

A romantic silhouette of a couple standing close together, looking at each other, framed by the intricate branches of a large tree. The background is a soft, colorful sunset sky transitioning from deep blue at the top to warm orange and red at the bottom.

# All Heart Photography

*Real Moments, Real Emotion  
Because that's what Really Matters*

THE COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO ROCKING YOUR WEDDING

BAILEY + JOSH, AUGUST 2016



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COURTNEY + MATT, JANUARY 2020



A M A N D A + N I C K | - R I V I E R A M A Y A , M E X I C O 2 0 1 9

# You're Engaged!!

## 10 Things to Start Now

1. *Take a minute to enjoy this time.. Seriously though, breathe it in for a moment.*
2. *Narrow down a date or season range for your wedding*
3. *Create a budget*
4. *Check out all the wedding inspiration to find your style*
5. *Tour some venues*
6. *Ask your bridesmaids and groomsmen to be in the wedding*
7. *Create a rough guest list*
8. *Find your photographer*
9. *Look for a coordinator for extra help*
10. *Break in your wedding shoes*





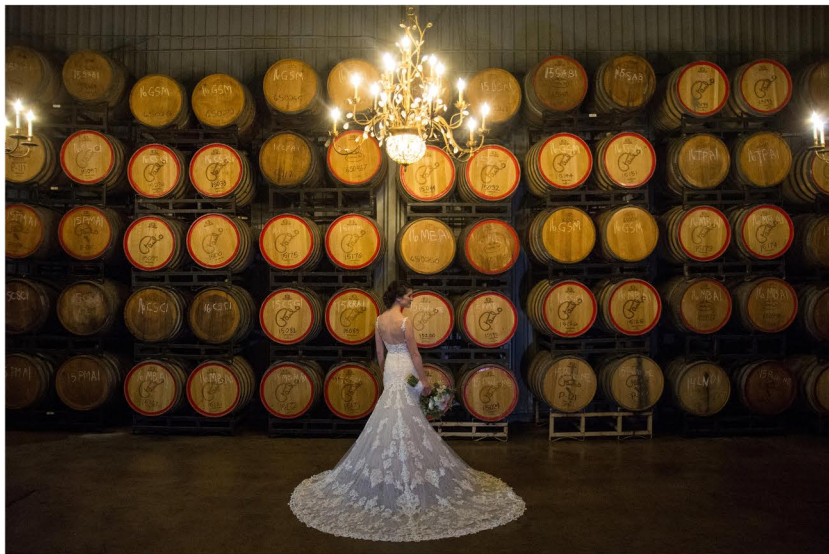
FEATURED ARTICLE

# *Is an* Elopement Right for You

The Webster's definition of Elopement is when a couple marries in secret. Traditionally this was done because of a pregnancy, Shotgun wedding, or because the couple's family didn't approve of their marriage.

That's not what Elopements are anymore. An Elopement or Intimate wedding, 25 or fewer guests, is more centered around adventure now. Many people elope because that matches their personality better than a traditional big wedding. Here are a few reasons people elope.

*read on...*



M A R I A + R O B E R T , J U N E 2 0 1 6

## 1. Experiences Based

If you lean more toward the adventurous lifestyle and highly value experiences, an elopement might be up your alley.

My wife and I rarely give each other physical gifts because we both LOVE experience and we feel like those experiences will create lasting memories more than a gift in hand might.

If you're like me and you still want to celebrate with your family and friends, an option could be to elope for the ceremony/honeymoon and then celebrate with everyone at reception party at a later date back home.

## 2. Private Ceremony

You may feel serious anxiety about being the center of attention like you would at a traditional wedding day.

An intimate wedding is another option similar to an elopement where you have 20 or so close friends and family with you, either at a destination or you can even elope in your home town.

An elopement also gives you the privacy to express your emotions together without everyone staring at you.

## 3. The Way You Want

If you are running into difficulties in planning your wedding the way you want, an elopement might be a good fit.

Sometimes as good natured as they try to be, parents can try to live vicariously through you by dictating the style, the timeline, and many details of your wedding day.

We had parents on both sides fighting us about things we wanted to incorporate into our wedding day, so we know the struggle is real.

Elopements give you the flexibility and freedom to celebrate your love the way that best represents your marriage.

W E D D I N G   D A Y   D E T A I L S





# Wedding Day Emergency Kit

It's ok, something is most likely going to break or someone will forget something on your wedding day.

It happens to the best of us, and honestly, it happens at almost every wedding. With this emergency kit, you'll be prepared for anything!

- Sewing Kit
- Band-aids
- Tylenol
- Allergy Meds
- Midol
- Deodorant
- Blotting Paper
- Scissors

Some of these may seem obvious, but sometimes on the day they can easily be passed over. And if you book with me, don't worry about it because I bring all this stuff with me to every wedding.

- Mints
- Toothpaste + brush
- Bobby Pins/Hair Ties
- Tampons
- Body Tape
- Shoe Laces
- Socks
- Earring Backs
- Cell Phone Charger
- Safety Pins
- Granola Bars
- Antacid
- Lint Roller
- White Chalk



*“John is amazing! He's  
really friendly and made  
us feel at ease.”*

LE + KHOA, AUGUST 2017



allow  
me to  
*introduce  
myself*

## *who I am*

Hey there, I'm John Mansfield.

Most mornings you can find me grinding fresh coffee beans and trying to make breakfast with a 2-year-old on my leg while my oldest helps cook.

I am a wedding and destination elopement photographer who is in love with love!

I'm a sucker for adventures and quirky love stories, and a lot of my couples provide both of those. I'd love to travel the world with you and tell your love story.

I focus on moments of the day that capture the emotions and the fun of your wedding day.

I love getting to know you well so that on your wedding day, it's like having a friend photograph your wedding and not some awkward dude you've hardly met. After all, if you're going to have someone around you for 8-10+ hours that day, you want your personalities to match.

Your wedding day is the most important day in the world to me!

# Engagement Photo Locations



LORI + MATT | SAN DIEGO BEACH



KYLIE + CHRIS | COFFEE SHOP

Every couple is different so every engagement location should be different too. A lot of times I have couples telling me that they really want to take photos at this open field they say a friend of theirs have their photo taken a couple years ago. But when I ask about what that field means to them, they draw a blank. It doesn't mean anything to them. It's just a pretty field. Don't get me wrong, if that's exactly your style, then I'm 100% down to photograph you in an open field. But if there is another location that might mean more to your relationship and might help tell your story better, then I'll always want to go there.

If you book an All Day wedding collection with me, you get free travel anywhere in the US. And if your wedding is local, then you can use that travel for your engagement session if there is a place that means something to you but might be a short flight away, so keep that in mind when planning.

## Locations based on your relationship style

### Outdoorsy

- Park
- Garden
- Beach
- Forest
- Hiking

### Playful

- Candy Shop
- Theme Park
- Disney
- Super Soaker Fight
- In Your Home

### Artsy

- Bookshop
- Café
- Museum
- Murals
- Sculptures

### Metropolitan

- Downtown
- Roof Top
- Bar
- Cocktail Attire
- Capitol Building

### Quirky

- Parking Garage
- Fast Food Restaurant
- Junk Yard
- Largest Ball of Yarn
- Road Trip



# Wedding Timeline Planning

This won't be your final timeline but it's a good start and an easy way to line out everything in the day. This will give you a good idea of what time you'd need to arrive at the venue, when certain vendors should arrive, and when different events should begin.

Start with your ceremony time and then you can work backward to when you start getting ready, and move forward on into the reception.

Getting Ready Start Time -- Generally 30-45mins per each person getting hair and makeup done. \_\_\_\_\_  
-- Multiple Hair/makeup artists will cut down time

Getting Ready End Time -- at least 2 hours before ceremony especially if doing a first look \_\_\_\_\_

Drive time between getting ready and the ceremony \_\_\_\_\_

First Look -- at least 1 hour before ceremony begins \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony Start Time \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony End Time -- average ceremony is 15-30 minutes \_\_\_\_\_

Formal Family Photo Start Time -- 10 minutes after ceremony end \_\_\_\_\_  
-- Gives time for non-family to clear

Wedding Party Photo Start Time -- 15-20 after Family starts \_\_\_\_\_

Couple's Portraits Start Time -- 15 mins after Wedding Party starts \_\_\_\_\_

Cocktail Hour Start -- Directly after ceremony for guests \_\_\_\_\_

Reception Start Time -- usually an hour after ceremony ends \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Served at -- shortly after reception begins unless you dance first \_\_\_\_\_

Cake Cutting at -- 30-45 minutes into dinner \_\_\_\_\_

Toasts at -- directly after cake \_\_\_\_\_

First Dance -- directly after toasts \_\_\_\_\_

Open Dance Floor -- after Father/Daughter + Mother/Son dances \_\_\_\_\_

Garter/Bouquet Toss -- usually an hour before the final song \_\_\_\_\_

Final Song/Private Dance \_\_\_\_\_

Send Off Exit \_\_\_\_\_



A B B E Y + K R I S , A U G U S T 2 0 1 9

FEATURED ARTICLE

# 6 tips for a gorgeous engagement session

Okay, okay! Your left hand has been getting in a workout ever since your fiancé put that beautiful rock on it, and you are oozing with excitement at the thought of wedding planning! Sound at all like you? If it does, congrats! Now let's take some beautiful, casual pictures to celebrate!

Your engagement photos are a celebration of your love for each other, taken in a safe place without lots of pressure. I think engagement sessions are such an important part of wedding photography, and I've written this article to ensure you have the perfect engagement session with your love!

*read on...*



CECILIA + RAMONE - SAN DIEGO 2016

## *for those beautiful engagement images...*

### 1. Vision

When you think of your engagement session, what do you visualize? An open field? Urban brick? A forest of trees? What is it that you feel suits the two of you? Are there any special locations that might be ideal for your engagement shoot? Place you met, or coffeeshop you frequent? If not, don't fret! It's not about where you are but who you are with. A lot of my couples leave the location up to me, which means I get to scope out spots ahead of time! The way I shoot, the focus is on the two of you and your beautiful faces, not the background. However, if there is a place that's uniquely special to the two of you, or you'd like to include a family heirloom, a pet, or something else that's meaningful, I am here to help you incorporate it into your images!

### 2. Fashion

Don't feel like you need to go on a mega shopping spree for your session (but if you can, more power to ya!) I want you to be comfortable - I want you to connect with your images - so if you are a jeans and tee kinda gal, then rock it with a fun color! My couples sometimes bring an outfit change to their session. Most choose for a dressier option (read: flowy maxi dress) and a casual option (read: jeans and a fun shirt). I made a little Pinterest board for a little fun inspiration, but I am always open to chat wardrobe. Don't feel like you have to go for plain classics the entire time. Have fun with color, texture, and prints! Heck, if you want hit the beach or a lake, I'll throw on my swim trunks to match. This is to remember this special time in your lives, so don't limit yourself!

### 3. Hair & Makeup

I cannot stress this enough, girls! Really! Professional hair and makeup make a world of a difference. As a photographer, it excites me to know my brides are spending a day getting pampered before their session. It allows you to relax, feel beautiful, and confident! Consider using this time as a test run with your makeup artist and use your session as a time to evaluate your wedding day look and how it photographs. Ladies, if you can swing it, please consider getting your hair & makeup done for your session! I promise you it will make a world of a difference and you will look and feel absolutely glamorous. Oh, and I'm right here if you need any recommendations!



LEANNE + LUIS, MARRIED JANUARY 2019

## 4. Timing

Timing is everything for your session. As a natural light photographer, I plan my engagement sessions around the lighting of the day. I usually begin them an hour prior to sunset, which will allow for an outfit change while shooting during the golden hour. Being on time ensures that we do not cut into your session time, so I love to show up 10-15 minutes early so we can hang out and get comfortable. That will help yield great results! Once the sun goes down, there isn't much we can do, so staying on track with timing and lighting is the best way to ensure gorgeous images. This also means that at times we may have to reschedule due to weather. You only get to do this once, so ensuring the environment is perfect will give you beautifully lit images!

## 5. Trust Me

This is the whole reason you chose your photographer, right? Because they know the best lighting, the best poses, and the best techniques to make you two look and feel like supermodels. Now it's time for you to take a deep breath and trust the person you chose to do their best work with you. The more trust you place in them, the more free they will be to create the types of images that you'll love the most. You're going to feel uncomfortable, awkward, and aIIIIII the things! But between constant music and maybe even a few drinks (if you're down, and of age) those little moments of awkwardness will become fewer. I often have couples tell me they had so much fun and that it felt like hanging out with a friend instead of a photographer. That's my goal!

## 6. Have Fun

This is such an exciting time in your lives. I know that engagement sessions can seem nerve wrecking but it's important to go in with an open mind and the ability to laugh. I want you two to flirt your brains out, love each other, and just have fun. We will laugh a lot, I will help pose you. Your only job is to snuggle in close, groove to the music, and laugh until your belly aches. It's going to be fun, we might finish the session with a bottle of wine, and I promise you that you will love seeing these beautiful images of the two of you for years to come. Engagement sessions are the perfect time to hang out and get comfortable with your photographer. It'll make your wedding photos even more amazing and relaxed. Plus you get to flirt with your soon-to-be!



# wedding planning worksheet

Hey, want to know a secret on how to get those amazing, fun-filled images? Well, here it is! Having a detailed timeline for your wedding ensures you and your family receive the images you're dreaming of for your big day. We will have very limited time during the wedding to take all the images you'd like, so planning things out ahead of time is essential for success! Make sure to list out all the family formal shots you'd like as well as any other special requests you have for me. When you're all done with this planning sheet, we'll go over it together to make sure there's time for every moment you're wanting to capture!

If you're not sure about some of the timing for the day, don't worry, I've put together over 100 of these timelines for weddings so I can help you when we meet for coffee or a drink. I got you.

## Wedding Details

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Date \_\_\_\_\_

Ceremony Venue & Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reception Venue & Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Religion of Wedding (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

## Your Side

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Father \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Siblings & Spouses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Maid of Honor \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl \_\_\_\_\_

Does the Bride have any family  
situations (such as divorce, deaths,  
etc. that I should be sensitive to?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Fiancé's Side

Fiancé's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mother \_\_\_\_\_

Father \_\_\_\_\_

Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Siblings & Spouses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Best Man \_\_\_\_\_

Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ringbearer \_\_\_\_\_

Does the Groom have any family  
situations (such as divorce, deaths,  
etc. that I should be sensitive to?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# What to Expect From Me: A Comprehensive Shot List

## *Bride Getting Ready*

Hanging dress  
Bride's shoes  
Bride's jewelry  
Bridal bouquet  
Bride looking in mirror  
Bride putting on makeup  
Bride styling hair  
Bridesmaids' makeup styling  
Bridesmaids' hair styling  
Bridesmaids putting on outfits  
Bride puts on her dress  
Mom's reaction to bride in dress  
Bride with mother  
Bride with father  
Bride with flower girl  
Bride with special family / friends

## *Groom Getting Ready*

Groom's shoes  
Groom's boutonniere  
Wedding rings  
Groom buttoning jacket  
Groom putting on shoes  
Close-up of groom's tie  
Close-up of groom's boutonniere  
Groom alone, looking dapper  
Groomsmen putting on jackets  
Groomsmen tying shoes  
Groomsmen shaking hands  
Best man with groom  
Best man hugging groom  
Father / family hugging groom  
Groom with mother  
Groom with father  
Groom with family & friends

## *Ceremony*

Overall ceremony site shot  
Ceremony details  
Bridal party down the aisle  
Bride with father  
Reaction of the groom  
Reaction of the bride  
Candids of guests & family  
Exchanging of rings  
First kiss

## *Bride & Groom*

Close-up of rings  
Groom only  
Luxe bridal portraits, bride only  
Bride and groom together, posed  
Close-up of bride and groom's faces

## *Formals*

Entire groom's party  
Groomsmen having fun together  
Entire bridesmaid's party with bride  
Bridesmaids having fun together  
Entire bridal party, bride, & groom  
Groom only with groom's parents  
Groom only with groom's extended family  
Bride only with bride's parents  
Bride only with bride's extended family  
Bride and Groom with both sets of parents  
Bride and groom with their extended family  
Entire bridal party w/ extended family  
Your choice of any combination of people

Please Note: To help the formal portrait session go more smoothly I have my assistant help gather family members and prepare each grouping while I'm taking the previous group's photos.

## *Reception Details*

Table decor and floral arrangements  
Seating chart  
Bride & Groom's table  
Cake details  
Overall shot of reception area  
Anything you spent money on to make your day look amazing

## *During Reception*

During Reception  
Guests arriving  
Details of food, drinks  
Guest interactions, introductions  
Formal introductions of bridal party  
Formal introductions of bride and groom  
Toasts and speeches  
First dance with father and bride  
First dance with bride and groom  
Bridesmaids and groomsmen dancing  
Family members dancing  
Guests dancing & conversing  
Bouquet toss, traditions or games  
Cake cutting  
Formal exit of bride and groom

## *Your Requests*

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# why John, you ask?

Let's be honest:  
Texans are raised  
not to brag.

I've been serving "humble pie" my whole life, but if this is the only chance I get to make an impression on you, you better believe I'm going to take it and make it memorable!

I know that you have hundreds of options when it comes to choosing your photographer for your wedding day! There is talent pouring out of every city, and I'm sure a town near you; and yet here you are reading this (this magazine pairs well with coffee, so if your hand is empty, go fill it! You know I'm doing the same!).

I've been voted "Couples' Choice Wedding Photographer" for not 1, 2, or 3 years but for 4 years in a row by Wedding Wire. And voted best Wedding Photographer in East Texas by peers at Lux Magazine.

Why? Because I care. I take clients and turn them into close friends. Seriously, some of my closest friends started as clients. Throughout your entire wedding day I am watching everything unfold and documenting moments that I know you will cherish for years to come, moments you might not even see happen.

I'm living your day through your eyes and capturing it in a way that will give you the ability to relive it for years to come. Every little hand grab, tear shed, dance move.... You'll get those shots (and hundreds more) because your wedding day is filled with tiny moments, tiny details, with one beautiful love story interwoven through every single frame. That story? It's yours. Let me tell it.

A huge fuel behind All Heart Photography is giving back to our community and those in need all over the world. 15% of every wedding package is given to charity. I've partnered with a couple charities but I also love to give to charities that are dear to you. Just a way that your wedding photos can help change the world. As of spring 2019 our couples have given over \$35,000 through their weddings!

# in your words: *love from clients*

I would not be all that I am without my amazing clients. Many of the couples I work with end up keeping in touch long after the wedding day and become my close friends, and I am incredibly grateful!

I know I've talked a lot in this magazine about who I am and what I do, but now it's time to let others do some of the telling! Here are just a few testimonials from real clients who have allowed me to be a part of the most important day of their life. Working with so many wonderful, amazing people with beautiful love stories to tell has been one of the biggest gifts of my life.

*read on...*

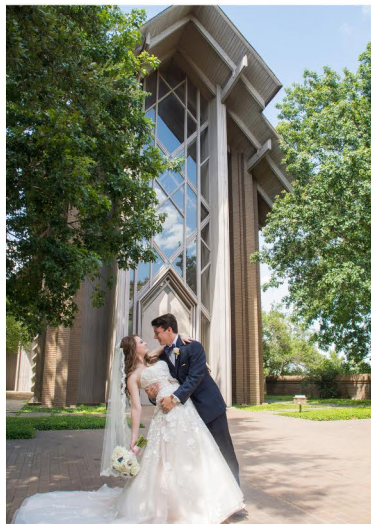




A P R I L 2 0 1 9

## Roxanne + Kevin Say...

John is amazing. I had SO much fun with him during my bridals. When I got the photos back my jaw dropped. It's been 4 months since our wedding and I still look at our photos almost daily. He really captured the joy and love of our wedding. I couldn't recommend All Heart Photography more. 10/10 would hire again.



A U G U S T 2 0 1 6

## Jamie & Mitchell Say...

All heart photography did an amazing job at our wedding. The pictures turned out perfect and we could not be happier. John and Stephanie (the second photographer he brought with him) were so fun to work with and helped make our wedding day stress-free.

We got so many compliments on how sweet our photographer was and how amazing our pictures turned out! He also got our pictures to us quickly and only a few days after the wedding he posted a sneak peak of them on the blog. We are so glad we chose All Heart Photography and you will be too!



NOVEMBER 2018

## Katie + Autumn Say...

John from All Heart Photography did an amazing job capturing my fiancé and I's love for each other during our engagement session!

He made us feel super comfortable and we had a great time. He is super easy to talk to and makes clear direction on what we need to do to look the best in our pictures. I loved the pictures he captured so much!



JANUARY 2015

## Cissy + Josh Say...

John was absolutely amazing! He was very flexible and always available to communicate details and plans at any time. His photography package fit perfectly with what I had always wanted on my big day. Having him around all day made for the most amazing photos and memories for me to look back on for years to come! I couldn't ask for a better photographer.

I was confident in his experience and professionalism and I never had to worry about anything photography wise. I ordered my bridal portrait and wedding photo book through him as well and was so impressed with the quality and timely manner in which they were delivered. I highly recommend him to anyone and everyone, great quality and amazing prices! Not to mention he has a great heart for helping others and I loved that our package contributed to a charity.



# investment

Every wedding is  
unique, like you

I take my job as your photographer seriously (and let's face it, hire me and you'll have an extra groomsman who happens to be holding a camera!).

You shouldn't have to choose which parts of your wedding day get photographed and which do not. Our pricing is by moments of the day, not by hours.

Our packages are set up to cover moments of your wedding day, from All Day Coverage to just an hour before the ceremony through the first dances.

Your photographer  
is an investment

Investment is definitely the right word for it, because in truth your photos and your wedding album will live on for generations to enjoy. Once the cake is eaten, the dress pressed and hung, and the guests are back home, your photographs will endure to be revisited again and again, bringing back all the emotions!

*Ready to make the best  
investment of your life?  
Let's do this!*



KESHA + DION JULY 2017

## *collections*

All packages can be customized to fit your needs and budget.  
For custom packages, contact me for the details.

### Collection I

All Day Wedding Day Coverage  
Second Photographer  
20 Page Linen Heirloom Album (10x10")  
1-2 Hour Engagement Session  
USB of all Edited Images  
Online Gallery  
Print Release  
Free Travel Anywhere in the US

\$4,050

### Collection II

8 Hour Wedding Day Coverage  
1-2 Hour Engagement Session  
USB of all Edited Images  
Online Gallery  
Print Release

\$2,650

### Collection III

6 Hour Wedding Day Coverage  
USB of all Edited Images  
Online Gallery  
Print Release

\$1,995

## *travel*

Free travel for All Day Collections  
Base rates include travel within 1 hour of zip code 77840.  
For travel outside of that area and destination weddings,  
ask for me for the details.  
And yes, my passport is ready and I love to travel.



CAITLIN + STEPHEN DECEMBER 2018

## video collections

All packages can be customized to fit your needs and budget.  
For custom packages, contact me for the details.

### Package I

All Day Wedding Day Coverage  
Second Videographer  
10-15 Minute Full Wedding Film  
1-3 Minute Highlights Film  
Films of Full Ceremony and Toasts  
Hard Drive of all films  
1 Hour Engagement/Bridal Film session

**\$3,000**

(\$3450 Value)

### Package II

7-10 Hours of Wedding Day Coverage  
Second Videographer  
5-8 Minute Full Wedding Film  
1-3 Minute Highlights Film  
Films of Full Ceremony and Toasts  
Hard Drive of all films  
1 Hour Engagement/Bridal Film session

**\$2,650**

(\$3050 Value)

### Package III

4-6 Hours of Wedding Day Coverage  
Second Videographer  
3-5 Minute Full Wedding Film  
1-3 Minute Highlights Film  
USB of all Films  
1 Hour Engagement/Bridal Film session

**\$1,950**

(\$2250 Value)

## travel

Free Travel for All Day Collections  
Base rates include travel within 1 hour of zip code 77840.  
For travel outside of that area and destination weddings, ask  
for me for the details.  
And yes, my passport is ready and I love to travel.





ELIZABETH . MARCH 2018

## *a la carte*

### Add-ons

Now that you've got your base collection covered, let's add some extras!

- Engagement Session with Files \$500
- Extra Hour of Photo Coverage \$400
- Extra Hour of Video Coverage \$300
- Second Photographer \$150/hr
- Bridal Session with Files \$500

### Albums

There is no better way to show off your beautiful photographs than with your own custom wedding album. I create clean, stunning, timeless albums that show and tell your love story for years to come. It's pretty clear that I will obsess over your images and arrange them into a layout that will tell your wedding story and show all the love from that day. Each album is customizable to match exactly what you are looking for. For a price quote, please contact John.

Wedding Albums Starting at \$350  
Parent Albums Starting at \$250

### Prints

Your images deserve a place in your lives beyond just your computer screen! When you order prints, they will be printed on the highest-quality photographic paper. The rates listed below will be the same rates that are in your online viewing and ordering gallery. All prints are finished with a lustre coating to protect your photos from aging and fingerprints. Additional sizes available upon request.

4 x 6.....	\$2.99
5 x 7.....	\$4.99
8 x 10.....	\$8.99
11 x 14.....	\$20.99
16 x 24.....	\$52.99



## FEATURED ARTICLE

# 5 tips for a *stress free* wedding day

After witnessing and being a part of 100+ weddings, I feel like I have truly seen it all. You know I'm telling the truth when I say that my clients are amazing.

They are the best of the best, the cream of the crop, the people I feel fortunate to know. In working with the best, I need to be the best. So how do you do that?

Well, it's all about guiding my couples through the complicated / stressful / crazy process of planning the biggest, most important day of your life. Pretty simple, right? Wrong. So, let's talk through five tips to help provide a stress free wedding day, shall we?

*read on...*

## 1. Be strategic with scheduling

Your ceremony time will direct how the day will lead. If it's easy, great, you can do your photos in between that and cocktail hour, but if your ceremony flows into your cocktails, well, you should probably consider a first look. My goal? To have everyone present for as much of cocktail hour as possible. Why? The answer is two-fold. One: you are paying for it, so you might as well enjoy it. Two: it's one of the only times you get to greet and be present with your guests. Work with your photographer, find out how long they need for certain things, schedule in travel time, and add a little cushion!

## 2. Prepare ahead of time

When your photographer shows up, you want them to get right to work. How do you do this? By preparing ahead of time. What should you prepare? Well, anything you want photographed. For my brides, I tell them to have their: dress, shoes, jewelry, full invitation suite, all of the rings, any family heirlooms, and any other bridal details they want photographed. When I start shooting, I begin with styling these details that help tell your wedding story. If you don't have things ready, I'll be wasting time tracking them down (when I could be making them pretty and shooting!) The more prepared you are, the better – for you and for me!

## 3. Communicate clearly

Need your grandma to the church early? Want your wedding party to hang around after the ceremony? Need your college buddies ready for a shot during cocktail hour? Tell them! Make sure you communicate the schedule clearly and that everyone who needs it has it. This helps us not waste time tracking Uncle Jim down or grabbing Bobby from the bar. Photos move much faster, and when that happens you get to your party sooner and you're less stressed, I promise. Be an over-communicator - it will pay off big time!

## 4. Make time for photography

I urge my couples to do first looks for multiple reasons. First, it gives you the chance to soak it in, embrace, and experience the emotions without hundreds of pairs of eyes on you. Second, it allows us to knock out the posed photos so we can cruise through the festivities with candid shots that you'll love. Lastly, it gives me the chance to sneak into your reception during cocktail hour and photograph all of the hard work you've done! From florals to seating charts, gift tables to cakes, when you give me 20-30 minutes of uninterrupted time to photograph these details, all of the work and money you've spent making your vision come to life is documented and preserved!

## 5. Just be present

Wait, what? You don't believe when everyone tells you that a wedding day is a total whirlwind? Well, it is. Take moments where you stop, hold each other's hands, and intentionally take in the moments. When I shoot portraits of my clients, I make sure it's private and I tell them, "This isn't just time for photos, this is a time for you to be fully present. To hug each other and feel the warmth, to look into each other's eyes and lock that memory, to kiss like you're 15 and never kissed before..." You get the idea. Throughout the day, set aside little breaks in your schedule where you can pull away from the party and just simply "be." You won't regret that time, I promise! At my wedding my wife and I made time to jump off the busy dancefloor ('cause our wedding was a Party!) and just sit with each other for a few minutes taking in all the fun of the night.

I truly believe that wedding days are living, moving, breathing phenomena. They are here and gone in the blink of an eye. It's important to set yourself up for success and to ease any stress ahead of time so that as you float through your day you aren't focused on the details or the flowers, not on the cake or the music, but you're focused on the union, the marriage that is beginning. I want you to experience - not just plan - a marriage more beautiful than your wedding day. If you put these five tips to work, you'll be on your way to a stress-free day!



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# how to book

It is always so great to personally connect before booking your date, regardless of how we meet: whether it be a coffee date, phone conversation, or skype! Shoot me an email, let's set up a time to chat and get to know each other!

*You can get ahold of me here:*  
512.484.8919  
[john@allheartphoto.com](mailto:john@allheartphoto.com)  
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All dates are available on a first come, first serve basis. Dates will be reserved by submitting a completed contract and a retainer of 25% of the total package price. Payment may be made by PayPal, Venmo, check or by credit card securely over the phone.

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