

WHAT TO WEAR

a guide for
LOOKING GOOD
AT YOUR SHOOT





HELLO FRIEND

I just wanted to get in touch with a few tips about what to expect, what to wear, and to get excited about how amazing your shoot is going to be!

Most of us feel a little awkward in front of a camera (personal reason for why I choose to stay behind mine). Having these memories to look back on in three, five, or even fifty years' time will make all the awkward moments worth it.

Feelin' nervous? Rest easy knowing that this is my passion. I do this all the time, and go to great lengths to make you smile. I also have lots of little tools in my toolkit to make sure you're feeling at ease and natural during our shoot.

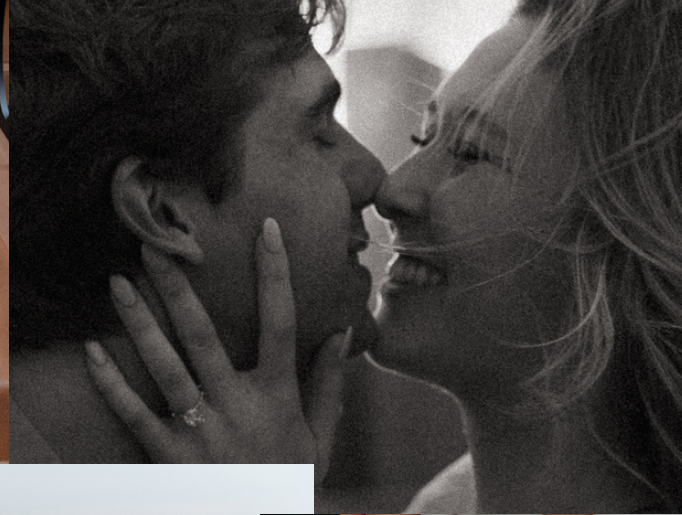
WHAT TO EXPECT

During the photoshoot, don't worry if you don't know what to do, because I will direct you! Most people just automatically look at the camera and smile, but I'll probably tell you to look away or to let yourself be absorbed in whatever you're doing. We'll dance, chat, walk, act, and laugh, and you'll be so busy enjoying yourself that you'll forget that you're having your photo taken.

I promise that I'll let you know when it's appropriate to look at the camera. Until then, just do your thing and let yourself be as silly or as serious as you want to be. Just know that there is no "right" way to do things! If I tell you to walk towards the camera, do it in the way that you normally would – and I know this bit is hard, but try not to overthink it!

My goal is for you to feel as authentic and comfortable in front of my lens as you can. I will take care of you, and all you have to do is show up and watch the magic happen.





Dressing yourself in the morning is hard enough when you don't have to stand in front of a camera and be your best self. Choosing what to wear for a photoshoot can trigger even the most confident, fashion-ey fashionista to pull their entire wardrobe out onto the floor in search of the perfect outfit.

So if your nerves start to fizz when you think about what to wear, don't worry. This is SO normal! Before you lose sleep to late nights spent online shopping--putting articles of clothing in your cart only to take them out again--let's talk about what works and what doesn't.

Number one thing I want you to remember? Being comfortable is EVERYTHING. You should look and feel like yourself, first and foremost.

BE COMFY

please

It's not uncommon for people to want to shop for new, sparkly, fabulous clothes to wear to a photoshoot. And that's totally fine - if that's your jam. But let's talk about comfort a little more. Do you think you'd be more comfortable in your favorite t-shirt and jeans or a new clingy little black dress? The best route is usually to go with something that's tried and true. Something you know moves with you and hugs you in all the right places. Don't get me wrong - it 100% does not have to be jeans and a t-shirt. You can glam it up a bit more if that's what you fancy. But if authenticity is what you're after, you're going to have to show up as yourself. And if you want to capture this time of your life in all its glory, then it's about the feeling of being in your own skin.





MATCH YOUR OUTFIT

TO THE LOCATION AND SEASON.

If you're wearing a fancy ball gown in your living room, the viewer might assume you're going to prom. Don a little sundress number in a snowy field and the viewer might suffer from a crippling amount of pity for you. You and I will be collaborating on telling your story together, so let's get this right.

Plan your outfits around what you know about the conditions at the location we'll be shooting at. You'll want to be warm enough (or cool enough!), have pain-free feet, and look relatively native to your environment. For at home sessions, slip into your comfiest comfies and rock that (pants optional). The idea is to authentically capture you wherever you are.

Think through your clothing choices logically based on location, vibe, and comfort level.

TIP: MAYBE DON'T WEAR ALL BLACK ON A STINKIN' HOT DAY.
JUST TRUST ME ON THIS ONE.



LEAD WITH PERSONALITY

I'm up for it all. If you're in a heavy metal band and want to smash some things and scream at the sky, throw on your best concert attire and count me in. If you're a drama kid at heart and live for the spotlight, I'll help you turn your front porch into a stage and feed you the lines you've forgotten. If you're a jeans and a t-shirt kinda person, let's work with that. I want your shoot to be different from everyone else's. I want it to be you.





INCORPORATE TEXTURE & MOVEMENT

Pick fabrics that move and flow with you. Ones that add a cozy texture, or get picked up by the wind, filter the late afternoon sun, and glow in the morning light. Natural fibers like linen, cotton, or wool are amazing. Avoid stiff-seeming garments with collars as they look a bit too formal and often get tucked in weird spots and need adjusting.



COLOR SCHEMING

Aim for neutrals, earthy tones, and metallics. These colors compliment the outdoor environment almost anywhere you go and look damn fine as a printed, framed photograph.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not advocating for a beige world of quiet and inoffensive colors. By neutrals, I just mean softer tones. Primary colors are incredibly striking, but can sometimes have the effect of detracting from the main subject (which is you). So for example, instead of electric blue, go for something closer to sky blue. Instead of bright orange, opt for ochre or apricot.



A rule of thumb here is to choose to either complement your natural environment or contrast it. A mustard dress in a deep green forest will look epic, whereas a bright pink, patterned dress doesn't really fit in with your surroundings. It totally depends on what you're looking for!

For families it's best to keep your color scheme limited to four colors. You can choose one person to wear a feature color and have everyone else's outfits complement that.

BE CAREFUL WITH PATTERN & PRINTS

Avoid large bold patterns or logos as they often dominate the photograph and detract attention from your beautiful face.

Usually, subtle smaller patterns work best. Flannels or a light floral print are great when they complement the location. But less is definitely more with this one, try to limit yourself to one pattern at a time. Matching patterns is a tricky task, and it's super difficult to do well.

If you're not quite sure what category your patterned clothes fall into, shoot me an email or send me a text and I'll be happy to weigh in.





LAYER UP!

Wearing layers is great form (and function). Not only does combining layers and textures create more visually interesting photographs, but it preps you for all sorts of weather conditions too!

Think jackets, cardigans, hats, scarves, tights, and headbands.



THE FINE ART OF ACCESSORIZING

Hats, sunglasses, socks, and jackets are a great way to jazz up your accessory game. Throw some fun extras into your bag, but avoid large distracting pieces. If you couldn't tell by now, I'm interested in shooting you, not your clothes or your bling (unless you have a shiny new ring to show off!)

SHOES.

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You can't have come this far, painstakingly planning your outfit, only to stop at your ankles. Shoes are a key part of a look and ideally complement the rest of the outfit.

If you wear heels like a pro, I definitely don't have the authority to tell you not to do that! But if you, like the rest of us mere mortals, find heels to be moderately uncomfortable, then do yourself a favor and ditch 'em. In most cases, we'll be stomping around on some relatively uneven terrain and I don't want you spraining an ankle--not on my watch. I'll probably be giving you some energetic prompts to follow, too, so you'll want to be ready for action.



Select the right shoes based on the location, and consider what you'd normally wear if I wasn't following you around with a camera. Being barefoot makes sense on the beach, and boots are beautiful in the mountains.

Leather is great for boots, and know that sandals win over flip flops by a long shot. Always consider context when choosing footwear for both aesthetic appeal and practicality.

LET'S TALK *PROPS*

Props don't have to scream 'PROP!' Go for the subtle things that accentuate your personality and help to tell a story about your life. Think pets, an instrument, surfboards, an umbrella, bike, or even a beer. Avoid the cheese as much as possible.



INSTRUMENTS.



PETS.

SKATEBOARD



WINE

COFFEE

MAKEUP AND HAIR

DO'S (AND DON'TS)

So this is totally your call! But, if I may... I would suggest cultivating a bit of the French *je ne sais quoi* that balances elegance and ease so well. I want you to look like you. So do whatever you need to do to feel confident and beautiful.

Hands tell such a story about who you are and where you've been and play a crucial role in portrait photography. Sometimes photographs magnify bright nail polish, chipped manicures, and dirty fingernails. And once you see it, you can't un-see it--your eye just keeps zooming in on that one bit of the photograph. It's really distracting. Treat yourself to a little subtle manicure or make sure your nails are neat and tidy before the shoot.



As for hair... Oh boy. I'm a sucker for the way a wild mane blows in the breeze. Up-dos are alright, and I totally get it--it's so easy to throw your hair up! But when it comes to saving a moment and putting it in your pocket, hair down is the way to go. With your hair down, you get movement, you get interest, you get some perfect slices of imperfection in the best possible way.



LET'S RECAP

- Dress for the season.
- Dress for the location.
- Wear something comfortable that you feel like yourself in.
- Natural fibers and earthy colors look amazing in most settings.
- Avoid large prints, logos, and patterns so we can all focus on you.
- Throw some accessories like a hat or denim jacket into your bag, and bring props that help tell your story.
- Get ready to have some fun!

thank you!