

# Capturing the wedding on film

As video cameras and recorders become more affordable, amateur documentarians are springing up at graduations and weddings. Perhaps a friend has said he'd be happy to videotape your wedding. Or, if your budget is up to it, you can turn the whole affair over to a professional videographer.

Either way, it's important to think carefully about what you want videotaped and talk to an experienced wedding videographer before making a final decision.

"Technology has improved the picture and now state-of-the-art twilight video cameras allow all moments of the wedding to be taped in the most candid way," comments Jim Clare of Clare Video Service.

If you visualize the sequence of photos you'd like in a wedding album, do the same with video. The bride putting on her makeup with her mother looking on and the groom and his father working on that bow tie fit as comfortably on a TV screen as in an album of pictures.

"Many couples love watching traditional scenes with the bride and mother, or the bride with her bridesmaids," says camera man Claud

Brown of Ann Arbor Video, "but an experienced videographer excels at capturing the unplanned, real emotions that happen spontaneously. When you view wedding video samples, that's an important quality to look for."

Make sure you understand exactly how your wedding will be videotaped. Insist on seeing a portfolio of the videographer's work. Most professionals will be able to present a demonstration tape highlighting parts of weddings they have taped on film.

Ask the videographer to explain, in detail, different packages to choose from. Choices should include a one-camera unedited economy package to a multi-camera fully edited deluxe package.

## Wedding day bath

For centuries, bathing was considered unhealthy. Queen Isabella I of Castile boasted that she had taken only two baths — one when she was born and the other on her wedding day.

Don't be afraid to list all the events you want videotaped. Discuss who you want (or don't want) videotaped, adding music or photos over some scenes, and so on. You can expect to pay more for early afternoon ceremonies and third location shootings, such as the bride's home.

The fees will depend on the variables, such as the cost of editing or the inclusion of extra audio or lighting personnel.

"Video editing often makes the difference between a professional

looking videotape and a video home movie. Editing makes it possible to go back and forth between scenes of the wedding day. Photographs can dissolve into a scene to heighten emotion and provide variety," explained Brown.

"The final edited tape should include titles, highlights and dubbed-in stereo music," noted Clare.

"Your wedding video, by a professional, will much more resemble a made-for-TV movie rather than a home movie," he added.



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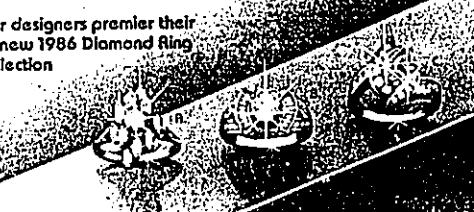
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