



THE
Wedding
EXPERIENCE

A GUIDE FOR PIXIE'S PHOTOGRAPHY BRIDES



Hello

So you've set your date, picked your dress, selected your flowers and even the guys have got their tuxes. It's going to be a beautiful, perfect day. When its all over you want to cherish and relive all those moments in timeless images.

My style combines the photojournalistic approach to capture the laughter, the tears, the kisses, and the hugs along with a fine art approach to give you beautiful, well-composed portraits.

My images are a mixture of light & airy and dark & moody.

I hope you love what you see and that I get the honor of photographing your unique wedding!



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YOUR *Engagement* SESSION

Now that you have picked a date, a photographer and probably a venue as well, you can celebrate! Now on to the fun stuff - like your engagement session!

Engagement sessions are a vital part of the entire process. During the engagement session, you'll have the chance to get to know me, experience how I shoot, and how I handle posing and lighting.

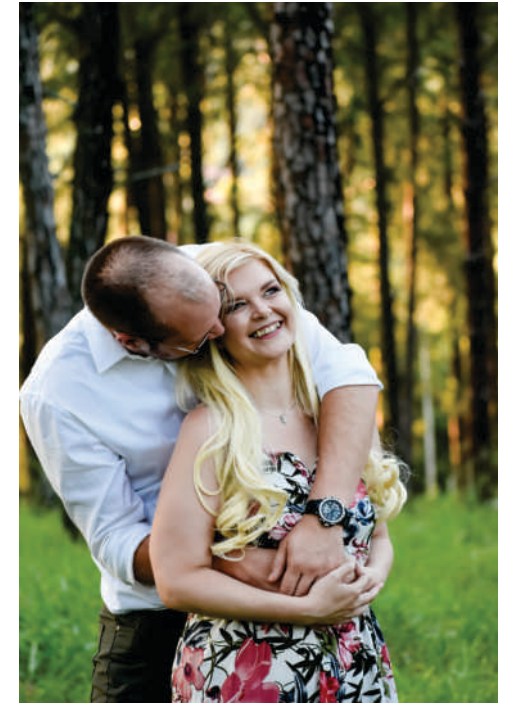
This session will make a huge impact on how the wedding day flows. I'll arrive on your wedding day already knowing how you two interact, what your best poses are and how to photograph you in a genuine way!

Your engagement session can be scheduled anytime before your wedding day. I usually suggest booking it 2-4 months before the wedding to avoid extra stress.

As you start to plan your engagement shoot you will start brainstorming for location ideas. I love it when the couple chooses a location that's special or sentimental to them in some way!

Engagement Session

APPROXIMATE START TIMES



SUMMER

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

5:30AM - 7:30AM

17:00PM - 19:00PM

AUTUMN

MARCH - MAY

6:30AM - 8:30AM

16:00PM - 18:00PM

WINTER

JUNE - AUGUST

7:00AM - 9:00AM

15:30PM - 17:30PM

SPRING

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

5:30AM - 7:30AM

16:00PM - 18:00PM



Engagement Prep

It's always a little intimidating having your picture taken. I realise that preparing for an engagement session can be a little overwhelming. Here are some tips on outfits and accessories to make things a little easier.



The days of wearing all white or black (or any color for that matter) are done. The best style advice is to layer, add texture, and use the rule of 3. Choose 3 colors, two neutrals (like black, white, tan, jeans, grey) and one color (pink, green, blue, etc) and wear outfits the coordinate (not match.) Avoid logos and large print on clothing unless it is a part of your shoot (i.e. a rockstar or Big Brother shirt). Add a vest, jacket, sweater, or scarf to outfits to make them more visually interesting. Don't wear something unflattering, seems like a given right? For example, if you are not confident with your arms don't wear a sleeveless top. Also, think about your location. Choose outfits that will add to the location and coordinate. (For example if your going with an urban setting go with a more urban feeling in your clothing choices.)

Outfit Inspiration



Outfit Inspiration





PREPARING YOUR

Groom

If you're a bride that's a little anxious about how your groom is going to react to this whole "photoshoot" thing, you're not alone. I receive so many emails from brides worrying that their groom won't be into it, I have great news for you! You're both more photogenic than you think!

The most common response from grooms after a shoot is "That wasn't as bad as I thought. It was actually fun". When the groom says that taking photos was fun, I have done my 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 your groom know what to expect.

Firstly, sit your guy down and show him a few of your favourite engagement sessions that I have photographed. This would allow him to gauge what his expectations should be.

Allow plenty of travelling time to get to your shoot. There is nothing worse than when a couple shows up late and they have been arguing in the car! This is definitely going to put your groom in a mood.

Last but not least, remember to have patience with him and don't assume that he's not going to have a good time. I think you will be surprised how much you will both enjoy your session with me!







Your Wedding Day

Sample Photography Timeline

FOR A 12 HOUR WEDDING PACKAGE



10:00 - 11:00	Detail Photos	16:00 - 16:50	Bride and Groom photo session
11:00 - 11:45	Hair, Makeup & Posed	16:50 - 17:20	Bridal party photo session
11:45 - 12:05	Ceremony Decor	17:20 - 18:00	Family photos session
12:05 - 12:25	Reception Decor	18:30 - 19:00	Reception - Speeches
12:25 - 12:35	Grooms accesories	19:00 - 19:15	Reception - Dances
12:35 - 13:15	Groom getting dressed	19:30 - 19:40	Reception - Bouquet and Garter
13:15 - 15:00	Bride getting dressed	20:00 - 21:00	Reception - Posed & Candid photos
15:00 - 16:00	Ceremony	21:00 - 22:00	Reception Night shots

Sample Photography Timeline

FOR A 9 HOUR WEDDING PACKAGE

10:00 - 11:00	Detail Photos	16:00 - 16:30	Bride and Groom photo session
11:00 - 11:45	Hair, Makeup & Posed	16:30 - 16:45	Bridal party photo session
11:45 - 12:05	Ceremony Decor	16:45 - 17:00	Family photos session
12:05 - 12:25	Reception Decor	17:30 - 18:00	Reception - Speeches
12:25 - 12:35	Grooms accesories	18:00 - 18:15	Reception - Dances
12:35 - 13:15	Groom getting dressed	18:15 - 18:30	Reception - Bouquet and Garter
13:15 - 15:00	Bride getting dressed	18:30 - 19:00	Reception Night shots
15:00 - 16:00	Ceremony		

Sample Photography Timeline

FOR A 7 HOUR WEDDING PACKAGE

12:00 - 12:40	Groom getting dressed	16:00 - 16:30	Bride and Groom photo session
12:40 - 13:10	Hair, Makeup & Posed	16:30 - 16:45	Bridal party photo session
13:10 - 14:45	Bride getting dressed	16:45 - 17:00	Family photos session
15:00 - 16:00	Ceremony	17:30 - 18:00	Reception - Speeches
		18:00 - 18:15	Reception - Dances
		18:15 - 18:30	Reception - Bouquet and Garter
		18:30 - 19:00	Reception Night shots

Sample Photography Timeline

FOR A 5 HOUR WEDDING PACKAGE

- 
- 15:00 - 16:00** Ceremony
- 16:00 - 16:40** Bride and Groom photo session
- 16:40 - 17:10** Bridal party photo session
- 17:10 - 18:00** Family photos session
- 18:30 - 19:00** Reception - Speeches
- 19:00 - 19:15** Reception - Dances
- 19:15 - 19:30** Reception - Bouquet and Garter
- 19:30 - 20:00** Reception Night shots

5 HOUR Wedding Packages

<u>Package 1</u> Photo Only	<u>Package 2</u> Video Only	<u>Package 3</u> Photo & Video	<u>Extras</u>
<p>5 Hours coverage + 1 Photographer + 250 Digital High Resolution Images on a usb + 100kms Travelling included + A 60min engagement session (Location must be in Pretoria) with 40 digital images + A digital 'Save the Date' card design.</p>	<p>5 Hours coverage + 1 Photographer + Full wedding video & Preview Video + 100kms Travelling included + Pre-meeting 2-4 weeks before the wedding</p>	<p>5 Hours coverage + 1 Photographer + 250 Digital High Resolution Images on a usb + Full wedding video & Preview Video + 100kms Travelling included + A 60min engagement session (Location must be in Pretoria) with 40 digital images + A digital 'Save the Date' card design.</p>	<p>Additional Second Photographer @ R300 per hour (minimum of 5 hours)</p> <p>Additional Edited Images @ R20 per image</p> <p>Overtime Rate @ R500 per 30 minutes</p>
<p>R5900</p>	<p>R5300</p>	<p>R8950</p>	

7 HOUR Wedding Packages

Package 4 **Photo Only**

7 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
350 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R7500

Package 5 **Video Only**

7 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
Pre-meeting 2-4
weeks before
the wedding

R6900

Package 6 **Photo & Video**

7 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
350 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R11500

Extras

Additional Second
Photographer
@ R300 per hour
(minimum of 7 hours)

Additional Edited
Images
@ R20 per image

Overtime Rate
@ R500 per 30 minutes

9 HOUR Wedding Packages

Package 7 **Photo Only**

9 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
450 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R9100

Package 8 **Video Only**

9 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
Pre-meeting 2-4
weeks before
the wedding

R8500

Package 9 **Photo & Video**

9 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
450 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R14000

Extras

Additional Second
Photographer
@ R300 per hour
(minimum of 9 hours)

Additional Edited
Images
@ R20 per image

Overtime Rate
@ R500 per 30 minutes

12 HOUR Wedding Packages

Package 10 **Photo Only**

12 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
600 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R11500

Package 11 **Video Only**

12 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
Pre-meeting 2-4
weeks before
the wedding

R10900

Package 12 **Photo & Video**

12 Hours coverage
+
1 Photographer
+
600 Digital High
Resolution Images on
a usb
+
Full wedding video
& Preview Video
+
100kms Travelling
included
+
A 60min engagement
session (Location
must be in
Pretoria) with
40 digital images
+
A digital 'Save the
Date' card design.

R18000

Extras

Additional Second
Photographer
@ R300 per hour
(minimum of 12 hours)

Additional Edited
Images
@ R20 per image

Overtime Rate
@ R500 per 30 minutes

HOW TO MAKE A *Booking*

1

Get in touch with me to check if I have availability for your date.

2

Decide which package is best suited for you from our packages below.

3

Decide on a location for your engagement shoot. You can have a look on my site for some ideas.

4

Pay your 30% non-refundable retainer fee and sign the agreement.
Make arrangements for the balance.

5

Your wedding is booked!
Start planning your wardrobe, props, etc for your engagement session.

6

Shoot Day!
We all show up on time with our game faces on. You dance, you laugh, you cry happy tears, and we create incredible photos.

7

After your shoot I upload all your unedited images to an online gallery so that you can choose your favourite photos.

8

I edit your chosen photos - This takes 10-14 days for engagement shoots and wedding sneak peeks, and 5-8 weeks for full wedding collections from when I receive your list of favourites.

9

Your digital photos will be ready for collection and you can order your printing.

Weddings through the Seasons

PORTRAIT & TIMING TIPS FOR: SUMMER, AUTUMN, WINTER & SPRING

SUMMER

DECEMBER - FEBRUARY

Summer weddings have so much daylight you only need to plan to be done with portraits by 7pm!

You can plan to be done earlier than this.. we'll then set aside a time during reception to sneak you out for a quick sunset photo.

AUTUMN

MARCH - MAY

Most Autumn brides worry about colour. But all we need is one photo spot with colour to make it look like Autumn.

Sunsets times vary through March to May but you should plan to have your portraits done by about 6pm.

WINTER

JUNE - AUGUST

Winter weddings are gorgeous!
The hard part about a winter timeline is that the sun sets around 5:30pm. This means that all of your portraits need to be done before that.

SPRING

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

Spring weddings are temperature perfect with the possibility of some beautiful blooms!
Sunsets times vary in these months but you should plan to have your portraits done by about 6pm.



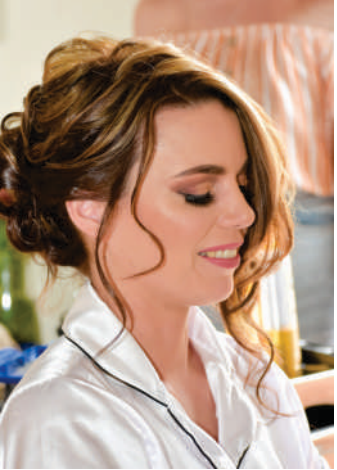
Pre-ceremony Tips



LET THE DAY BEGIN!

This part of your wedding really sets the stage for the rest of the wedding day.

Over the next few pages I'll share some tips & tricks that will ensure a seamless morning of bridal preparation and beautiful portraits.



BRIDE *Getting Ready*

It's the morning of your wedding and you should be relaxing with your bridesmaids while your hair and makeup is been done! Take advantage of this downtime because the rest of the day is going to be fast paced and full of emotions!

During this time, we are getting close ups of the makeup and hair being applied as well as the candid moments and the bridesmaids and groomsmen getting ready for the day. Keep in mind that these are some of the most emotional and fun times of the day, so you don't want to cut it short.

Photography in the dressing room: This is a touchy subject. If you are self conscious or modest, you may ask me to leave the room whenever you want.. However some of the best images from the entire wedding happen in the dressing room, especially when the dress is going over the bride's head while all the bridesmaids are helping to get it on.. If you have me wait outside when this is happening, you will miss out on one of the most spontaneous photo opportunities of the entire day. Remember, with photography, it's easy to delete things later, but it's impossible to turn back time and do it again.

The Bride's dressing room: Messes are ok if they are wedding messes.

Empty boxes and bags should be placed somewhere outside the dressing room. It looks wonderful to have all the dresses hanging and shoes lying around on the floor, but they look awful if they are still in the boxes or if they have piles of plastic wrappers and cardboard boxes lying next to them. Flowers also look better in a vase instead of the cardboard boxes the florist packed them in.



ALL THE LITTLE DETAILS



RINGS, JEWELS AND SHOES...

The whole day begins with the **DETAILS**. This part of the wedding day allows me to warm up and get my creative juices flowing for the rest of the day.

To the right you will find a list of common details that I shoot.

I ask brides to gather any details that they have before I arrive so that I can walk in, say hello and then begin photographing all your goodies.

WHAT TO HAVE READY

Dress and Shoes
**Jewellery, garter, veil
& hairpiece**
Rings (All Three)
**Something new, blue,
old & borrowed**
Sentimentals & gift boxes
All bouquets
Wedding invitation



Having at least 60 minutes for details ensures that we have plenty of time to get that perfect photo of the dress, rings, shoes, bouquets, and the other details of the day.

There are times when a hotel room is too crowded or simply unappealing; we then have to take the dress all the way down to the lobby or even outside. This can take some time, but from the results, it's well worth the additional work.

The most common detail missing when i arrive are the rings. Some will tell you to hand over your wedding rings to the best man before the day begins. However its best to hold onto them so that I can get some great ring shots in the morning.

Don't forget the bouquet. Have the bouquets delivered to the brides room in the morning so that we can use it for photos. Don't worry if its hot, we'll be sure to keep it in water as much as possible before the ceremony.



GROOM *Getting Ready*

Have at least 90 minutes set aside for me to capture the grooms details, the groom getting dressed as well as portraits of the groom.

The most common question from the grooms side is “Will I be in the room taking photos while he is getting dressed?”. The answer is Yes! I request that the groom and his groomsmen be dressed in their pants and socks then I’ll photograph them from there onwards.

Don't forget the whiskey & cigars. Groomsmen will be groomsmen. Drinking scotch and smoking cigars with his buddies on the wedding day. Guys just want to look extra cool in their photos. So don't forget the whiskey and cigars for some fun filled photos.

The Venue & Decor

Please allow 30-40 minutes minimum for me to take photos of the ceremony & reception site, completely set up with no guests or vendors in the area. Before you have the guests seated, it's important that we are there to capture the complete set up of your ceremony and reception site so we can capture the scene at its best. Some of the shots that we need to get include: Shots of the interior and exterior of the venue Programs, Decorations, Aisle Shot, Unity Candles.... Table centerpieces, Bride & Groom's table (head table), Guest book, Place cards, menus, programs, Gift table, Pictures of the hall Cake or dessert table, Food arrangements, Musician or DJ and Favors





THE *Ceremony*

Here it is. The moment everyone has been waiting for! The music is playing and the guests have been seated. 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 of this moment most of her life!

Its easy to be overwhelmed and consumed by the “prettiness” of the event. And while details do matter and planning is necessary, it's important to never lose sight of the real purpose of this amazing day!

THE Ceremony

These are the photojournalist style shots of your wedding ceremony. Here we will capture shots to the degree permitted.

*** Walking Down the Isle: There are some very important tips here that help you photographer immensely in getting some great (rather than mediocre) shots.**

A. Make sure that your wedding party walks at a slow enough pace, with enough distance between each couple for us to discreetly step into the isle in between and get a shot of each person.

The distance between each person (or couple) is the most important factor in the our ability to get the shot. Just make sure that everyone walking down the isle knows this plan. It would be a shame to miss a few shots because part of the group walked too closely together.

*** The Correct Way to Put on the Rings: This is one of the most difficult shots to get for a wedding photographer.**

Most couples are not aware of the fact that they are blocking it either with their hand positions or with their bodies.

To turn this moment into a great photo opportunity, all you need to remember is that as you are putting the ring on, position your fingers on the top and bottom instead of on the sides of the ring. One more tip is to avoid extending your free hand out to grab your partner's wrist so that you can push that ring on there better. If you

feel it is necessary to do this, try putting your hand UNDER your partner's hand and grabbing on from below.

This approach prevents your wrist from blocking the shot.

Practice this couple of times, and you will see that it is possible to put the rings on while keeping your ring visible from your guests' view, and photo capture.





LIGHTING

Ceremony lighting is really important. If you're getting married outdoors at 12pm the light will be extremely harsh and you'll be squinting.

I suggest you have your ceremony 3 hours before sunset to ensure that you have plenty of time afterwards for your portraits.

The lower the sun the more romantic the lighting.

ORDER OF SERVICE

So many couples do amazing things during their ceremony.

I've seen couples share in communion and other light a unity candle. I've also seen my fair share of sand ceremonies! The possibilities are limitless.

You should design your ceremony to be exactly what the two of you envision it to be.

This is your day and if you have the freedom to be creative, then be creative!

VENUE OR OFFICIANT RESTRICTIONS

Sometimes venues or churches set restrictions on how I may photograph the ceremony. This means that I may not be able to use flash during the ceremony or that I may not be allowed to photograph certain moments during the ceremony.

Its up to the couple to find out this information and relay to me any regulations put forth by the venue or church.

COORDINATION

Hiring an event planner is so important, Brides realize quickly that if they do not have someone in charge of the coordination on the day that responsibility will automatically fall onto the mother-of-the-bride, the photographer or the BRIDE! When the photographer is in charge of coordination on the day, the images will suffer.

All of my most stressful weddings were caused by lack of coordination. Its so important to make this a priority.



Church Ceremonies

If you are getting married in a house of worship, rest assured I have plenty experience photographing church weddings.

I am familiar with photographing weddings in churches that have strict regulations. I follow the rules and still get amazing and up-close images using special lenses.

Just be sure to check with your church and inform me of any restrictions.



SAMPLE LIST FOR

Family Formals



Family formals are normally my first interaction with the family and I love to have a game plan for the formal shots. Here is a sample family formals list to help you start preparing what shots you need.

- Big group photo**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Parents**
- Bride + Bride's Parents**
- Bride + Groom + Groom's Parents**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Siblings**
- Bride + Bride's Sister(s)**
- Bride + Bride's Brother(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Parents + Bride's Siblings**
- Bride + Bride's Mom + Bride's Sister(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Groom's Siblings**
- Bride + Groom + Groom's Parents + Groom's Siblings**
- Bride + Groom's Mom + Groom's Sister(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Parents & Siblings + Groom's Parents & Siblings**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Grandparents**
- Bride + Bride's Grandpa(s)**
- Bride + Bride's Grandpa(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Groom's Grandparents**
- Groom + Groom's Parents**
- Groom + Bride's Dad + Bride's Brother(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Sister(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Brother(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Dad + Groom's Brother(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Grandpa(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Grandpa(s)**
- Groom + Bride's Dad + Bride's Brother(s) + Bride's Grandpa(s)**
- Groom + Groom's Dad + Groom's Brother(s) + Groom's Grandpa(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Grandparents + Groom's Grandparents**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Parents + Bride's Siblings + Bride's Grandparents**
- Bride + Bride's Mom + Bride's Sister(s) + Bride's Grandpa(s)**
- Bride + Groom's Mom + Groom's Sister(s) + Groom's Grandpa(s)**
- Bride + Groom + Groom's Parents + Groom's Siblings + Groom's Grandparents**
- Bride + Groom + Bride's Parents & Siblings & Grandparents + Groom's Parents & Siblings & Grandparents**

FUN WITH THE *Bridal Party*

LET'S CHAT ABOUT YOUR BRIDAL PARTY. THIS IS WHERE THE FUN REALLY BEGINS!!

BRIDAL PARTY PORTRAITS SHOULD BE A TON OF FUN!

DEPENDING ON LOCATION AND THE TIME OF THE DAY YOUR BRIDAL PARTY WILL PROBABLY JOIN US FOR PORTRAITS. IF ALL GOES WELL, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MOST OF YOUR BRIDAL PARTY (AND GROOMSMEN) PORTRAITS BEFORE THE CEREMONY. THIS MEANS THAT YOUR GUYS AND GIRLS WILL BE FREE TO MINGLE DURING THE COCKTAIL HOUR IF THEY WISH!

IF THERE ARE FLOWER GIRLS OR RING BEARERS INVOLVED I SUGGEST THAT THEY JOIN US FOR THE PRE-CEREMONY PORTRAITS.

BE SURE YOUR GROOMSMEN ARRIVE WITH BOUTONNIERES AND THE BRIDESMAID HAVE THEIR BOUQUETS.



SAMPLE LIST FOR

Bridal Party Fun

Bride with bridesmaids – formal

Bride with groomsmen - formal

Groom with groomsmen – formal

Groom with bridesmaids – formal

Bride and groom with groomsmen and bridesmaids – formal

Bride and groom with best man and maid of honor

Bridesmaids only group

Individual bridesmaids with bride

Groomsmen only

Individual groomsmen with groom

Bridesmaids and groomsmen group

Groom dipping Bride with wedding party in the back

Bride and groom with bridesmaids and groomsmen jumping or running

Bride and bridesmaids walking away holding hands

Bride & Bridesmaids – all bouquets covering faces except for brides face

Bride and bridesmaids pouting kisses

Bride and groom kissing with bridal party in the back

Bride and groom kissing with bridal party been silly in the back

Bridal party 'tugging' bride and groom 'apart'

Bridal party “Gangsta” pose

Bridal party peeping around corner at bride and groom kissing

Bride with bridesmaids flowers around her (silly)

Groom kissing bride while best man high fives groom

Maid of honour PhotoBomb





Romantic Portraits

If we're been honest, all of the wedding day images are important but the real favourites are always from my time alone with the bride and groom. These romantic portraits of just the two of you will be the ones that you frame beside your bed or over your mantle. And they will also be the images that fill your album for generations to enjoy. For this brief moment of the day, you and your groom will get to enjoy some "alone time" and connect before all the craziness begins!



SAMPLE LIST FOR

Romantic Portraits



- Full shot of bride and groom together, smiling, hugging, kissing**
- Bride sitting on groom's lap**
- Close-up of couples' faces as bride is lifted in the air**
- Bride and Groom holding ring out to camera**
- Bride looking back at camera over grooms shoulder**
- Bride in focus in front of groom /Groom in focus in front of bride**
- Groom dipping bride**
- Bride and groom walking toward the camera, holding hands**
- Bride and groom looking off in the same direction together**
- Pinkie promise with close up of rings**
- The wrap and kiss pose**
- Couple kisses with bride tugging on grooms tie**
- Bride leaning on grooms shoulder**
- Grooms hand on brides cheek**
- Cheek kiss / Forehead kiss / Nose to nose**
- Brides hand on the back of groom's neck**
- Brides hand on groom's chest**
- Arm in arm / Back to back**
- Dancing - Groom twirls bride**
- Portraits of Bride alone**
- Portraits of Groom alone**
- Bride and groom under the veil**

IN CASE OF A Rainy Wedding Day

A frequently asked question is, “Soooo... What do you do if it RAINS!?”. I want to reassure you that even if it rains you will still have beautiful portraits. I know that rain is not ideal and no bride would wish for rain on her wedding day... BUT, if it happens, it happens... and it’s going to be JUST fine!

Let me worry about the photos. You have enough to think about. If there’s a chance of rain, I’ll be sure to do some extra scouting to find a covered location for the two of you to do your romantic portraits.

Take it one step at a time. Don’t think about the 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 by handling the rest of the day if rain is in the forecast.

I always have umbrellas in my car just incase!





THE Reception

The party is here! Receptions can be a blast!

However it is important to make sure that you have your event well thought out.

Your coordinator and DJ can help you set up the evening so that your guests don't leave early or experience long periods of waiting for the next thing to happen.

MUCH LIKE THE CEREMONY, YOU HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE YOUR RECEPTION YOUR OWN. HERE IS A LIST OF SOME KEY EVENTS THAT THAT OFTEN HAPPEN AT RECEPTIONS:

Bridal party introductions

First dance

Daddy daughter dance

Mother son dance

Anniversary dance

Money dance

Traditional religious dances

Welcome speech

Blessing

Cake cutting

Toasts

Bouquet and Garter toss

Large group portraits

Games

Reception

TIPS

Key moments you'll want the photographer to be there for are, the introduction of the wedding party, the first dances, the toasts, the cake cutting and the bouquet and garter tosses and perhaps the departure.

And, of course, some photos of your guests having fun, eating and dancing etc. You, of course, don't have to have the photographer there for everything.

*** What's Typical: It's typical for me to just wander around during the reception and capture anything special going on. How long you have me stay at the reception probably depends most upon your budget.**

Coordinate The Evening's Layout With Your DJ and Photographer: Speak to your DJ about the scheduling of events at the reception. Make sure I know the schedule as well so I can be sure I am in the right place at the right time before each special moment. Let me know where you're going to stand etc.

Throwing Flowers: Don't rush through this part... take a minute to play with your crowd. This gives me time to get a shot of you holding the flowers and looking back over your shoulder at all the gang getting lined up. Before you throw, try chasing off all the little kids because they often beat your bridesmaids and friends to the flowers. Now look up and make sure you don't have anything low like lights and ceiling fans that are going to intercept your flowers before they get to the crowd. When you throw, be ready to call for a do-over if it doesn't go as planned.





Reception

NIGHT SHOOT

Just because the sun went down doesn't mean there's no more romantic portraits to take. Get ready to cuddle up, take a deep breathe, and join me in the night for these romantic night portraits.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do you live and how far will you travel?

I live in Riviera, Pretoria. Shoots in Gauteng have a traveling fee of R7.50 per km (to destination only). I am also very comfortable traveling for shoots. Travel is billed very simply - if airfare and hotel and rental car are needed, all you are responsible for is a direct reimbursement for the charges.

Have you shot at my venue / location before?

I have shot at loads of venues and locations, so there is a good chance that we have. However, if I have not, I will get to the venue early on the day of and be sure to perform a thorough walk-through to scout out the best photography locations. I also do extensive online research prior to the shoot!

Do you also provide video services?

Yes we do!

Can some of our photos be delivered in both black & white and colour?

They most definitely can!

How long does it take before we receive our products and photographs?

I edit your chosen photos - This takes 10-14 days for engagement shoots and wedding sneak peeks, and 6-8 weeks for full wedding collections from when I receive your list of favourites. Upon final approval of album designs, most albums are ready for delivery within three weeks.

Are our digital files watermarked?

They are not. The high resolution files do not bear any watermarks. I do however ask that you use the low resolution watermarked files for Facebook, Instagram and other social media.

Do we get the copyright of the images?

Many photographers include a "copyright release" in their contracts, which generally just means the same as a release to have your images printed by yourself, or any lab you choose. That's not the same as obtaining copyright! Copyright simply means that I am the creator of the images, and I "own" the copyright. Selling or obtaining "the copyright" is not possible, but you will have the ability to print and share your images as much as you'd like!

Do we receive the raw, unedited files?

The raw, unedited files aren't available for viewing or purchase. This is very much like asking your caterer to give you the leftover ingredients used to make your dinner! The images selected for editing and final delivery reflect my very high standards and everything else isn't archived in the studio. Please rest assured that any images not delivered truly were not meant to be part of any collection! We do not cull to meet a certain number of delivered images, so every viable image is edited carefully and delivered.

Can we see the outtakes and all of the images that didn't make the "final cut"?

The images delivered to you are very loosely sorted through, taking out only eyes-closed, flash-didn't-fire, person-walked-in-front-of-the-lens true outtakes. If there are a handful of images of you together with your mom laughing, for example, I'm going to include everything that isn't an absolute duplicate and so forth. The images not selected aren't archived and therefore aren't available.

What will my album look like once it's completed?

With the fresh, modern books I design, the images are printed directly onto the pages, much like in a coffee table book you'd buy at the bookstore. I try to keep the designs clean and class

What is this "online gallery" you talk of?

The online gallery is a private website where all of your photographs will be placed online for you and your family and friends to view. All you have to do is provide the link to anyone who you want to be able to view the images.

Do you offer engagement sessions?

I love engagement sessions and offer them with most of my wedding packages! Please take note that most engagement sessions have to be done Tuesday-Thursday because of a heavy wedding schedule, but there's occasionally Friday, Saturday and Sunday availability. Sessions are photographed mostly in the Pretoria area. I'm available to travel elsewhere for your engagement session (and would love to!); certain travel rates may apply to areas outside my usual geographic location. The sessions are generally shot at 4pm during the winter months, and 5pm in the summer months. If you have any questions about your engagement session, please don't hesitate to contact me!

How would you describe your style of photography?

I shoot in a very natural, journalistic style. I'm very hands-off and unobtrusive in my coverage; I do believe that there is a time and place for gorgeous, casually posed images. So while I won't stop you and make you pose while tickling your kids, I'd like some time during the shoot to create some formal posed shots as well. I also believe strongly in preserving all of the details of events; from your cake to your shoes, so my work is very flush with detail images. My images of the guests at the event are almost 100% journalistic and I won't stop entire tables at the reception and make them pose for "table shots." I prefer instead to capture them laughing, smiling, dancing, drinking, and having a great time.

Do you take posed family photos at events?

Absolutely. I strongly believe in those family images, as they're records of your entire family at an important time in their history together.

Can we provide you with a "shot list" or "must take pictures"?

I don't mind at all. But please understand that I can't always guarantee that every shot on your list will be taken.

How long have you been in business?

I've been in business since 2007. I am always deeply honoured when I'm asked to document a wedding or capture some precious memories for a family; and I take that responsibility very seriously.

Can you hold a date for me?

I'm so sorry, but I can't hold the date or pencil you in. To be fair to everyone I can't "hold" a date without a deposit. I accept bookings on a first come/first serve basis.

Can we pay you part of the amount after the photo shoot?

I do require full payment before the event. If you have any concerns about the payment schedule, I'd love to chat with you about them!

If I need to cancel my photo shoot, is the deposit / retainer fee refundable?

The deposit fee/retainer fee is non-refundable. The deposit guarantees that I'll hold the date exclusively for you and once you've signed the contract I do turn down all other shoots for that time frame.

Cancellation refunds as follows:

50% of your invoice is non refundable under any circumstances.

What if you die?

If I die I can guarantee I will not be at your event - which would be super sad. However, Pixie's Photography (to be honest, probably just my husband and my incredibly grief-stricken friends) will still supply you with coverage from one of my associate shooters.

Okay, maybe not DIE, per say, but what if you're super sick?

Please know that I take the responsibility of shooting your event extremely seriously, and wouldn't just "call in sick" without a very grave, serious reason behind it. If that were to happen, we would find you a replacement photographer at the same skill level that I possess. If this is something that concerns you, please contact me and we can chat! I promise that this is a situation that we plan for carefully, and hope we never have to execute that plan!

When should we book you for our wedding, event, family shoot, etc?

ASAP. Since I can't "hold" dates or "pencil you in" dates are booked when...well, when they're booked. It's easy to predict what will be popular weekends, but not always easy to predict when those weekends will book up!

We wish we could meet with you, but we don't live in Pretoria. Is there an alternative?

The majority of our clients hire us without an in-person meeting. We are very quick, and very thorough, with emails and phone calls and are able to answer most questions in those ways.

My better half is uncomfortable having his picture taken. How can you help him on the day of the shoot?

I am a very calm, mellow person who tends to blend into the scene rather than bring attention to myself and my cameras. That, combined with my documentary style, will have your better half used to me within the first few minutes of your shoot. Most families tell me it felt like I was just one of the gang, hanging out with everyone. The only time you'll really be aware of the camera is during the family group photo and the creative portraits, and during this time I will guide you through everything. You can just be yourselves, and I will take care of the rest.

What do you do if we have an outdoor venue and it rains on the day of our shoot?

I easily adapt to any situation. My favorite photos have a lot more to do with your personalities and your chemistry as a couple or family, than what kind of background you're standing in front of. If you are happy and in love, that will show in your photos. We see rain as a fun, adventurous twist that usually brings laughter and spontaneity. The only time that we may need to keep in touch is if there's a thunder storm on the day of your shoot.. but even this I can work around!

If our event is running late, will you stay later than you were scheduled?

Surely! I do have an overtime rate and it goes into effect only with your permission and approval that I continue coverage. I'll bill you for those hours after the event.

Do you offer discounts for off-season or non-Saturday events?

Occasionally discounts are available but are based on time of year, my travel schedule, and availability. If you have concerns about your budgetary needs, please contact me and let me know.

Do we need to feed you at the reception or event?

It would be really kind if you did. Feeding me ensures I stay cheerful, mobile, and that I don't faint from starvation, or end up eating a stale chocolate bar that's been in my camera bag since 2007. I prefer to be fed when you are fed, not afterwards, because when you're eating you're not at your most photogenic. And when you're done, I want to be done as well to continue your coverage. We do bring our own food and water to weddings, but a hot meal is always a lovely treat during a long work day!

Can our family and friends take pictures with their cameras?

I do request they not swarm the family photographs with cameras and smartphones because I'd prefer all eyes facing me in your images.

Can you just snap a few images and/or give us the RAW files?

9 times out of 10, the answer will be no for both. If you are looking for a mini session, always ask if I have a mini event coming up.

RAW files. To explain why we say no, I'll explain what they are first. Most photographers use a setting that keeps the image at it's highest quality, called RAW files. They are essentially like undeveloped film. Unless you have a way to view them with special software (think dropping film off at a photo lab), they're useless to you. Plus, it's like going to order an amazing cake from a bakery...like the wicked intricate Pinterest cake with layers and flowers that is stunning...but you ask them to give you just the cake layers. You picked the bakery and the cake because of the finished product, that's what you should hope to get. Let us do all the work for you!