

# Do You Need Fast Lenses?

by Michael Willems

It isn't all aperture that makes blurry backgrounds.

Of course aperture is a main factor: the larger the aperture (i.e. the smaller the "f-number"), the blurrier the background. So a f/1.4 lens sure is handy that way.

But other factors count too!

## **Sensor:**

the larger the sensor, the blurrier your backgrounds can be. (Try to get blurry backgrounds with a little small-sensor point-and-shoot camera: good luck!)

## **Proximity:**

the closer you are, the blurrier your backgrounds can be.

## **Focal length**

the more you zoom in, the blurrier your backgrounds can be.

You do not always need an f/1.4 lens for blurred backgrounds.

In that case, why do I love my fast primes?

## **Light**

A faster lens lets in more light, meaning you can get reasonable shutter speeds without crazy high ISO values.

## **Quality**

A lens is usually best when stopped down a couple of stops from wide open. So an f/1.4 lens at f/2.8 is likely to be better than an f/2.8 lens at f/2.8.

## **Blurred Background**

Sometimes you do want blurred background when you cannot get closer or use a longer lens!