



The ProPixelat8 Wedding Photography Guide for prospective brides

Choosing the right wedding photographer is just as important as choosing the right groom. Almost! Ok, just yanking your chain! Partnering with the right photographer(s) is incredibly important, but there are lots of things that YOU can do and should do to ensure that your wedding photos are as good as they can be.

The Pre-Wedding Photo shoot

A pre-wedding photo shoot can improve your wedding pictures more than anything else you might do. Think about it, your photographer is comfortable on his end of the camera. He /she have done a lot of it, they know their equipment and what is required to make the shoot work!

The time you spend with your photographer in front of the camera will help you become more comfortable being the subject. This is essential in getting good photographs of such an important day! Let's face it, the chances that you may "freeze", be uncomfortable and unprepared are real! That's not good!

Try to get to know your photographer. Have fun. Be a little crazy. The reality of it is that those photographs on the websites and bridal magazines that you have been looking at do not happen automatically!

They are well planned, rehearsed, and the photo that you finally see in the magazine was probably picked from hundreds of photos. The models are professional.

So what do you expect? The more time you spend with your photographer, the more likely it is that he/she will capture that special moment that only happens once.

Understanding “Posing” for the camera

"Chin up, tilt your head a little, a little to the left, no, not so much, shoulders back, weight on one leg, hold your breath, slightly parted lips...hang on, don't move." Any photographer worth his salt should be able to pose you in an elegant and attractive position. Do you know the reason for all these the contortions? By lifting your chin you banish the double chin. Tilting the head creates a more relaxed posed. Slightly parted lips make them look more sensual...

Bending your elbows away from your body reduces the perceived width of your torso. It also accentuates the bosom and creates more “height”! Shifting your weight to your rear foot cocks your hips into a position that gives you a sexy curvature – now move one hip forward a little and it is Oh my word.... Sooo sexy!

Look into the lens – treat the camera as a person and make eye contact! There are many little tricks your photographer may teach you. Just listen. It will work for you!

The setting, backgrounds, rooms and angles

Remember, your wedding day is all about you and you should always be the centre of attraction! Imagine choosing a bridesmaid with the looks of a Brazilian Miss World finalist... Ooops! That did not work! Similarly complicated and elaborate settings and backgrounds in your photographs distract the viewer's attention away from the bride. Now that didn't work either! Keep backgrounds as simple as possible.

Interesting angles are what keeps the images of a professional photographer from looking like your grandmother's pics – after all, she used that mik-and-druk that she bought 13 years ago for Uncle Les's funeral!

Don't get dressed in a cramped, cluttered room. Find a lovely home and get dressed in the lounge, if you must! (Just make sure there are no strangers walking in on you!) That way the photographer will be able to focus on you and will be able to eliminate the hairbrushes, underwear on the bed and all the soft toys on the vanity!

Everyone knows exactly what you look like from a height of 1.8m. So if you see your photographer on his knees, he is NOT proposing! The brides taken! Done! He is just doing his job! That's why he gets paid for.

Lighting

When choosing the time of day, keep lighting in mind. If your wedding is outdoors, the best light happens 1-2 hours before sunset. By then you should be OUT of the church (or magistrate's court, or informal wedding chapel).

If your wedding is indoors, avoid buildings with high dark ceilings and few windows.

Since natural light or a blend of fill-in and natural light will look much more flattering in your photos, try to plan your wedding when the room will be the brightest.

By the way, photographers hate fluorescent lights. They make you look alien. Green is not a good colour for anything but a hospital. There you do not notice it!

Be sure to consult with your photographer and make sure you create a wedding day schedule that will allow you to take advantage of the best light of the day, which photographers like to call “magic light.” Also keep in mind the climate – posing indoors could make for better pictures than outside, if it’s 100 degrees outside.

Props

Give your photographer the tools he needs to be creative. Something that you can associate with! When ordering flowers for the wedding, be sure to order an extra single long-stem rose, a quirky little ring-pillow, a ribbon in your wedding colours, a string of pearls, or other inexpensive items that the photographer can use in your photos.

Don't forget to have a copy of your wedding invitation that he can incorporate into the detail shots of your big day. Photos of wedding rings with flowers, invitation, maybe even your shoes and garter can really add to your album.

Group photos

Unless you want your wedding day to be remembered as one very long photo shoot, try to limit the number of posed group shots. The more groups you want photographed, the less time your photographer(s) will have capturing moments, candid shots of you and your guests, and you as a couple.

Always start with the biggest groups first – that way most of the family will be away and it creates an air of expectation at the reception! Let your photographer assist with this – they know best!

Once the groups are done and done, you and the groom will have the time to spend with the photographer. This is the bit where memories are made!

To ensure that the formal photo session rolls out as smoothly as possible, communicate this requirement before the wedding to everyone involved. Include the where and when's at the same time!

Hair and Makeup

Your wedding day is not the right time to experiment with makeup and hairstyles.

Do a trial run with your hair and makeup and have photos taken to make sure you're happy with your appearance.

If you plan to wear a headpiece, use this time to make sure that it will fit with your hairstyle.

Check out your makeup both in natural light and indoors to be sure it's not too heavy! Your makeup should look light, clean and natural. Even though your wedding is a very special day, keep in mind that you still want to look like you. I think the groom would prefer to marry the "same" person, too!

By the way, if you plan it right, your photographer may be available to take some formals on this day too.

The Bouquet

How should you hold a bouquet? Always...DOWN!! Never up. Never!!!

And it will be a long day. By the end of the day, you will be wishing that your bouquet was smaller, lighter, more durable... If it's too big you may even injure Aunt Sarah, who is so keen on a fourth marriage, during the bouquet toss!

Other photographers

Lots of people have cameras! Lots of people use them and they seldom produce great results! You may get a few good photos here and there but don't expect too much. You'll probably get a great batch of photos of Tom-the-poseur's sexy girlfriend (the one with the long, tanned legs in that short peacock-blue skirt) that you hardly know.

Your four-year old nephew will probably take a lot of pictures of people's belt-buckles and handbags. And if anyone gets tipsy at the reception you may get a lot of photos of the ground, shoes, or eyeballs through the base of an empty glass. Worst still, girls licking each other – it seems to be a current trend! ☹

Your photography is best left to professionals. Don't worry about the bothers, though – your photographer will move them out of the way fast!

One last thing

Remember that the only goal of your wedding photos is to capture beautiful pictures of you and your day! Even though you'll want everything to be perfect, your photographer will be looking for great expressions and beautiful moments - and those usually come when all involved are relaxed and are having a great time.

ProPixel8 wishes you the wedding of your dreams!

