

Thursday, July 2, 2009

2009.06.08: Julie's film test

Julie is my favourite blonde model. I have worked with her extensively in commercial shoots for Derk's and Bridal Fantasy but rarely do we get together to do personal projects. I feel that Nikolas kind of pushed us to do this one in a tighter time frame than I had hoped but I am still glad that we shot. He's using Julie as one of his models for his Contessa entries and I intend to shoot the photographs on 4x5 film. To reduce the uncertainty, I intend to test as many of his models as I can with as many different film types as I can to get a better feel for which films work best for which models. I tested Portra 160VC, Provia 100F, Astia 100F, Velvia 100F, and Pro-S 160. Unfortunately, those were the large film stocks that I had in the fridge and there is absolutely no colour sheet film in stock anywhere at any of the Edmonton camera stores. I shot all of the film frames this day and Nikolas handled the D3 and the 70-200/2.8 VR. I feel that his shots overall were more successful than mine. I'm kicking myself for not putting more into this shoot, subconsciously treating it as just a film test when instead I should have been savouring this opportunity to work closely with an accomplished international model and an accomplished international makeup artist/haristylist/fashion stylist. I'll make it up to you guys. I promise.

Julie represented by Sabrina Notte. Photos shot in a privately owned and maintained natural reserve scouted by Cody Tait and Mike Isaak. Thank you. Favourites posted up front. Additional images after the jump.

One of Nikolas' shots. I asked Julie to find a semi-comfortable spot to lie down on. Working with the longer lens for the lower shots had its benefits. Furthermore, being able to get lower with a small format or medium format camera as opposed to shooting with a 4x5 monorail on uneven ground also had its benefits.

I was preparing the Horseman LE while Nikolas spotted an opportune moment and started working with Julie by some trees. The sun had lowered to just the right level.

I wasn't sure how to direct our for this shot so she just did her own thing. Hahah . . . I think I was pretty lost for most of the day working over technical details in my head. Still, one of my favourite shots of Julie. After scanning the Pro-S frame I contacted the new owner of the Horseman LE and the Calumet Caltar-S II 210/5.6 that with respect to exotic bokeh and flare he may have just hit the jackpot.

I had a number of images shot with Leanna's Hasselblad 501CM and 80/2.8 Zeiss Planar because I felt it was important to test Fujifilm Provia 100F but didn't have enough 4x5 sheet film to test it effectively. I picked up a few 120 format rolls from McBain Camera while Nikolas was doing Julie's hair and makeup back at the studio. I think that this film shoots a lot better when backlit and without direct sun working as key light. Perhaps it has something to do with my lack of UV filtration.

I like this shot of Julie but as noted before, I don't think that Provia 100F shoots as well when direct sun is hitting skintones. Another of my favourites from Nikolas' set.

One of the last shots of the day. Shot on a sheet of Fuji Astia 100F. The colours reproduce what I saw faithfully. Too bad that the sun had moved down so far by this time that I was struggling to get enough light. I also don't feel that I worked my swing movement to where I wanted it to be.

My version of Nikolas' lying down shot. I think I ended up shooting from too low. Where Nikolas got some light to illuminate Julie's eyes I struggled to get the light that I wanted. For low angle shots like these in the future I am definitely bringing light so that I can get the foreground blur that I wanted to incorporate into the shot but still maintain the life and intensity that Julie infuses into every shot.

And finally, a severely underexposed Astia 100F version of that other shot made on Pro-S. I think both frames are a bit underexposed due to my failure to zero some displacement movements, some tilt, and just metering a bit carelessly. I'm sorry, everyone.

Posted by Klyment Tan in Shoots at 04:17