

Lost Souls

By Julie Fletcher



THE ASSIGNMENT This was part of an ongoing project at Lake Eyre, South Australia. I get bored just shooting landscapes and a few girls working for my partner were keen to get out to this area. I thought it would be great to use them in a few shots.

EQUIPMENT I used a Nikon D800 with my 14–24mm lens, a tripod, Photoshop for post-processing and StarSpikes software that was used to spike Venus.

TECHNIQUE It took a couple of tries. I had three of the girls standing still and the rest walking forward slowly towards the planet Venus to create the ghosting effect over a 20-second exposure. Due to the planet being so bright it created great backlighting and strong silhouettes.

TIPS Visit an area in daylight to plan your shots. Revisit at different times of the year. Have strong foreground interest, separate subjects from the dark background but don't overuse lighting. The most important thing is just have fun.

TRAINING I did a diploma of commercial photography at Ultimo College, Sydney TAFE, finishing in 2004.

Julie's image was the runner-up for the Special Prize (People and Space) in the Astronomy Photographer of the Year 2014 awards, on show at the Royal Observatory Greenwich until February 22 2015. See rmg.co.uk/astrophoto. For more of Julie's images see juliefletcherphotography.com.au or facebook.com/JulieFletcherPhotography

