

About Wedding Photography

Thank you for your interest in my work as a wedding photographer. I have enjoyed preserving memories for couples and their families since 1984.

Recently, I came across a wonderful book on weddings. I was impressed with its current information. Chapter nine of *The Wedding Sourcebook*, by Madeline Barillo, deals with my area of service — photography.

A talented photographer is both artist and technician. Wedding photography is a specialized field – the photographer must be able to capture once-in-a-lifetime moments quickly (the bride tossing the bouquet or gliding down the aisle) and do it without interrupting the flow of the ceremony or the party.

Something I was most pleased with was the mention of choices in the style of wedding photography:

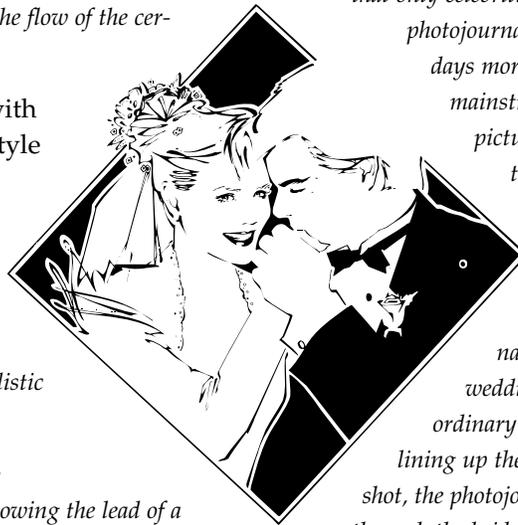
Give careful consideration to the style of wedding photography you favor. The two most prevalent styles are the traditional portraiture approach and the candid, photojournalistic approach.

Classic Portraiture

Will you be more comfortable following the lead of a traditional wedding photographer who will direct the action and tell you how to pose? With the portraiture approach, the photographer shoots standard composed poses that are frankly staged. He or she will tell you when and where to stand, where to look, and how to smile. The photographer might choose to do some of the portraits in a studio (as was done in the days of clunky, stationary cameras) or add special glamour effects like halos, sunbursts, and backgrounds.

Classic poses include the bride and groom staring at the ring, the bride gazing at her bouquet, and the newlywed looking off into the distance or into each other's eyes.

While some critics groan that the classic approach is hokey and sentimental, others note that brides have been requesting these keepsake shots for decades. The shots may be formal and formulaic, but it's a formula that's been working for a long time.



Photojournalism

Over the past decade, a new breed of wedding photographers have popularized the candid wedding photojournalism approach, where the images captured for a wedding album are unrehearsed, realistic, and faithful to all the events that unfold throughout the day. Forget cookie-cutter albums: Every wedding is a personal story, so no two wedding albums should look even remotely similar.

Photojournalism is actually nothing new – newspaper, magazine, and fine-arts photographers have been snapping on-the-spot pictures for more than a century. It used to be that only celebrities and socialites could afford

photojournalists to “cover” their weddings, but these days more and more photojournalists are doing mainstream weddings. Since a larger number of pictures are generally taken, the cost is sometimes higher than with a traditional portrait photographer.

Some photojournalists strive for offbeat or humorous shots, like the bride kissing her golden retriever or naughty toddlers licking the frosting off the wedding cake. Others choose to document ordinary events in an unusual way. Instead of lining up the bridesmaids for a “pretty maids in a row” shot, the photojournalist might capture them all peering through the bride's veil.

As a photographer who shoots weddings as a photojournalist, I spend the whole day with my clients capturing the fun and the beauty. Your story begins as you both prepare for the ceremony and may end with you twisting and shouting on the dance floor. Pictures happen anywhere: mom's last-minute ironing in the bride's room, cousin Pam handing out programs, grandma's embrace in the receiving line, an impromptu toast on the wedding bus, a group of friends gathered at the reception, Uncle Joe line dancing . . .

I do understand that group shots and family pictures may be an important part of your day, so we try to organize these poses to complete them in a timely fashion. When completed, your album will tell the story of your day.