

How to get exciting wedding photos

Thursday, April 22, 1982

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Weddings are very important occasions in our lives. And to get good wedding photographs, you don't have to be a professional with elaborate camera gear.

Your basic camera and a little imagination are all you need to get exciting wedding pictures that will be remembered for a lifetime.

CAMERAS: Your 35mm camera and normal lens are versatile and especially good for candid shots.

A wide variety of lenses is normally not required, but a medium focal length telephoto can be helpful for filling the frame and for reducing distortion in faces when you use your normal lens up close.

Remember that basic rules of composition. Use a vertical format when appropriate to add more impact to your shots.

ELECTRONIC FLASH: Often a flash will come in handy at a wedding. Use one that has a fast recycling time (under five seconds) or many picture opportunities will be missed.

Use an inexpensive "L" bracket that will separate the flash from the camera,



photography

Monte Nagler

thereby eliminating "red eye" in your pictures.

Try bounce flash in some of your shots to obtain more natural lighting effects.

FILM: Today a wide variety of films is available for wedding photography. When you use a flash, Kodacolor 100 (ASA 100) is a good choice. It is very sharp, has good contrast, and reproduces colors very true-to-life.

When you don't want to use flash and need a faster film to shoot in available light, Kodacolor 400 (ASA 400) is a good selection. Some churches may object to flash during portions of the ceremony, making 400 speed film an ideal choice.

PICTURE SITUATIONS: Many picture locations are used at the typical

wedding, and a good photographer has to be prepared to handle all situations.

A wedding photographer has a special responsibility to produce a pictorial record that captures as much of the excitement as possible.

If you can, begin in the bride's home, showing preparations for the wedding day.

At the church, remember to get a shot of the ring exchange, the all-important bride and groom kiss, and the trip down the aisle. Rice or confetti throwing keeps a sense of gaiety throughout the pictures.

At the reception hall, be sure to get photos of the head table, and cake-cutting ceremony, the bride and groom dancing, and the throwing of the bride's bouquet.

A picture of the "getaway car" should not be missed, either.

TODAY, MOST people prefer a "natural" look rather than a formal pose in their wedding pictures.

This is not to say that you can dispense with posing people at a wedding, but it does suggest using a little formal posing as possible. The idea is to make people feel at ease. If a person is relaxed, then he or she will look that way in the photograph.

Concentrate on candid pictures, too. People's expressions will be totally natural, and you'll be able to capture some of the more exciting moments that the professional photographer might miss.

Try some unusual effects such as double exposures where you can superimpose, for example, a full length shot of the bride over a profile of the groom.

Try shooting soft-focus pictures of the bride or vignetted pictures of the bride and groom using special filters designed for these purposes. A cross-screen filter will make highlights in candles and reflections shimmer and sparkle, adding a romantic flavor to your shots.

Capturing all the joy and glamor of a wedding is easier than you might think. The photographs you'll take will be remembered and cherished forever.

"1982, Monte Nagler, Monte's next class series begins May 12 in the Farmington Community Center. Phone the center at 477-8404 for registration information."



Timing is critical in wedding photos. Amateur photographer Gary Stanislawski of Livonia used a 35mm camera, normal lens and flash to catch the precise moment when newlyweds Kathy and Paul Williams cut their wedding cake.

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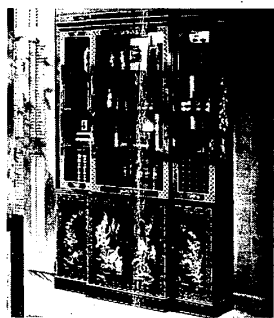
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