



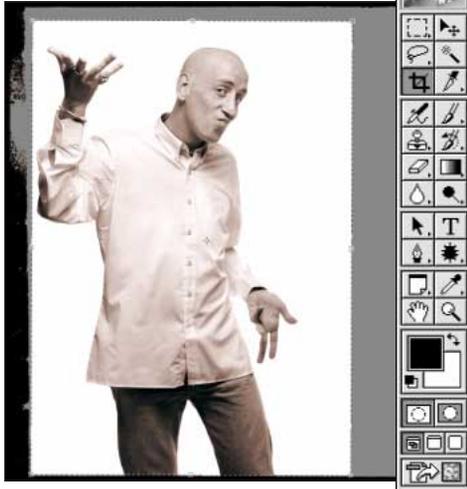
## Chapter Eight

# Basic Image Adjustments

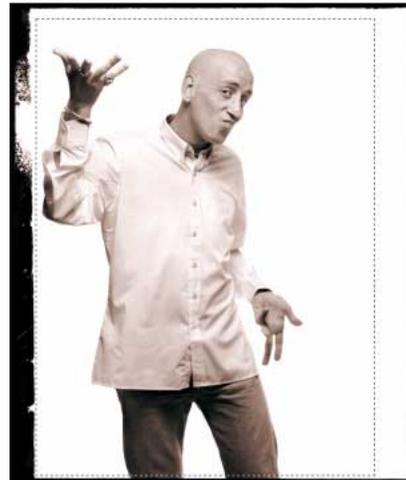
The aim of this chapter is to introduce everything you need to know about opening up a picture and carrying out basic image corrections. That is all most people ever want to know, but one can become distracted and confused by the many image controls available in Photoshop. The procedures outlined here show some of the methods used to prepare my own images. Of course, all the image adjustment commands are useful in one way or another – not even the simple Brightness/Contrast command should be regarded as totally redundant. What I have done here is provide a guide to the image corrections which professionals would use. I suggest these techniques provide the greatest scope for correcting and fine tuning your images and are a good solid base on which to build your retouching skills.

### Cropping

Open a file as you would any document, choosing File > Open... If scanning the image, make sure the scanner software and Import plug-in filters are installed correctly, then choose File > Import > (select scanner module). Select the crop tool from the tools palette and drag to define the area to be cropped. To zoom in on the image as you make the crop, you will want to use the zoom tool shortcut: Command/Ctrl+Spacebar and marquee drag area to magnify. To zoom out, here is a handy tip: use Command/Ctrl+0, which is the shortcut for View > Fit To Window. Then zoom back in again to magnify another corner of the image to adjust the crop handles.



1 First crop the picture – this is normally done with the crop tool. Drag across the image to roughly define the cropping area. As was explained in Chapter Six, the cursor can be placed above any of the eight handles in the bounding rectangle to reposition the crop. Placing the cursor inside the crop area moves the whole crop.



2 You can also crop with the rectangular marquee tool. Define a selection and choose Image > Crop. The constraining options available in the marquee options include Constrain Aspect Ratio and Fixed Size. Irregular selections are now recognized.



3 You can enter the target image dimensions and resolution in the above crop options boxes. Type in the numeric values and measurement units. To match the dimensions and resolution of an existing picture, make the target image active and click Front Image (this automatically sets the fixed target size to match the image size). Activate the other image and apply the crop tool. The image will be cropped to match the resolution and size of the former image.

4 If the cursor is dragged outside the crop area with the crop tool, mousing down and dragging rotates the crop. You do this to realign an image which has been scanned slightly at an angle. Should there not be enough canvas size available, Photoshop will add the current Background color as extra canvas (or transparency if not a Background layer) after cropping. The crop bounding box center point (see image 1) can be repositioned to alter the central axis of rotation.

