# Add mood to portraits

THE HIGH PASS FILTER is a highly effective sharpening tool, drawing out the tiniest of details for hyper-real results. Few subjects show the benefits of this filter as well as a portrait, and while it's far from forgiving – enhancing every line, wrinkle and pore – it's fantastic for faces full of character. Gritty environmental portraits, like a fisherman, the elderly, or in this case a homeless person, suits the technique well due to the lines on their faces and already rough appearance. A black & white conversion ensure the face's character becomes the prime focus.
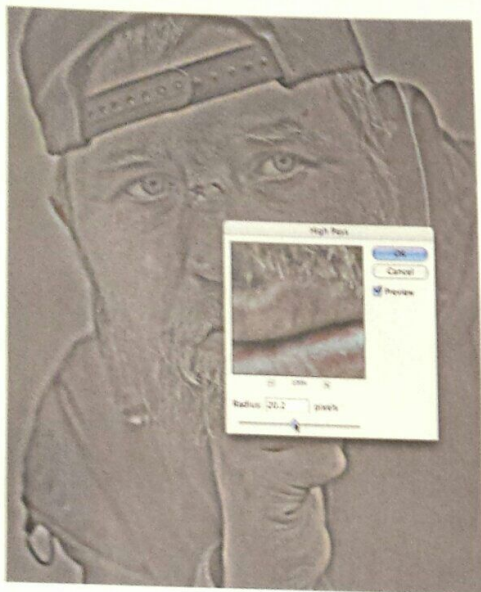

1 Use High Pass Go to *Layer>Duplicate Layer* to duplicate the image on to a new layer, then go to *Filter>Other>High Pass...* to open the High Pass window. As you increase the *Radius* amount a halo will begin to appear around the edges within your image. When this halo gets too large, much of the small detail within the layer will become lost, so it's best not to overdo it.
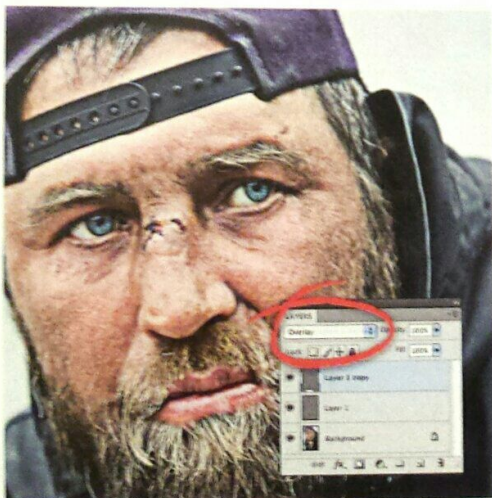
2 Add a blend mode Change the layer's Blend Mode to *Overlay* via the drop-down menu at the top left of the Layers palette (circled). This allows the two layers to blend together and reveals the detail, maximizing the effect of the High Pass filter. If the amount of detail still isn't sufficient go to *Layer>New>Layer via Copy* to double the effect, creating 'hyper-real' results.
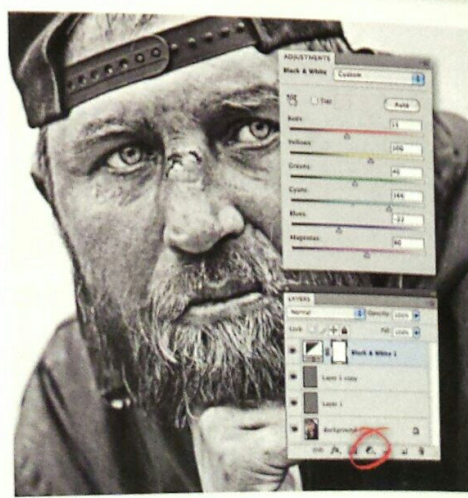

3 Convert to black & white Create a *Black & White* adjustment layer by clicking the icon at the bottom of the Layers palette (circled), then use the color sliders to improve the result. The main colors to work on for portraits are Red and Yellow to target the skin tones. The Blue slider is also handy for this particular image to adjust the subject's piercing blue eyes.
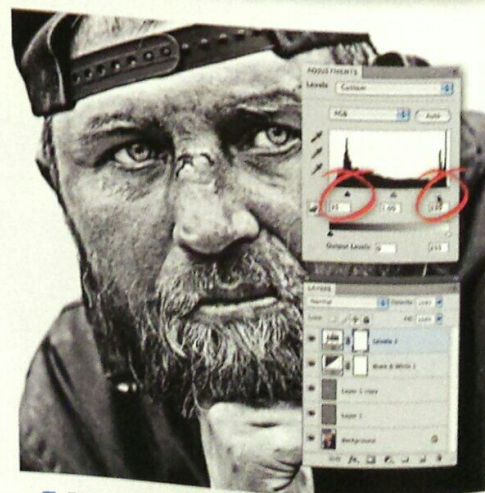
4 Use Levels to boost contrast Now create a *Levels* adjustment layer from the drop-down menu at the bottom of the Layers palette. Use the Black point and White point sliders (circled) to make improvements to the overall contrast of the image. Be quite excessive with the Levels adjustments to really add to the dark and moody look of the image.
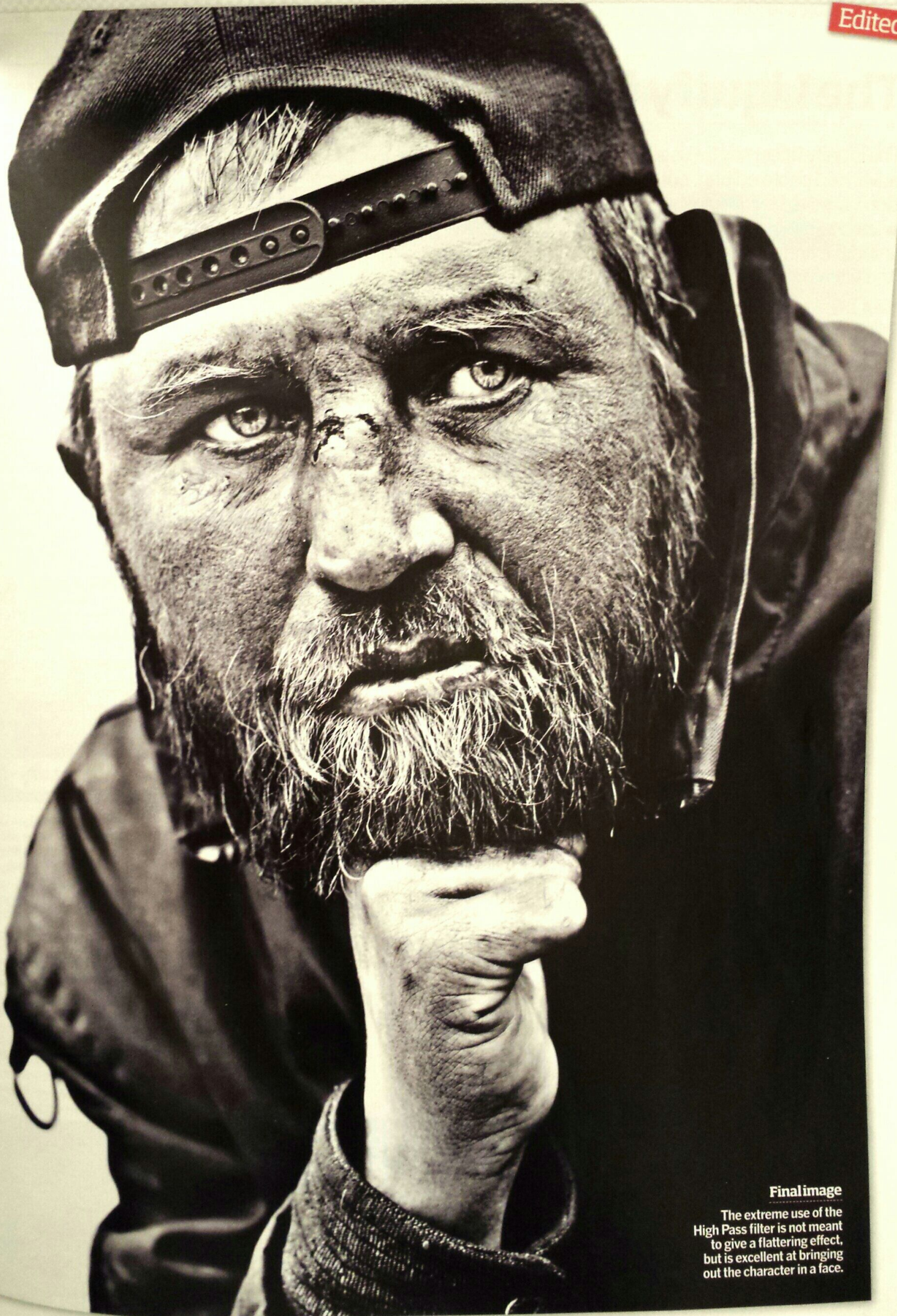
Final image
The extreme use of the High Pass filter is not meant to give a flattering effect, but is excellent at bringing out the character in a face.