbly lady loves interacting with people and says, "I can make people of all ages smile, at any time! When I make them feel comfortable, I can pick the best angle for my shooting."

Currently wielding a Canon digital SLR, Lisa doesn't just point and shoot. "First, I have to look at the person, and see what type of looks that person is suitable for. Then I'll have to decide on the outfit and the background to use. Next, I need to adjust the lightings and meanwhile, I'll be talking to my photography subjects to make them feel comfortable. Last but not least, I shoot!"

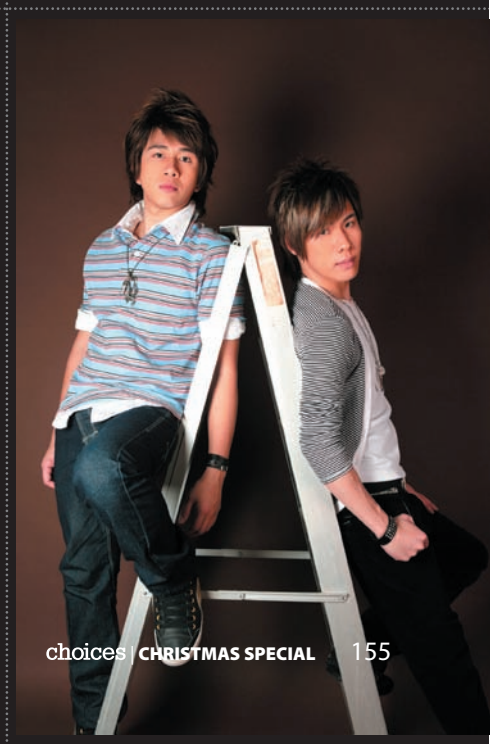
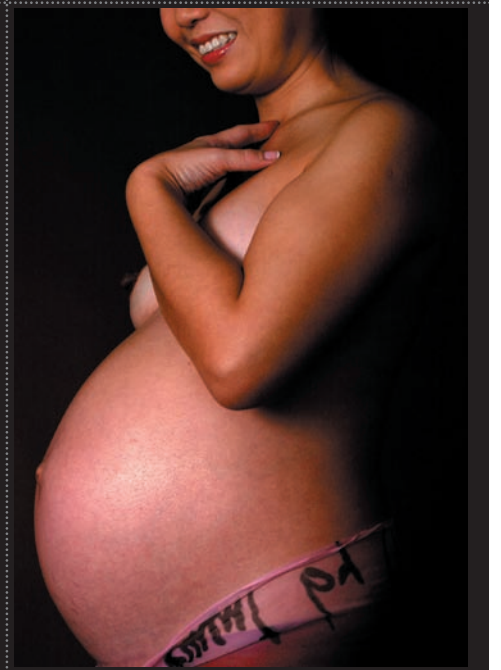
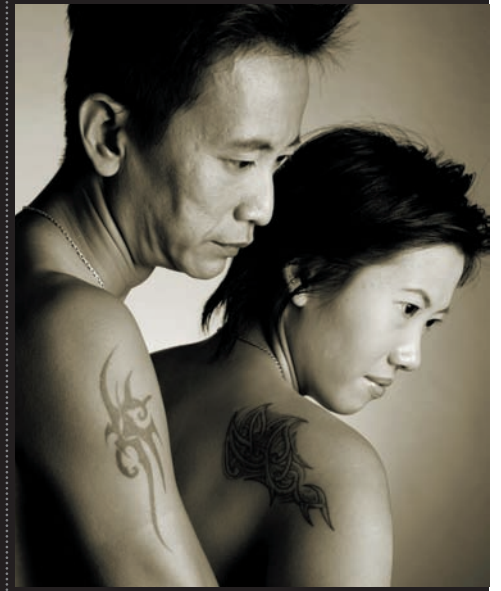
The former dancer and actress at Mediacorp during the days it was called TCS obviously isn't one to sit still – Lisa has a diploma in business, and can speak Thai, Malay, Japanese, English and Mandarin. Lisa has also taken a course on Adobe Photoshop and uses it to digital enhance her photographs. "I look out mostly for the face – blemishes, wrinkles and puffiness."

"Of all the photos I've taken, most of them have been deleted, but some that I really like and the customers don't use, I'll keep as my own portfolio," says Lisa, gesturing to her wall

"Some interesting experiences I've encountered are cross-dressers who want me to make them look as feminine as possible. There are also the transvestites who have female assets and all. Most of these people are in their twenties, and generally very nice people who are a little more sensitive. Some of them feel inferior, whilst others are very confident. In fact, some of the 'ladies' have better figures and are much prettier than me!" grins Lisa.

The petite lady who hopes to retire by 35 had this to say, as a parting note, "Life is short, do as much as you can!" And at the rate she's going, we definitely think she'll make it.

*Lisa shoots at Colourful Faces, located at The RiverWalk, B1-51.*



*The Colourful Faces*  
PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO