

**Orlando Camera Club Presents
July's 2017 Member Spotlight:**

Ansa Du Toit



I am a mother of two growing children, 10 and 7 years old. My husband and I moved to the USA in 1999 and worked very hard over the last 18 years to attain our US citizenship. Growing up in South Africa I was inspired by my father's enthusiasm for photography and the abundance of wildlife.

As competitive skydiver I dabbled with the idea of becoming a team photo and videographer although the weight of video camera's (many years ago) ruled that option out. After I stopped competing in formation skydiving I needed another exciting hobby to pursue with that same passion and intensity. It wasn't until after my daughter was born that I devoted all my spare moments to photography.



With a gentle push from my loved ones, I opened doors for business in 2012 and Picture This by Ansa was born. I do mostly portraits and love that connection with people. But my favorite kind of portraits are teens, high school seniors specifically. I have not thought of myself as a creative photographer until I found the Orlando Camera Club. Attending the meetings and entering the competitions has pushed me beyond myself.

My comfort zone has expanded dramatically and I now enjoy a wide variety of photography including landscapes and macro. Shooting with other photographers also led me to my first love, high speed water drop photography. The technical difficulty and unique shape of every water drop is what keeps my interest. Though I started with a group of friends in my backyard and a humble Ziploc bag as main gear for this, I now own a couple of water drop systems.



As far as equipment goes, I use Canon. I shoot with a 7D and 5D. My three favorite lenses are my EF f/2.8 100mm macro, Canon EF 70-200 f/2.8L IS USM and my Canon EF 24-70mm f/2.8L II USM. I use different lighting systems but in studio I use my Alien Bees 400 and 800's with a range of modifiers and for events I have my Speedlites with my favorite modifier, the MagMod system. I am a perpetual scholar of this craft and there are so many great photographers and resources to learn from. I use KelbyOne, Creative Live, PHlearn, oh, and a lot of google and 500px searches!

I love being hands-on so workshops are one of my favorites tools for growth and thank you to people like Wayne Bennett there is never a short supply of this in our home town. My water drop inspiration/muse is from Corrie White and Hugh Letheren. Portrait photographers I enjoy following is Glyn Lewis, Peter Hurley and Sue Bryce. But for me personally inspiration and learning doesn't always happen with idols but sharing it with my friends and fellow shooters right here in OCC. Other vessels I use to challenge myself are the challenge websites like ViewBug and GuruShots and entries into art galleries.



My immediate future in photography includes an adjunct position at a private high school where I will be teaching part-time come August. But I also have so many unexplored styles and genre's that it's hard to predict. But I hope it involves improving, specializing and shooting more with more friends!



Picture This

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