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AFTER



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CAN WE EDIT THE BAD BITS?

"Most photographers will use their expertise to angle and compose your images to already cut out the bad bits. They'll take flattering images and make you and your guests look as lovely as possible," says Esme. "I'll never change a person that I'm photographing, but I'm always happy to get rid of a make-up smudge or remove an unavoidable distraction from a shot." Photo editing tools, such as Photoshop, don't just remove unwanted elements, they can also add to your images, as Lewis explains, "If you want to have some fun and add a twist to shots there are options available to you. It's important that you're clear about it beforehand though, to make sure it's factored into the price, as it can be time consuming and increase costs," he says.



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WHAT FOLLOW-UP SHOTS CAN WE HAVE?

"Follow up sessions are ideal for capturing the important memories as married life goes along and brings its surprises," says Esme. "It's one of my absolute favourite things about being a photographer, I get to know some lovely couples and watch as their lives change and grow for the better." Once you find a photographer who makes you comfortable and produces good quality work, you'll stick with them for future photo shoots and options are endless, as Clare explains, "If you go on to have a family, you could have maternity, newborn and family shoots. For an absolute twist, some brides have a trash-the-dress or rock-the-frock shoot where you wear your wedding dress again and do something fun," she says.

TOP TIP: CAN'T WAIT . . .

"The delivery of your images normally takes up to four weeks but if you can't wait, ask your photographer to send a few low resolution samples before they finish their work – it's always exciting to see a few tasters before the full set arrives." — Mark

CONTACT OUR EXPERTS

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WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH OUR IMAGES?

There are lots of wonderful ways to showcase your images, so why not get creative? "If you choose to have photos enlarged and framed or printed on canvas, make sure that the images included in your package are the right size. If they're too small, they won't print well," Becky advises. "You could have a photo montage created of your favourites, produce a photobook, create thank you cards or you can even get wallpaper printed these days! Don't be afraid to show off your coverage from the day," she says. The good old wedding album is still a popular choice, "Albums are lovely mementoes and something that you can pass on to future generations," says Clare. "Why not go one step further and submit your wedding photos to a blog or magazine to see if they'd like to showcase your day to inspire lots of other brides and grooms?"

SNAP HAPPY

What to consider before, during and after your big day when it comes to photography

Your wedding photographer will be one of the most important choices you make when it comes to planning your wedding and you need to get it right, but there's lots to think about. You need to do your research, get the most out of your pics on the day and think about what you'll do with them afterwards. Fear not, our experts have got it covered...

BEFORE THE DAY



HOW DO I CHOOSE A GOOD PHOTOGRAPHER?

Before you start looking, you need to determine how much you want to spend as Clare from Clare Tam-Im Photography advises, "Some couples spend a good chunk of their budget on photography, whereas others might have it as a smaller priority on their list of essentials. Going with a professional means you're investing in someone who's experienced in weddings and they'll know what to expect throughout the day. Having a good look at websites and social media is a great way to view their work to see if you like it."

You'll need to do your research and recommendations are always a good start, "If you've been to a wedding where you've seen a photographer at work, you may have noticed something you liked. Remember you'll be with them for a long time so you need to be confident they're the one for you," says Lewis Duncan from Pho2u.



WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT STYLES?

"There's a traditional style, which has been around for years and is very staged and posed. Reportage and informal photography tells the story about your day by capturing the intimate moments from the bride getting ready through to the last dance. For more creative couples, there's the stylised option, which is more like a photo shoot and although it's controlled it can be very beautiful. Some do a mixture of shots but it's really important to be clear on the look you want to achieve," Becky advises. If you're unsure, why not opt for a pre-wedding shoot, "For me as a photographer, it's important that I connect with my couples and that we have a good time together," says Alexa from Alexa Loy Photography. "An engagement session's a great way to get to know each other; it makes the big day so much more fun to photograph and helps me to understand the little connections and stories that couples have."

TOP TIP: VALUE FOR MONEY...

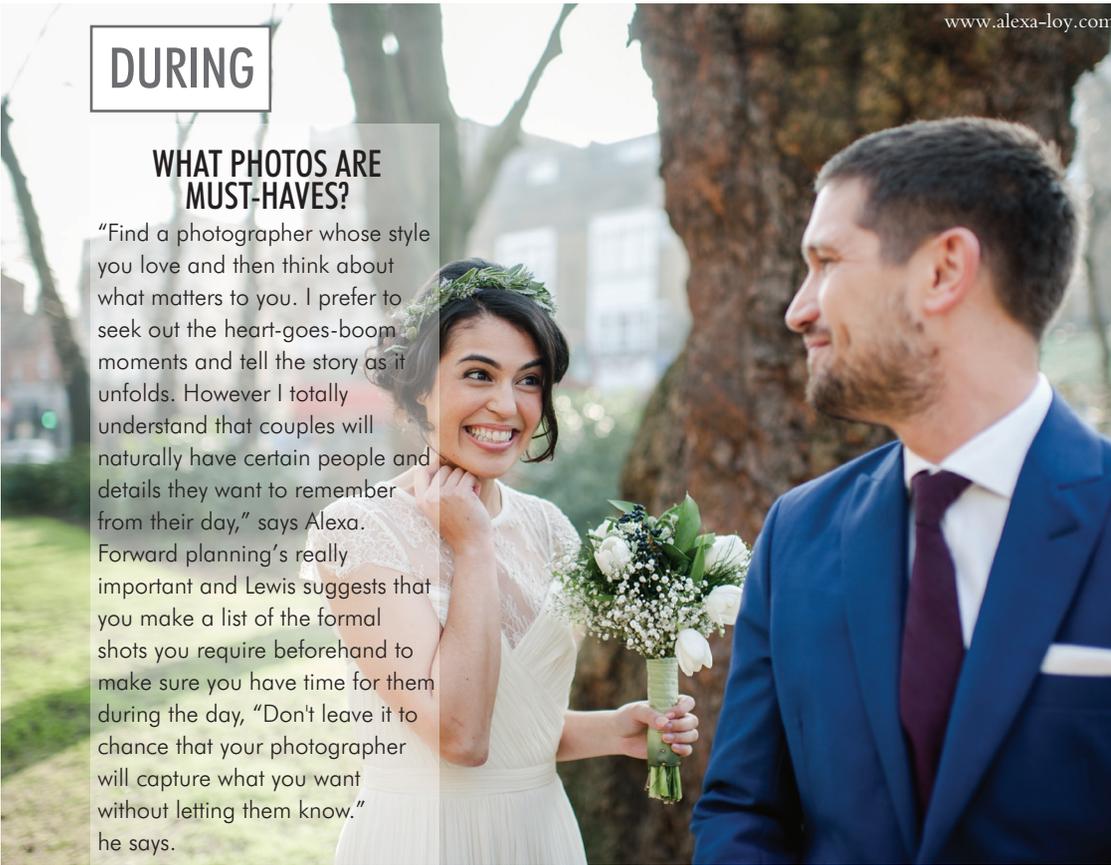
"Make sure you have a contract in place that lists what you're getting and at what price. The time covered is up to you too so if your budget's tight, I'd recommend hiring a quality photographer for less hours as opposed to a poor one for the whole day." — Esme from Esme Robinson Photography.



www.gordanbaxter.co.uk

WHY SHOULD I MEET WITH THEM?

Meeting your photographer before the day is a must, "Make sure you visit at least two or three people before making your decision, after all, how many venues did you visit before you chose the right one?" says Mark Czwojdrak, from Gordon Baxter Photography. "You might like their portfolio but what if they're an unsociable owl or have a really disappointing personality. You want someone that you'll click with and who'll interact with your guests," he says. Meeting them isn't all about making sure you like them though, "You'll see their office and will be reassured that that's reliable. After all, if you're paying a deposit you need to know that they're trustworthy," says Becky from Becky Kerr Photography. "Don't be afraid to look through lots of examples and take an interest in their work, they'll be flattered. It's also a good idea to go through the schedule of the day so you can plan and make sure the timings suit," she advises.



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DURING

WHAT PHOTOS ARE MUST-HAVES?

“Find a photographer whose style you love and then think about what matters to you. I prefer to seek out the heart-goes-boom moments and tell the story as it unfolds. However I totally understand that couples will naturally have certain people and details they want to remember from their day,” says Alexa. Forward planning’s really important and Lewis suggests that you make a list of the formal shots you require beforehand to make sure you have time for them during the day, “Don’t leave it to chance that your photographer will capture what you want without letting them know,” he says.



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HOW CAN WE GET OUR CHOSEN IMAGES WITHOUT IT TAKING AGES?

“It’s important to let your photographer know your schedule in advance as they’ll build the shoot in around the running of the day,” says Esme. “I like to have shorter slots with couples throughout the duration rather than taking them away for hours on end. It’s a good idea to plan some entertainment for your guests if you opt for a longer shoot,” she says.

A great time of the day for romantic portraits is during the evening but this can be tricky, “Nighttime photography can be a challenge for every professional and adding special effects or additional lighting might require extra equipment so, as always, good communication’s key,” says Mark.

HOW WILL WE KNOW HOW TO POSE?

“There’ll be some direction from your photographer so they can shoot you in the best way. It could be as little as telling you what to stand in front of through to where to place your hands and how to angle your head – it all depends on their style,” says Clare. The photographer isn’t just there to stand behind the camera though, Becky explains, “They’ll nurture so you can relax and enjoy it. An experienced supplier will be keeping an eye on their watch to make sure you’re on schedule and that photos are taken within the time given – the last thing you want to do is overrun and not get the most out of your photo shoot because you’re being rushed.”

TOP TIP: ONE PHOTOGRAPHER OR TWO...

“If you’re having a big wedding, a second photographer can be a great way of getting extra coverage - for example, shots of you both getting ready, different angles of the ceremony and to capture candid moments while the main photographer’s with the bride and groom.” – Alexa

