

# Photography & Videography

## HIRING A PHOTOGRAPHER

Hiring a good photographer is one of the most important tasks in planning your wedding because chances are you and your fiancé will look at the photos many times during your lifetime

### *Things to Consider:*

◆ Experience: hire a photographer who is experienced in wedding photography and one who is familiar with your ceremony and reception sites. Photographers who are experienced in wedding photography understand the wedding procedures

This is important because he /she can anticipate the next move and be in the proper place at the right time to capture all the special moments.

◆ Personal rapport: Comfort and compatibility with your photographer can make or break your wedding day and your photographs! Your photos will reflect if you are at ease and also if you are not. So even if the photographer is an expert and if you don't feel comfortable or at ease with him or her do not hire them.

◆ When looking at samples of his/her work. See if the photographer captured the excitement and emotion of the day couple.

◆ Do the photos tell a story?

The wedding album should unfold like a storybook – the story of your wedding. A good wedding photographer should have a list of suggested poses to choose from

◆ Discuss all the details of your requirements with your photographer so there is no misunderstanding. Use the photography worksheet to select photos you must have. Give a copy of that checklist to your photographer.

◆ Look at albums ready to be delivered, or proofs of weddings recently photographed. Look at others specialized in more candid, creative shots. Some can do both.

◆ When comparing prices, consider the number, size and finish of the photographs and the type of album the photographer will use to present the finished product.

## THE WEDDING ALBUM

Wedding albums come in various types. They vary in design, size, colour, material and price. Review the differences between these albums and

choose a design that you like and will feel proud of showing to your friends and family.

## PARENTS' ALBUM

This is a smaller version of the bride and groom's album. Photos should be carefully selected for each individual family. Personalize the album with the bride and groom's names and date of their wedding on the front cover and it as a gift.

## EXTRA PRINTS

Order extra prints in addition to the main album or parents' albums. These are usually purchased as gifts for the bridal party, close friends and family members. The best way to go about it to have the main album delivered and ask the bridal party plus friends to choose the copies they would like, to give you an idea of how many extra prints you would like, then ask the photographer to produce them. Factor this in your budget but remember most people are willing to pay for the extra copies they would like as this can prove to be an expensive affair and prices vary considerably. Some photographers keep the negatives so you can order reprints from them while others (actually most) will give you the negatives. Make sure you discuss this in your contract.



### **Beware:**

When asked to provide references, many photographers will give you the names of people they know are happy with their work. Some may even give you names from weddings they performed several years ago. This may not indicate the photographer's current ability or reputation. So when asking for references, be sure to ask for recent weddings the photographer has performed. This will give you a good idea of his/ her current work. Be sure to ask if the photographer was prompt.

Make sure the photographer you interview is the one who will photograph your wedding. There are many companies with more than one photographer. Often these companies use the work of the best photographer to sell their packages and then send a less experienced photographer to the wedding. Don't get caught in this trap! Be sure you meet with the photographer who will shoot your wedding. This way you can get an idea of his/her style and personality.

Also, some churches have photography restrictions during the ceremony. Make sure your photographer understands the rules and regulations of your church before planning the ceremony shots.



## DISPOSABLE CAMERAS

A great way to obtain many beautiful, memorable and candid photographs of your reception is to place disposable cameras on each table at your reception, and to have your guests take shots of the event! Disposable cameras are available from Kodak or any leading supermarket and come pre-loaded with film. You have the option of 24 and 12 exposures per camera. Ask your guests to leave the cameras at their table or Arrange for someone to collect the cameras after the event. Ask your MC or wedding coordinator to encourage your guests to take photographs.