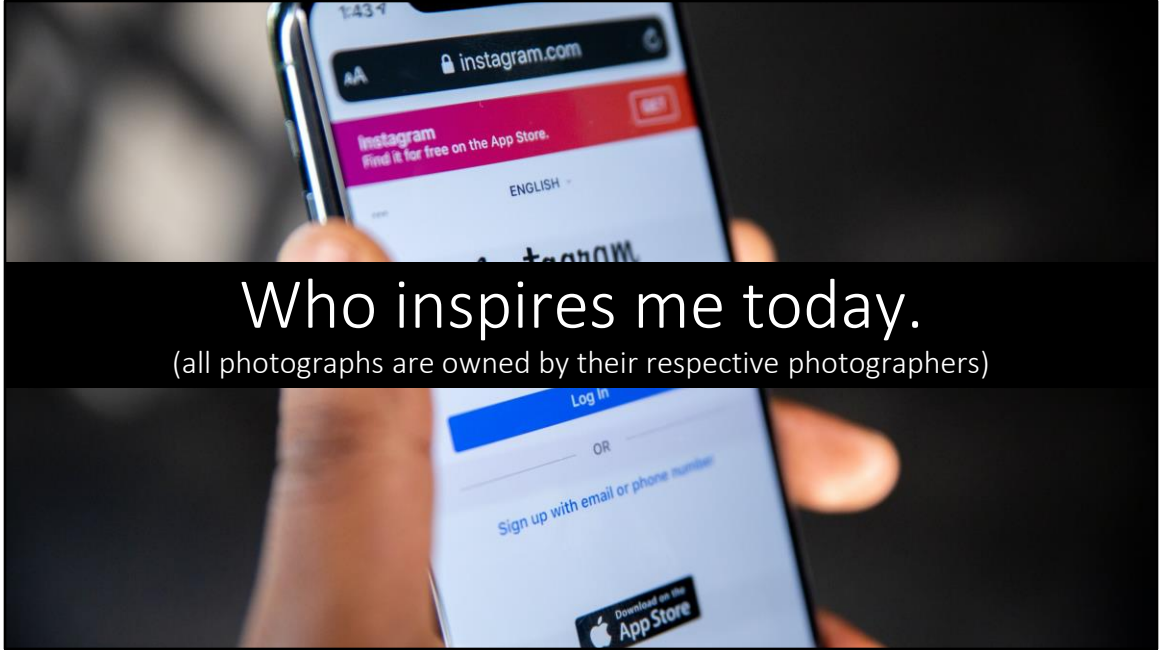


Inspiration

Noun : the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially something creative.



Photographers who inspire me in five different ways.

All images are from their Instagram feeds – they own them, I don't! Go to their Instagram account for the best experience and so see all their excellent photographs.

Inspired to... be technically brilliant.



Robert Pugh
[rpphotobydesign](https://www.instagram.com/rpphotobydesign/)



Darren Heath
[heathpov](https://www.instagram.com/heathpov/)

Inspired to be TECHNICALLY BRILLIANT.

Rob Pugh - <https://www.instagram.com/rpphotobydesign/> - he's an international wedding photographer, ambassador for Sony, Phottix, and Lens Baby.

Darren Heath - <https://www.instagram.com/heathpov/> - a globe-trotting F1 photographer.

Robert Pugh



I've met Rob on several occasions, and been on a three day wedding photography course run by him. He's technically brilliant because he knows his cameras inside out, uses all the custom buttons to best effect and to save him time when shooting.

He's as much an entrepreneur as a photographer. His process for everything – from shooting and editing to backups and marketing - is all about efficiency. He focusses on efficiency so he can spend more time earning money on his next job.

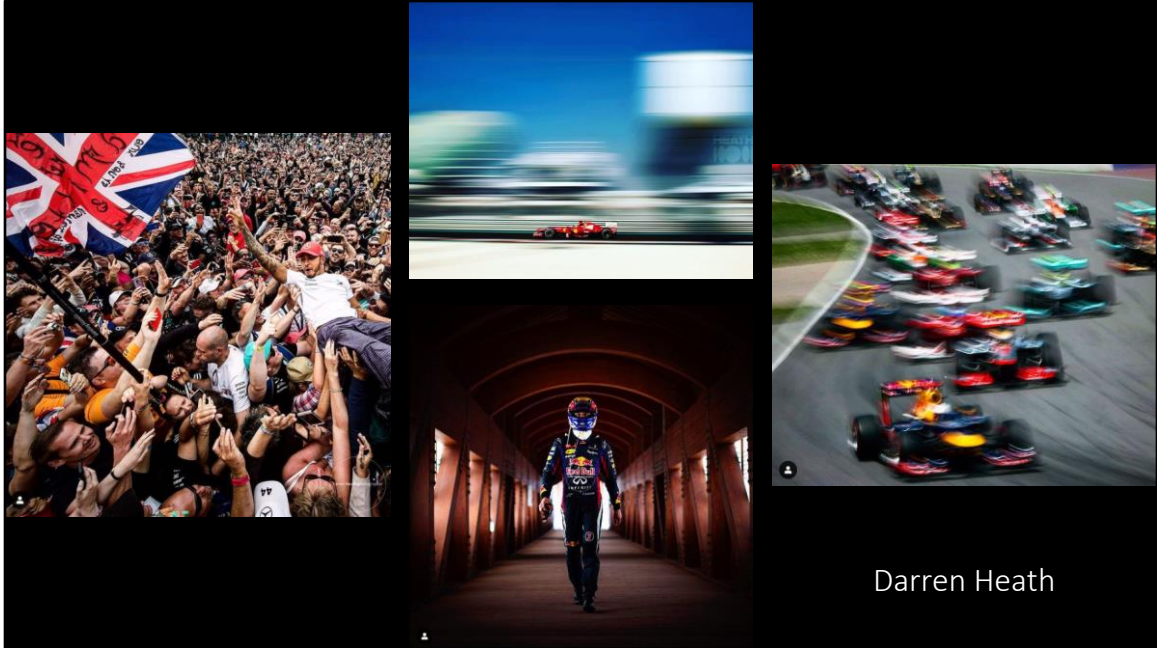
Top photograph – Great exposure means you can see the detail of the couple and also see the stars in the sky. Composed excellently to place the couple in the middle of the O and V, and centred in the frame.

Right photograph – From the wedding photography course I did with Rob last year. He contrasts the simple dress and flowers against the colourful brick wall, and subtly lights the model.

Bottom photograph – Photo composed with couple on a line-of-thirds line and uses a narrow depth of field to blur the foreground and background, making the couple stand out.

Left photograph – Shot at The Photography Show where Rob was demoing on a stand, he used multiple lights with coloured gels. Where the coloured lights converge, it bathes the model in white light. Behind her you can see the colours diverge to produce multiple-coloured shadows.

All photos owned by Robert Pugh, <https://www.instagram.com/rpphotobydesign/>



Darren Heath

Darren is probably the best pan-er in the world. He uses his access-all-areas pass to great effect, has shot all the F1 greats, and even had a book of his best work published.

Top photograph – A classic panning shot for Darren. Keeping the car clean and in focus, and the background stretched and smooth to emphasise the car even more.

Right photograph – Intentional camera movement (ICM) or a mistake? Either way, it's a great photograph and the colours really make it 'pop'.

Bottom photograph – Darren shots portraits and candid shots of the drivers and crew as well as the cars to tell the whole story of F1.

Left photograph – Darren knows each circuit well and knows where to go to get the best shot, to the point he can almost predict where the next shot will be.

All photos owned by Darren Heath, <https://www.instagram.com/heathpov/>

Inspired to... create beautiful images.



Stephanie Parsley
[stephanieparsley](https://www.instagram.com/stephanieparsley/)



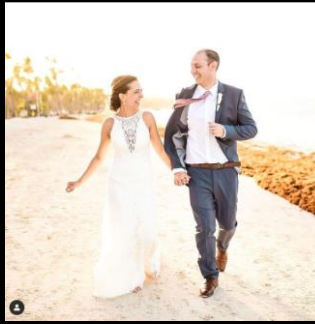
Garðar Ólafsson
[gardarolafsphotography](https://www.instagram.com/gardarolafsphotography/)

Inspired to CREATE BEATIFUL IMAGES

Stephanie Parsley - <https://www.instagram.com/stephanieparsley/> – American wedding photographer, who also does boudoir and interior design shots.

Gardar Olafs - <https://www.instagram.com/gardarolafsphotography/> – Annoyingly young, annoying talented, annoyingly in Iceland.

Stephanie Parsley



If I ever get married, Stephanie is the photographer I'd want if (I could afford to fly her over from America). She splits her time between Little Rock, Arkansas, and Denver, Colorado, doing mainly wedding photography but also boudoir and interior design shots.

I love her high-key style which makes everything so bright. I'd not be brave enough to blow out the sky or detail of a bride's dress, but she makes it work. Her photos are stunning.

All photos owned by Stephanie Parsley,
<https://www.instagram.com/stephanieparsley/>

Garðar Ólafsson



It's hard to find a bad photo by Gardar, who's a fellow Sony shooter. Iceland lends itself to stunning images, and Gardar has the local knowledge to take advantage of the country.

Left photograph. The northern lights. I've been to Iceland but didn't have the right weather to see or photograph them, but he's there all the time and can perfect photos like this with the lights reflected in the water.

Next right. The volcano that stopped the world, Eyjafjallajökull. Gardar managed to photograph an Icelandic horse to add some foreground interest.

Next right. The volcano currently erupting near Keflavik Airport, not far from where Gardar lives. He has a drone video looking right down into the volcano - before his drone melted.

Right photograph. A drone shot looking down on the glacial rivers which flow from Iceland's glaciers to the sea, with the ash-black background.

All photos owned by Gardar Olafsson,

<https://www.instagram.com/gardarolafsphotography/>

Inspired to... try something a little different.



Erin Sullivan
[erinoutdoors](https://www.instagram.com/erinoutdoors/)

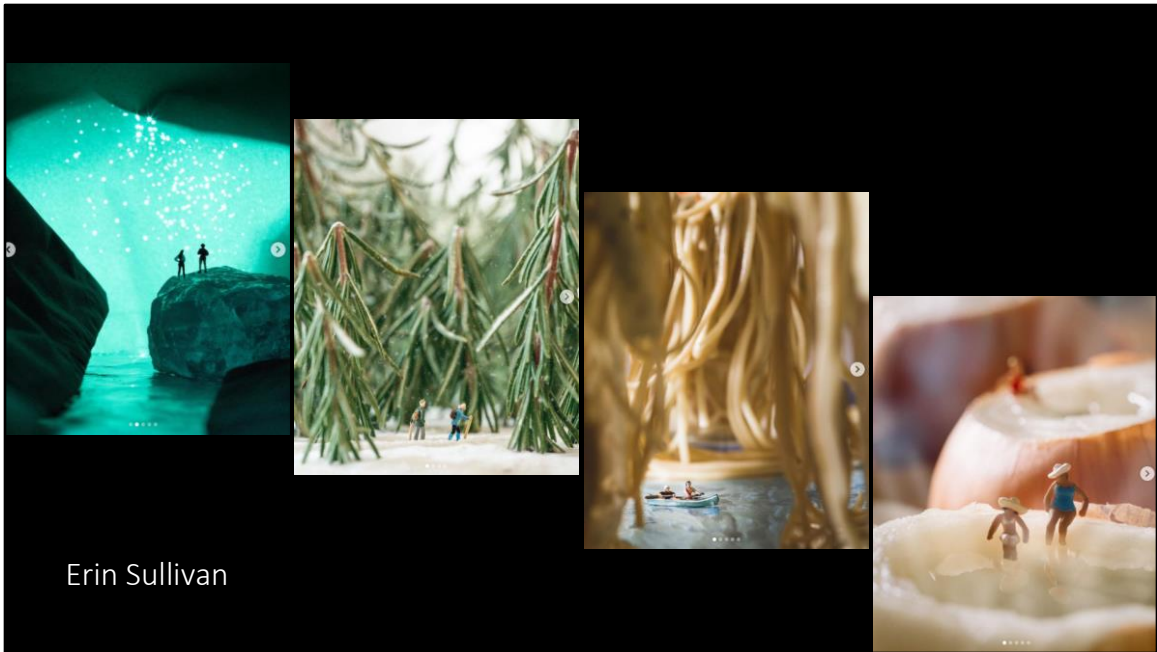


Little Land Rovers
[little_landrovers](https://www.instagram.com/little_landrovers/)

Inspired to TRY SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT

Erin Sullivan - <https://www.instagram.com/erinoutdoors/> – Erin was highlighted early in the first lockdown by Sony. She creates to pretty unique images, but there's a whole sub-culture out there I never realised.

Little Land Rovers - https://www.instagram.com/little_landrovers/ – A simple concept I wish I had come up with.



Moving from left to right, you'll start to see what Erin is doing in her photos.

Left - A couple in front of a magically lit waterfall.

Next right - A couple in a snowy forest.

Next right - A couple canoeing through a jungle.

Right - People bathing in a warm pool... but wait, look carefully, it's an onion pool!

All are mini figures scenes, usually photographed around food stuffs. Rosemary twigs, pasta strands, and onion are all photographic props in these photos.

Visit Erin's Instagram feed for behind the scenes photos. She shoots with Sony cameras and macro lenses, and uses lighting and other techniques to bring her photos to life.

All photos owned by Erin Sullivan, <https://www.instagram.com/erinoutdoors/>

Little Land Rovers

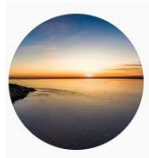


Toy Land Rovers photographed in (mostly!) life-like situations. The photos are brought to life the movement of water (right image) and flying dust (top image).

A simple but fascinating idea – and would only work with a toy Land Rover.

All photos owned by Little Land Rovers,
https://www.instagram.com/little_landrovers/

Inspired to... spend more money.



Portishead Drone
[portisheaddrone](https://www.instagram.com/portisheaddrone/)



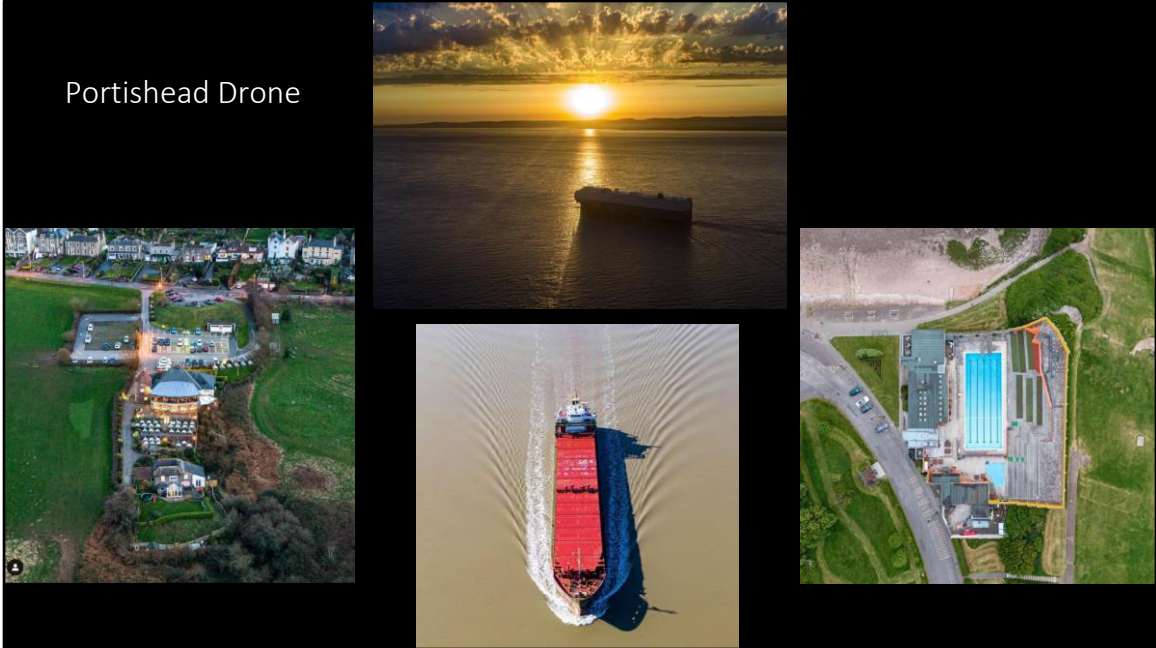
Robert Pugh
[Rpphotobydesign](https://www.instagram.com/rpphotobydesign/)
(yes, again)

Inspired to SPEND MORE MONEY

Portishead Drone - <https://www.instagram.com/portisheaddrone/> – Just up the coast in Portishead, photos which are part of the reason I bought a drone.

Robert Pugh - <https://www.instagram.com/rpphotobydesign/> - Again. I've followed Rob in moving from Olympus to Sony, spent money training with him, and buying lenses that he recommends.

Portishead Drone

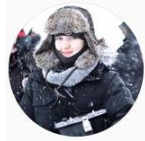


Drone laws are getting tighter, and it's often simplest and safest to fly over open water. This is what Portishead Drone does really well.

Rarely ventures beyond Portishead, but every photo shows a different angle of the town or passing traffic.

All photos owned by Portishead Drone,
<https://www.instagram.com/portisheaddrone/>

Inspired to... be lucky.



Helen Sloan

[helenstills](https://www.instagram.com/helenstills/)

Helen Sloan - <https://www.instagram.com/helenstills/> - My only 'celebrity' photographer, Helen is best known as the principle stills photographer for Game of Thrones.

She made it big though hard work, great skills, and a big dollop of luck.

After college and newspaper photography, she met some clowns in a bar and started to photograph their circus. Honing her skills photographing in the most challenging of conditions, low light combined with fast movement, she produced some great images.

One of Helen's photos got picked up by someone putting together a pilot for a little show called Game of Thrones being filmed in her hometown of Belfast. She was asked if she'd like to photograph the pilot, and the rest is history...

If you search for her on YouTube you'll find her telling her story far better than I ever could. A story she's told at two The Photograph Show events on the Nikon stand.

Helen Sloan



Most of Helen's photos are shot 'behind the scenes' - shot on set from behind the camera, without interrupting the actors and crew. She only gets one chance, and has a trolley of gear she takes to the studio and up snow-covered mountains.

Helen also does publicity shots and had produced a book.

Typically, she would spend six months shooting during filming, then six months editing. She estimates she took 1.2m photos across 8 seasons of Game of Thrones.

As well as all those hours, she'd have the additional stress of being the only person with photos of the upcoming storyline, with a world wanting to know what was about to happen. Every photo had to be kept secure and backed up to many places.

All photos owned by Helen Sloan, <https://www.instagram.com/helenstills/>



And finally, one last inspirational story of double-luck from someone who's not on Instagram (but still has photos on Flickr).

I met Alex Commerford in Oxford in the early days of Twitter at a 'tweet up'. Alex was from Oxford and worked as an F1 photographer for Associated Press.

He studied photography at college, and his girlfriends' mother was Richard Branson's Personal Assistant. There was a photo shoot booked for the Rolling Stones but the photographer got ill, Richard Branson asked his Personal Assistant to find a replacement photographer immediately. Alex got the job. He went on to become a successful music and gig photographer.

Years later, Alex was shooting a concert on the Saturday of an F1 weekend at Silverstone. He was asked by one of the press photographers if he'd like to change career.

So, what I've learned from Helen and Alex, is you never know who might see your photo and what adventures it might lead to!