

# Tips for a wedding shoot

At some point most of us will be asked if we can take the photos at a wedding

Tonight we pretend that you said yes & that the wedding is between a male & a female

Rather than banging on about gear at the start, I thought we could leave that until the end

**NB: Like most things, you take what you might find helpful & leave the rest**

The images I have used are from a real wedding from a few weeks back and I have broken it down into sections of the day. The clients will receive around 700-800 edited images

You may just choose to shoot 1 or 2 sections of someones day or all. It will be your call

○ MY ADVICE IS DON'T DO MORE THAN 2 SECTIONS I'F YOU ARE ALSO A GUEST

## **Pre Wedding Walk-around**

Where you meet with your couple a day or two before the wedding at the venue and at the time of the ceremony to;

- See where the sun will be during the ceremony
- Chat about a Plan B in case of bad weather
- Choose locations for group/family/formal photos
- Have a general chat about their day

## **Getting ready - includes little things**

- Hair/makeup
- Girls chatting/drinking. There is always something to take a snap of
- Flat lay or macro images of little things like rings, brooches, ear rings perfume etc
- Getting into the dress
- If the reception is at the same location keep looking to see if the cake has arrived or the tables are setup for photos

## **Ceremony**

- Introduce yourself to the celebrant & ask for a ceremony rundown so you know what will happen & not be caught out
- Choose where you will stand to catch the Bride walking up the aisle & perhaps the reaction on the Grooms face
- Try not to blow out the brides dress at any time
- Exchange of rings
- I now pronounce you man & wife - The kiss - FROM IN FRONT OF THE BRIDE & GROOM IN THE AISLE
- Walking back up the aisle as a married couple
- Capturing people hugging & kissing the newly weds
- SEE WHAT SIDE THE BRIDE HUGS OR KISSES WHEN YOU STAND BEHIND HER SO YOU ARE READY TO CAPTURE AN AUNTY MILDRED AS SHE GIVES A HUG & KISS

## **Group & family photos**

- Choose your photo locations before the wedding ceremony, if you didn't have a pre wedding walk-around
- Always take more than 2 images of each group as someone usually has their eyes closed. Use CHEESE or whatever works for you
- IF PEOPLE CLAIM THEY ALWAYS HAVE THEIR EYES CLOSED IN PHOTOS, GET THEM TO CLOSE THEIR EYES UNTIL YOU HAVE COUNTED BACKWARD FROM 3 TO 1 WHEN THEY OPEN THEIR EYES ON 1. THATS WHEN YOU TAKE THE PHOTO

## **Formal Photos**

- Honestly, natural & fun is best
- I get bridal groups to crash into each other
- I ask the couple to run toward the camera
- I get them to slow dance around in a circle with a kiss every now & again - It works

- ABOVE ALL, MAKE IT FUN & ASK THEM WHAT IS THE PHOTO THEY WOULD LOVE TO SEE OF THEM. YOU WILL BE SURPRISED TO KNOW IT'S JUST ONE OF THEM BEING THEM :)

### **Reception**

- Bridal party entrance
  - Speeches
  - Cutting of the cake
  - First dance
  - Table shots of people
  - Guests dancing
- UNLESS YOU HAVE A REASONABLY MODERN CAMERA CAPABLE OF HIGHER ISO OR YOU ARE PROFICIENT WITH FLASH, MAYBE JUST SHOOT THE CAKE CUTTING WHERE IT'S A MORE CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT

### **Exit**

- Sparkler exits
- SPARKLER EXITS DON'T HAVE TO BE AT THE END OF THE NIGHT - MANY GUESTS WILL HAVE LEFT. ORGANISE THEM WHEN IT SUITS YOU & THE COUPLE, SUCH AS BETWEEN SPEECHES OR COURSES

### **Gear I use**

- Full frame DSLR as well as an APS-C Mirrorless cameras
- Strange as it seems I often just leave my Mirrorless on Spot metering linked to focus point
- 17-40 f4
- 24-105 f4
- 35 f1.4 Sigma - art
- 85 f1.4 Sigma - non art
- 100 Macro f2.8
- Fuji 35 f1.4
- Sigma 18-35 f1.8 - art - for Fuji APS-C sensor
- Fuji 40-150 f2.8
- 2 x Godox flash units

I HAVE ACCESS TO ALL THIS KIT, BUT OFTEN LEAVE LENSES BEHIND FOR VARIOUS REASONS

### **Current trends**

- 35mm fast glass
- 50mm fast glass
- 135mm fast glass
- Shooting pretty much wide open & taking thousands of images throughout the wedding in bursts & utilising AI driven AF focus modes such as on the eyes. Trashing the images they don't like during the editing phase