



THE
WEDDING
EXPERIENCE

A Guide for planning your wedding day



W E L C O M E

Hello couples and welcome! We're so excited to be working with you and we cannot wait to get to know you better over the next several months. We know wedding photography is one of the larger investments you're making in your wedding day and we're so honored you chose to work with us!

Even if you're working with a wedding planner or planning a smaller more intimate wedding, there are most likely still a lot of moving pieces left leading up to your big day.

Since photographing weddings since 2010, we tend to get asked the same things over and over again, we thought it would be the most beneficial if we put together a guide that walks you through everything from timelines, to engagement sessions, to inclement weather.

Thank you again for choosing to work with us and please do not hesitate to let us know if we can offer any additional guidance throughout the wedding planning process.

www.BEATBOX PORTRAITS.com

817-874-6921

TABLE OF CONTENTS



8	Engagement Sessions
12	Engagement Prep Tips
14	Bridal Sessions
17	Sample Timelines
24	Getting Ready
30	Timing Tips
34	The First Look
38	The Daddy / Daughter First Look



40	Ceremony Prep & Tips
44	The Family Formals List
46	Your Romantic Portrait Time
48	Rainy Wedding Days
52	Reception Planning
56	The Grand Exit
58	Creating Your First Heirloom
60	Your Online Gallery Explained



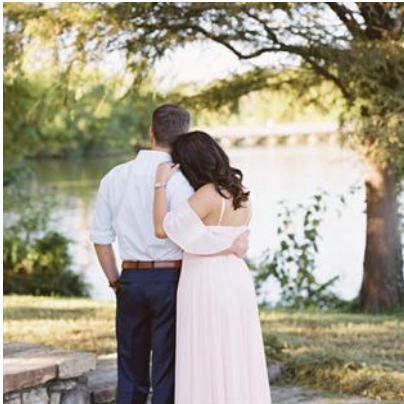
YOUR ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Now that you have picked your wedding date and venue it's time to celebrate! Those are some of the toughest decisions in wedding planning and you can cross them off your list! Hooray!! Now on to the fun stuff... like your engagement session! We truly believe that they are a VITAL part of the entire process. During your engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know us, experience how we shoot, how we handle posing and lighting. This session will make a HUGE impact on how the wedding day flows. What we learn about you during your engagement session is invaluable! We will arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way and you will feel like such a pro on your big day because of the great practice you had during your engagement session, and that's how it should be!

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. We normally suggest booking it at least 6-9 months in advance. We shoot engagements on weekday evenings, normally from 5-7pm depending on the light and the time of the year. As you start to plan for your engagement shoot, you will need to start brainstorming about location ideas. We love it when couples pick a location that is special or sentimental to them in some way! If you can't think of anywhere specific that you would like to shoot, we can help you decide on a location! As long as the light is great, we can make ANY location look awesome! Be sure to keep reading to find out more about outfit ideas and inspiration!

ENGAGEMENT PREP

It can be a little intimidating to have your picture taken, even if it's just a photo on an iPhone that is taken by a friend. We still want to look nice, make sure nothing is in our teeth and that our hair is behaving! We realize that preparing for your engagement session can be a little overwhelming. Here are some tips that will make the preparation fun and stress free.



- We encourage our couples to wear two outfits. One dressy, one semi-dressy. This will give your shoot two totally different “looks”. We recommend beginning with the dressy outfit first and change into your clothes when you arrive. Driving in them creates wrinkles by seat belts.

- Time to really get fancy, you are only engaged once, So live it up and buy outfits that you love! Speaking of wow, professional makeup and hair is a must! Not only will you feel fabulous but you will look like it too! Time to celebrate!

- Try to pick outfits and accessories that coordinate. Pick a combo of two to three colors that are evenly sprinkled between both of your outfits.

- Patterns and textures are great. If one is wearing a bold pattern have the other wear a solid color. This will keep the outfits from trying to compete.

- Relax! You don't have to be a pro at this! We are going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast! Enjoy this time together, and make a date out of it! Plan dinner afterwards.

- Do try on your outfits and make sure you like the way each piece fits and feels comfortable. Long dresses that flow are breath taking in photos. Have guys suit up.

- Clean the ring and pamper yourself with a fresh natural manicure. Skip the trendy colors of neon pink, lime green, blue etc.

- Empty your pockets! Literally. You don't want to have key chains or phones showing through your pockets. (This is for the guys especially!)

- Be sure to check out our Pinterest boards for style tips and outfit inspiration.





ENGAGEMENT SESSION

Approximate Start Time

WINTER

Dec-Mar 3-5pm

During December through Mid-March you can plan on your engagement session taking place around 3-5pm. However, the time changes in Mid-March and so that will make the start time one hour later.

SUMMER

Jun-Aug 6:30-8:30pm

Summer engagements, just like all engagements, take place two hours before sunset. This will hopefully mean that the shoot will be during the cooler part of the day.

SPRING

Apr-May - Varies

The sunset time drastically changes throughout the course of these two months and so our shooting times change as well. You can plan on approximately 5:30-7:30 in April and 6:00-8:00 in May.

FALL

Sept-Nov - Varies

The sunset time changes drastically during these three months. In Sept, you can plan on 5:30-7:30 until the third week and then you can plan on 5:00-7:00 until Mid- Oct. After the first week of Nov, 3:00-5:00pm.

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair and bangs, smiling broadly and hugging a man from behind. The man is wearing a blue button-down shirt. The woman is wearing a white button-down shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

LOGISTICS :

- We photograph engagement sessions on weekday evenings because public areas are less crowded and we can usually have the place all to ourselves.
- Bring two outfits, this will give you a mix of variety in your images.
- Be creative with locations! We do like to do a site visit to all new locations to see how the lighting falls on the property.
- We do recommend two locations max for engagements. When we keep locations to a minimum we will have more time for taking photos.





LET THE PLANNING BEGIN

If you're a couple that is a little anxious about how your going to react to this whole "picture" thing, you're not alone. It is more common than you think! Some couples worry that their significant other won't be into it and we have great news for you.... you both are more photogenic than you think! We constantly surprise couples by discovering their hidden modeling skills. Our most common response from couples is "That wasn't as bad as I thought! I didn't know why I was so nervous! It was so much fun." Boom! Mission accomplished! When our couples rave about how easy it was and that we captured the real love they have for each other then we have done our job well!

Your engagement session is supposed to be fun and relaxed, not forced or awkward. As you prepare for your shoot, there are a few things that you can do to help each other to know what to expect. First of all, we suggest sitting down with each other and spend some time together scrolling through a few of our engagement blog posts together. To see what images you are drawn to as a couple. To eliminate stress on the day of the shoot, we recommend that you allow for plenty of time to get to your shoot location! You do not want to feel rushed to change into your outfits. Lastly, remember to have patience with each other and have a ton of fun with it! We are here to celebrate you and your relationship!

BRIDAL PREP

WHY BRIDAL SESSIONS ROCK

We love bridal session for many reasons but one of our favorite is the one on one time you get with just you and your mom. This is VERY special for your mom/parents to see you as a bride and wedding days zoom by so fast that anytime you can carve out time for just them is so special! Bonus, you get to trial run your wedding day makeup and hair, to make sure it is exactly the look you want before your most special day.



-Contact your makeup and hair artist to set up your bridal makeup and hair. This is the perfect time to trial run for the big day.

-Contact your florist and order your bridal bouquet. It's time to go BIG!! Order the same size and style of bouquet that you will have on your wedding day.

-Items to bring, veil, hair pieces, wedding jewelry, your ring, and wedding day shoes

-Do bring comfy shoes too! You will wear these about 90% of the session. I want to keep your wedding day shoes clean for the big day. Do make sure the comfy shoes are the same height you need to wear your dress.

-Bring a water bottle. Staying hydrated is always important, especially on those hot Texas days.

-Bring mom or your maid of honor to help you when you walk and hold your extra items, like the bouquet. It is also a nice private time for you and your mom to spend the day together as she sees you as a bride for the first time.

-Arrive a little early, at least 30 minutes to your session. This allows you to change stress free and not have to rush. If your dress requires a little more time to get into, make sure to allow time for changing.

- Relax! You don't have to be a pro at this! We are going to help you along the way and it's going to be a blast!





SAMPLE TIMELINE

WITH FIRST LOOK

- 1:30pm- Bride & Groom Detail Photos
- 2:00pm- Bride Getting Ready
- 2:30pm- Groom Getting Ready
- 3:00pm- Bride Into Dress & First Look With Dad
- 3:30pm- Bride, Bridesmaid's, Flowers Girls, House Party Girls
- 4:00pm- Groom, Groomsmen, Ring Bearer, Ushers, Grooms's Parents
- 4:20pm- Bride & Groom First Look & Formal Photos
- 4:40pm- Bride, Groom, Full Wedding Party
- 5:00pm- Empty Ceremony Site & Reception Space Decor Shots (All Set)
- 5:30pm- Ceremony Begins
- 6:00pm- Family Formals
- 6:30pm- Announced Into Reception
- 6:35pm- Bride & Groom First Dance
- 6:40pm- Blessing & Dinner Service
- 7:15pm- Toasts
- 7:30pm- Parent Dances
- 7:40pm- Cake Cutting
- 7:45pm- Open Dance
- 9:15pm- Garter & Bouquet Toss
- 9:20pm- Private Last Dance
- 9:30pm- Grand Exit

SAMPLE TIMELINE

WITHOUT FIRST LOOK

- 1:30pm- Bride & Groom Detail Photos
- 2:00pm- Bride Getting Ready
- 2:30pm- Groom Getting Ready
- 3:00pm- Bride Into Dress & First Look With Dad
- 3:30pm- Bride, Bridesmaid's, Flowers Girls, House Party Girls
- 4:00pm- Groom, Groomsmen, Ring Bearer, Ushers, Grooms's Parents
- 4:30pm- Empty Ceremony Site & Reception Space Decor Shots (All Set)
- 5:00pm- Ceremony Begins
- 5:30pm- Family Formals
- 6:00pm- Bride & Groom Formal Photos
- 6:45pm- Bride, Groom, Full Wedding Party
- 7:00pm- Announced Into Reception
- 7:10pm- Bride & Groom First Dance
- 7:15pm- Blessing & Dinner Service
- 8:00pm- Toasts
- 8:10pm- Parent Dances
- 8:15pm- Cake Cutting
- 8:18pm- Open Dance
- 9:20pm- Garter & Bouquet Toss
- 9:25pm- Private Last Dance
- 9:30pm- Grand Exit







Portrait & Timing Tips for: WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER & FALL

WINTER

Winter weddings are gorgeous! However, they do take some additional planning simply due to the fact that the sun sets around 4pm. This means that all the vital portraits have to be done before then! This isn't a problem if you're having a late afternoon wedding.

SUMMER

Summer weddings are amazing! We love that there is so much daylight! In some months, the light will last until 8:30pm. So, if you're having a summer wedding, you'll need to plan on having a few minutes to slip out of the reception for your sunset portraits. You will NOT regret this! This is the absolute best light of the day and you're going to want to sneak away to have portraits during this time period.

SPRING

Spring weddings are wonderful because they are the perfect temperature! However, we recommend having plenty of Claritin on hand just in case allergies start to flare up during portrait time. Spring weddings mean blooms! If we happen to have any blooming tree or plant, it will be worth a few minutes for portraits with it!

FALL

Fall weddings are one of our favorites! This is probably because we are a sucker for the colors, the temperature and we get to break out the riding boots! Most of our fall brides worry about color, and I just want to encourage you that all I need is one tree with some color in order to make it look like fall! A little bit of color can go a long way!!





Let the day begin!

This portion of The Wedding Experience really sets the stage for the entire wedding day. The next few pages will share tips and tricks that will ensure a seamless morning of getting ready preparation and beautiful portraits!



GETTING READY

It's the morning of your wedding! Hopefully all of the details are taken care of and you're relaxing with your friends while your hair is being done. If certain items haven't been checked off of the to-do list, it's time to hand them over to someone else. (Delegation is a key part of a stress-free wedding day.) We know it's hard to hand over the reins, but it is important to relax the morning of your wedding. The rest of the day is going to be fast paced and filled with a lot of emotions! Take advantage of this down time! There are a few things to consider about the "getting ready" portion of the day: Please have all the tags removed and dresses out of the bags. Keep one area of the room clean so you can get into your dress clutter free. Put these items all in one place or box:

Your jewelry, stationary, menu, place card, table number, perfume, garter, veil, all three rings, any heirlooms.

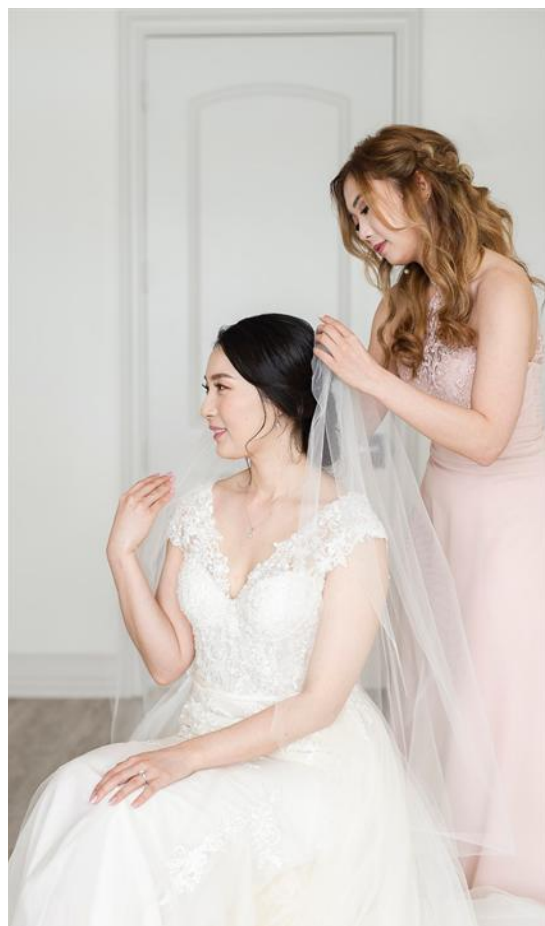
Do you want to share a "first look" with your dad or any other person who plays a huge role in your life? Are there certain women in your life who would appreciate seeing you get into your gown? A few other things to consider.... as you get ready to put on your dress, refrain from putting any jewelry on. We love shooting all of those final steps once you're in your gown! Speaking of the gown, if it is on a plastic hanger, try to make a note to bring a decorative hanger along for picture sake. If you forget, no big deal! We are pros at finding wooden hangers at venues!





RINGS, SHOES, JEWELS ...

The whole day begins with the DETAILS! This part of the wedding day allows us to prepare and get our creativity warmed up for the rest of the day! We photograph couple's details in a way that matches and showcases the style of the entire wedding day. So, in some ways, the details set the stage for the look of the overall wedding and we need ample time to stylize, and shoot everything from the dress, to the jewelry, to grandma's handkerchief! We ask each bride and groom to gather any details they have put them in one box in the bridal suite before we arrive so that we can walk in, say hello, give you a big hug and then begin with all the goodies!



DETAILS TO GATHER

BRIDE

- Veil / Hair Pieces
- Wedding Shoes
- Jewelry, Perfume
- All Three Rings
- Invitation Suite
- Treasured Heirlooms

GROOM

- Cuff Links / Bow Tie
- Shoes, Cologne
- Boutonniere

DAY-OF REMINDERS





GATHER the goods.

Collect all of your details before we arrive and put them all in a box so that we can begin quickly and have more time for some “getting ready” shots of you and your friends!

EXTRA elements.

Sometimes, depending on the theme and “look” of the wedding day, there may be some extra elements that you could include in your details. For example, if you’re having a modern theme wedding, you could include a geo place card. When gathering your wedding stationary, please include TWO sets of the suite and do not forget the envelopes. This really makes for beautiful, consistent album spreads!

KEEP all three rings.

The most common detail missing are the all three rings! Moms, officiants and planners will tell you to hand over your wedding band to the best man before the day begins. However, it’s actually better to hand it over during the bridal party portraits so that I can shoot some great ring shots in the AM!

BRING the bouquet.

Don’t forget the Bouquet! Have the bouquets and bouts delivered to the bride before the first look so that you can have your bouquet in your portraits.

TIMING TIPS

When you're planning the timeline; the best advice is to ADD CUSHION TIME! Sometimes the most simple things can take an extra 20 minutes and then all of a sudden, the whole morning is thrown off. I have seen "getting the bride in her dress" take almost 40 minutes because of a button malfunction. It's a smart idea to add extra time here and there so that we have some wiggle room to work with! There are so many different things to think about when you're planning a wedding day, so here are some tips for the pre ceremony timeline! Remember not everything will go as planned, and I promise you, that is completely normal!!



BOUQUETS AND BOUTS

You will need your Bouquet for your first look! Have them delivered to the room where you are getting ready.

TRAVEL TIME

Be sure to think about travel time and traffic to and from your getting ready location and your venue!

HAIR & MAKEUP

We encourage brides to have at least their makeup done before we start because who wants a ton of shots without their makeup on?! Nobody.

GROOMSMEN PREP

Have all the groomsmen dressed we will photograph the groom putting on final touches like tie and jacket

GETTING IN THE DRESS

We will instruct you to get into your dress in an area with the best light. Have your bridesmaids or mom already dressed.

CREATE A CUSHION

A 10 minute cushion every now and then is a GREAT idea! It's amazing how fast time slips away the day of!





THE BRIDAL BOUQUET

There are so many expenses when it comes to wedding planning. Many brides have to prioritize where they want to invest in. A little tip that will make a huge impact on the way your images turn out is making your bridal bouquet a big priority! When we are photographing a wedding, and the bride has a gorgeous bouquet, we can make the entire day look like there were beautiful florals everywhere! We can use the bridal bouquet to spruce up bridal details, reception details AND even bride and groom portraits as well! The bridal bouquet is a focal point for us when it comes to your photography, and we highly recommend getting your DREAM bouquet.

VEIL OPTIONS

90% of our couples opt for a first look so we have options for the bridal veil!

We recommend that you wear your veil when you come down the aisle for three different reasons.

1. This is something new for your groom to see when you're walking down the aisle!
2. A lot of times, during a first look, the groom is so excited to see you that he accidentally pulls the veil out when he hugs you!
3. Saving the veil for the ceremony ensures that I will get some "Just Married" portrait time with the couple because EVERY bride needs to have a "Veil Blowing in the Wind" shot of their own!



YOUR FIRST LOOK

Your first look is an amazing part of your wedding day! If you are not sure about this tradition, the next few pages will explain why it would be a romantic addition to your wedding day celebration that not only adds to the experience but also reduces stress. Please know that we would never want any of our couples to feel pressured to go with this option. However, we do want to make sure that we share all of the benefits of a first look. There is a reason 90% of our couples do this and LOVE it!





FIRST LOOK | *Why it's Worth It*

40% MORE PORTRAITS

You're investing a lot into your wedding photography. With a first look, you'll receive 40% MORE portraits of the two of you... and those are the images you will decorate your first home with! With a first look, you make the most out of this large investment.

ENJOY THE SURPRISE FREELY

You actually get to have intimate time on your wedding day with your fiancée. Most brides don't realize that when you come down the aisle and totally SHOCK him with your gorgeous-ness... he can't even tell you how amazing you look. He can't touch you, embrace you or even SPEAK to you. You have to wait until 30 minutes later when the ceremony is over for him to react and tell you how amazing you look. And after 30 minutes of the ceremony, the reaction isn't the same as the initial first glance.

EXTEND YOUR DAY BY 3 HOURS

First Looks allow you to extend your wedding day. Normally the wedding day would start when you come down the aisle, then the ceremony would end, you would rush through portraits and then it's reception time. With a first look, your wedding day is extended by almost 3 hours! Instead of being rushed for your bridal party portraits... you actually get to enjoy them and have fun hanging out with your BEST friends. The WHOLE first half of my client's wedding albums are filled with images from this time together before the ceremony.

YOUR ONLY ALONE TIME

First Looks allow you to be TOGETHER and alone on your wedding day. When Andy and I saw each other, not only was it intimate, it was our only time to be alone the whole day! We cried and laughed and cried some more... and then that put us in the PERFECT mood for our romantic portraits. Normally portraits are a little rushed after the family formals, and it can be hard to really get back into that "loveey dovey" mode.... especially with family around! When you have just shared your first look, you're READY to love on each other, and I always capture some super sweet images during those moments!

YOU CAN HUG SPIN EACH OTHER IMMEDIATELY

How amazing is it that your groom can hug and kiss you instantly!! You can also spin all the way around and show him your whole dress. If you are emotional you have plenty of makeup touch up time BEFORE you have to wait until the whole ceremony is complete. Nothing is worse than mascara running down your face and you cannot halt everything to ask for a tissue. It is amazing to have a first look and get those emotional pictures and then have time to touch up before you have to take all of your formal photos.





The Daddy / Daughter

FIRST LOOK

This is for all of the brides who have a sweet spot in their heart for their dad. I have to admit that Daddy/Daughter first looks make me a little teary. For a lot of dads, this is when everything feels real and it hits him... “My baby girl is getting MARRIED!” These are precious moments to photograph and I highly encourage any daddy’s girl to make time for this moment. It doesn’t take long at all. The best time to do a daddy daughter look is right after you have finished getting dressed and you are in the bridal suite. BONUS this is a great time to give your dad a gift if you have bought one.



THE CEREMONY

Here it is! The moment everyone has been waiting for! The bride is about to walk down the aisle to the love of her life..... and if she's like most girls, she's dreamed about this moment for a long time! Vows will be shared and promises will be made. This is what it's all about!! In a world full of wedding blogs, Pinterest and bridal magazines, it's easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the "prettiness" of the event. While details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day! Walk slow and savor this moment!



LIGHTING

Ceremony lighting is really important. If you get married outdoors at 12pm, the lighting there will be extremely harsh there be harsh lines of light on your faces and you will also be squinting. We suggest planning an outdoor ceremony 1-2 hours before sunset if you are having a first look. If you are not interested in sharing a first look, then I would suggest having your ceremony 3 hours before sunset to ensure that you will have plenty of time for all of your portraits afterwards. The lower the sun, the more romantic the lighting. If you are having an indoor ceremony, it is always best to have soft even lighting across the whole altar including the bridal party. This ensures everyone will have flattering light on them.

CEREMONY EVENTS

We have seen so many couples share amazing events during their ceremony. We've photographed couples washing each other's feet, symbolizing that they want to serve each other for the rest of their life. Some couples share in communion while some light a unity candle. I've seen sand ceremonies, rope ceremonies and the signing of the family Bible. The options are limitless!! As you plan your ceremony, make sure you design it to be exactly what the two of you envision it to be. This is your day!! Remember to do what makes YOU happy as a couple!



PROGRAMS & DETAILS

The BEST advice we have for the program making process is to remember that not EVERY guest needs a program! Some couples print a program for everyone attending the wedding but quickly realize that most families only take one and they end up with over 100 extra programs! Programs and the ceremony decor are things that the bride can plan in advance but then delegate the actual job of setting it up to a friend or coordinator / planner. The last thing a couple needs to be doing the morning of their wedding is running around setting up tablescapes and guest books! This leads me into my next column!

COORDINATION

Hiring either a planner or a day-of coordinator is one of the best decisions you can make. Couples realize very quickly that if they do not have someone in charge of the coordination, that responsibility will automatically fall on the parents or you guys! Think who is going to cue everyone down the aisle? It's so important to make this a priority for you, so you can sit back and enjoy/savor all the moments celebrating with your family and friends. If you need any recommendations on full, month or day of wedding planners do not hesitate to reach out. We would love to share some of our favorites with you!



Sample List for

FAMILY FORMALS

We absolutely love meeting our couple's families! Family formals are normally our first interaction with them and so we love to have a game plan for this part of the day! Eight -twelve weeks before the wedding, you'll receive a questionnaire that will ask you to list out the family formals you want captured. Here is a sample family formal list to help you start preparing what shots you need. Most couples like to keep this time short and sweet and around 20 minutes. Each grouping takes about 2-3 minutes. We suggest large groups first then narrow them down from there. We have a system that makes this time meaningful but also time efficient, so you can get right into the celebrating at the reception!

B &G with Brides Extended Family

B& G with Bride's Grandparents

B&G with Bride's Parents

B&G with Bride's Siblings

B & G with Grooms Extended Family

B&G with Groom's Grandparents

B&G with Groom's Parents

B&G with Groom's Siblings

YOUR FORMALS

Honestly, all of the wedding day images are important, but the real favorites are almost always from our alone time with you guys, our couple! Carving out 10-15 minutes here and there throughout the day can make all the difference. These romantic portraits of just the two of you will be the images that you frame over your mantle and will show for generations to come. These can be taken a couple of times throughout your wedding day. First option is before the ceremony (after the “First Look”) and the second time can be after the ceremony but before the reception begins (a few “just married” portraits). During these moments, it will more than likely be the only private alone time of just the two of you that you will have on your wedding day to be together. Wedding days zoom by so fast, it is important to stop every now and then just to SAVOR this time and remember just how you felt on your wedding day.





THE CASE OF A RAINY WEDDING DAY

One of the most frequently asked questions that we receive during wedding season is “Soooo, what do you do if it RAINS?!”. We want to reassure you that even if it rains, you will still have beautiful portraits. Overcast skies mean vibrant colors! We know that rain isn’t ideal, and no bride would wish for rain on their big day, but if it happens, it happens..... and it’s going to be just fine!! Some of our best weddings have been on rainy wedding days! Here are a few things to remember:

1. All we need to create natural light portraits on a rainy wedding day is a porch! Just one porch!
2. Let us worry about the pictures. You have enough to think about. If there is a chance of rain, we will be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location, for us to use for your first look, romantic portraits and bridal party portraits.
3. Take it one step at a time. Don’t think about your entire day and what will happen if it rains. That will only overwhelm you! Definitely have a rain plan for your venue, but then let your vendors do the work of handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast.



This was the first shot after the ceremony and it so perfectly shows that the rain can't keep us from taking beautiful images! Don't let the fear of rain steal your joy. You can't control it, and we promise we will make the best of it!!!





YOUR BRIDAL PARTY

Lets chat about your bridal party! We know from experience that couples want their closest friends to have an AMAZING time during their big day. Bridal party portraits should be a ton of fun! After you share your first look, depending on the locations and the timing of the day, your bridal party will join us for portraits! If all goes well, we will be able to accomplish ALL of your bridal party portraits BEFORE the ceremony. This means that your guys and gals will be free to mingle at cocktail hour!

RECEPTION DETAILS



It's important to make sure that you have your event well thought out. This is the job of your planner. Your caterer and florist will also play a big role in the design and set up of your event. Every aspect of your reception affects the overall outline of the evening. We cannot photograph the reception details until the room is completely setup. This includes plates, cups and flatware. We need access to the reception hall BEFORE the guests set down their coats, purses etc. Whatever the style of your event, make sure that you plan out all of the aspects of the evening. Your coordinator is vital for a smooth wedding experience.



Much like the ceremony, you have the freedom to make your reception your own! It's your party, it should be exactly how you want it to be! Here is a list of some key events that happen often at receptions:

- *Bridal Party Introductions*
- *First Dance*
- *Daddy-Daughter Dance*
- *Mother-Son Dance*
- *Anniversary Dance*
- *Money Dance*
- *Traditional Religious Dances*
- *Welcome by Father of the Bride*
- *Blessing*
- *Cake Cutting*
- *Toasts*
- *Bouquet and Garter Toss*
- *Large group portraits with friends*
- *The exit of the Bride and Groom*

RECEPTION TIPS

The fun has begun! It's time to relax, dance and celebrate!! Your reception should be a BLAST! The last thing you need to be worrying about is your timeline. Your coordinator and DJ should take care of making sure that everything stays on schedule so that you can enjoy your night. Here are some helpful tips that will help your reception flow smoothly.

- **GUEST CONSIDERATION :** *Take your guests into consideration when planning your timeline. If you have a lot of elderly guests that will not be staying until the very end, make sure you schedule the cake cutting at a relatively early time so that they can be a part of it. Grandma's love seeing this sweet tradition!*

- **KEEP IT MOVING :** *Chat with your coordinator about how you can plan your reception in a way that will keep guests engaged and moving all night!*

- **MAKE IT YOUR OWN :** *If you want to have a special dance with your grandparents, do it! Make your reception a reflection of who you are and don't feel tied to traditions. Also, make sure you give your DJ or Band a "Do Not Play" list if there are some songs you really don't want to hear during your reception!*

- **DON'T GET CAUGHT UP** *in the formalities and the details. Sure, details are pretty and fun to photograph, but they can steal the joy of the day if you get too caught up in them. Plan your centerpieces, welcome table, etc. well before the wedding date, and teach your coordinator how to set them up so that you aren't even thinking about those things the day of!*

- **RECEPTION COVERAGE :** *If you haven't purchased enough coverage time for your photography to last until the exit, that's ok! We have several options! (See next page!) I recommend planning your timeline so that you can have at least one hour of dancing photographed. The guests who dance during the first hour will still be dancing in the third hour! One hour of dancing will be enough time to really capture the joy of your reception!*



BAR MENU

BEER

WINE

COGNAC

JD

SIGNATURE
COCKTAIL

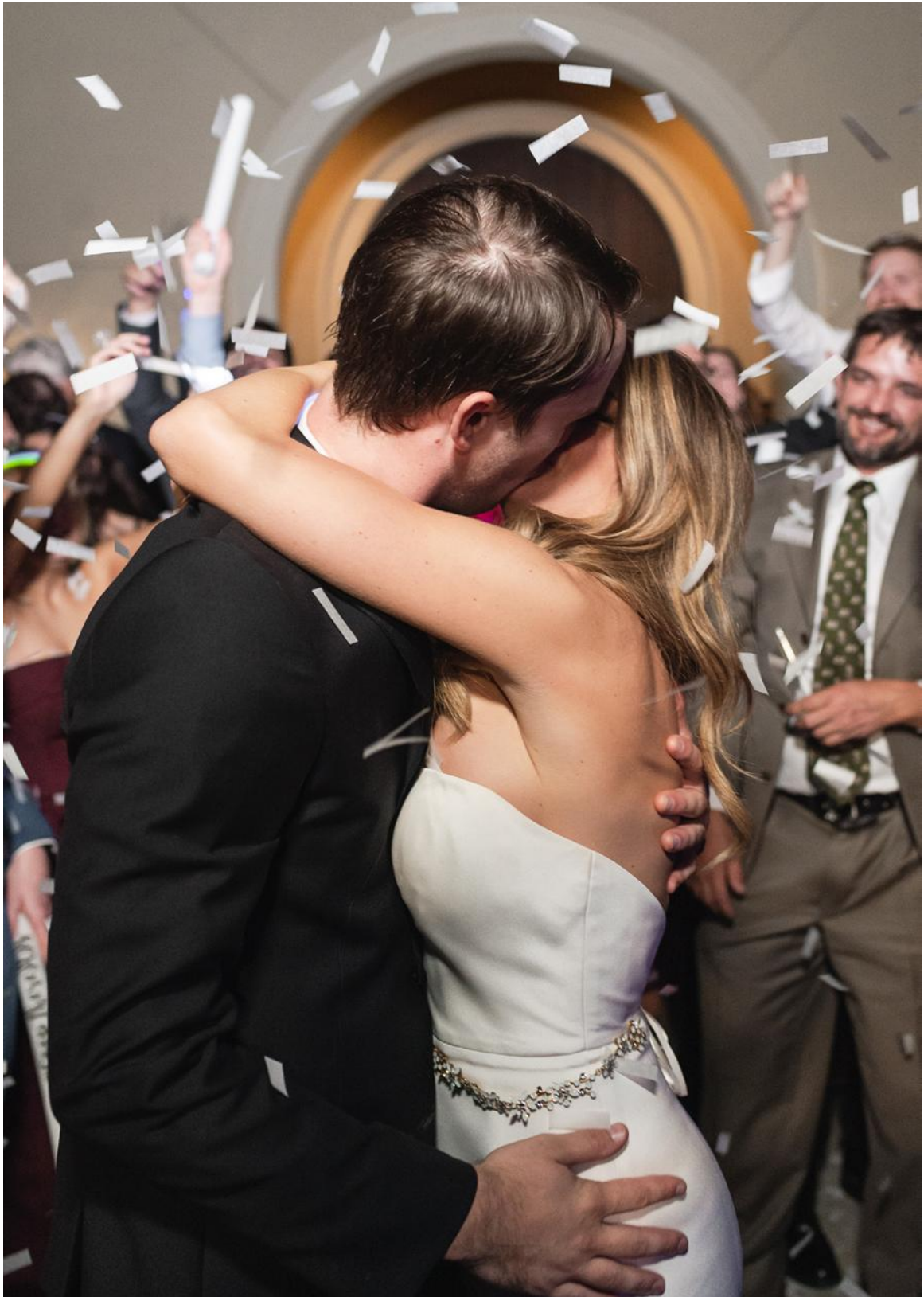
MINT JULEP

100% Grain Neutral Spirits
100% Natural Flavors
100% All Natural
100% All Natural
100% All Natural



RECEPTION:
CONTROLLED
EXITS

Exits! If your coverage ends before your send off, you have the option of planning a faux exit with your bridal party! This is more common than you may think. Instead of saving your exit until the very end, you can plan a faux exit with just the members of your bridal party and a few family members! This allows us to have more control over these shots and the party NEVER has to stop! In most cases, no one even notices that the bride and groom are missing for a few minutes! Also, it's almost impossible to tell that the whole wedding party isn't there waving sparklers and sending off the happy couple! This idea allows our couples to save money and still have all of the shots that they dreamed of!



LEGACY ALBUMS



Having digital images is wonderful, but having a printed keepsake that tells a visual story of our wedding day that you can physically hold is priceless! There is something so special about being able to turn a page as you reminisce back on your wedding day. If you haven't already invested in a Legacy Album of your own, you can always come back to us at any time and order one. We aren't a photography business that pushes product sales at all. However, these albums are important not just for our couples to have... but for your children and their children to enjoy one day as well.

SIZE OPTIONS:

8x8, 10x10

SAY THANK YOU WITH A PARENT ALBUM:

Andy and I didn't have any trouble picking out our parent's Christmas gifts the year we got married! Our parents did so much to make our wedding a dream come true and so we decided to surprise them with their very own albums on Christmas morning! After the wedding chaos is over and life returns to normal, or if you want to surprise your parents with their very own albums from your wedding for Christmas, let us know before October 1st so we can get them ordered!





YOUR ONLINE GALLERY

Years ago you had to order prints of the images that you wanted to have forever. That isn't how we work around here! We want you to have ALL of your memories in your possession forever and ever! We also want you to share your images freely and without any hesitation. Your engagement /bridal images are delivered via an online gallery and wedding day images are mailed in a keepsake box with a USB to your home. We've listed some important information that will help you understand your online gallery and all that it can do on the next page! Enjoy!

DOWNLOADING PHOTOS FROM YOUR ONLINE GALLERY:

You will be able to download your edited images directly from your online gallery, and they will be high resolution! This process is very simple! All you have to do is click the “downwards arrow icon” and you will be prompted to enter your password and e-mail. Once you enter your password and e-mail, you will be asked if you want to download just that one photo or if you would like to download all photos! Your photos will download directly to your “Downloads” folder. If you opt to download the entire gallery, you will be notified via e-mail when your entire download is ready. It takes a few minutes to prepare for hundreds of images to be downloaded!

ACCESSING YOUR PHOTOS ON YOUR PHONE:

You can always preview and view your gallery via a mobile device. When it comes to download them always use a computer.

ORDERING PRINTS:

You are more than welcome to print images on your own. However, I would warn you to avoid Walmart, Target and Costco. We cannot promise that your colors will print true-to-life if you choose to print at those stores. We recommend using www.Mpix.com

GALLERY EXPIRATION:

Your engagement and bridal galleries will not expire for up to one month. I recommend downloading them and saving them in multiple places for safe keeping!

SHARING, WATERMARKING & EDITING:

You have the freedom to share your images in any way that you choose! These are your images, and we want you to love them so much that you can't help but share them! We don't believe that it is necessary to watermark our images. We always encourage our clients not to re-edit their images. Let us do that hard work! However, if you have an image or two that you want to print at a very large size and you find an imperfection, we will gladly perfect it!



FAQ'S | *Your Questions Answered*

ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS:

We are more than willing to travel for engagement sessions! We actually love it when our couples ask us to photograph them in a location that means something special to them. We book engagement sessions at least two months in advance and 50 miles of travel is included.

DIGITAL FILES:

We average 75-100 images per hour that we're shooting. We love delivering our client's files quickly and easily via an online gallery. You will have the ability to print, share, and download your images as much as you want. This is a great way to share your wedding day with family and friends as well. We do not put any logos on your images. They're your investment and yours to enjoy and share as you would like.

WEDDING DAY COVERAGE:

We are often asked if eight hours is enough time to capture the full wedding story and the answer for most 90% of our couples is, Yes! Our main goal right now is securing and saving your wedding date. You can always add additional coverage as we get closer to the big day and we have a good idea of your timeline. We work closely with you to create the perfect wedding day timeline for you and your wedding day.

OUR SHOOTING STYLE:

We love being both interactive and discreet throughout the wedding day. There will be parts of the wedding day when we will need to be in control in order to accomplish everything that needs to be done while staying on schedule. There will also be moments when you shouldn't even know that we are there. (The ceremony, during dances, and toasts, etc.) We teach you how to pose, model, and interact during your engagement session so that you are naturals on the wedding day and don't need quite as much instruction from us. We know your favorite poses and candid moments because we worked together before the big day.

