## 10 SIMPLE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR WEDDING DAY PICTURES

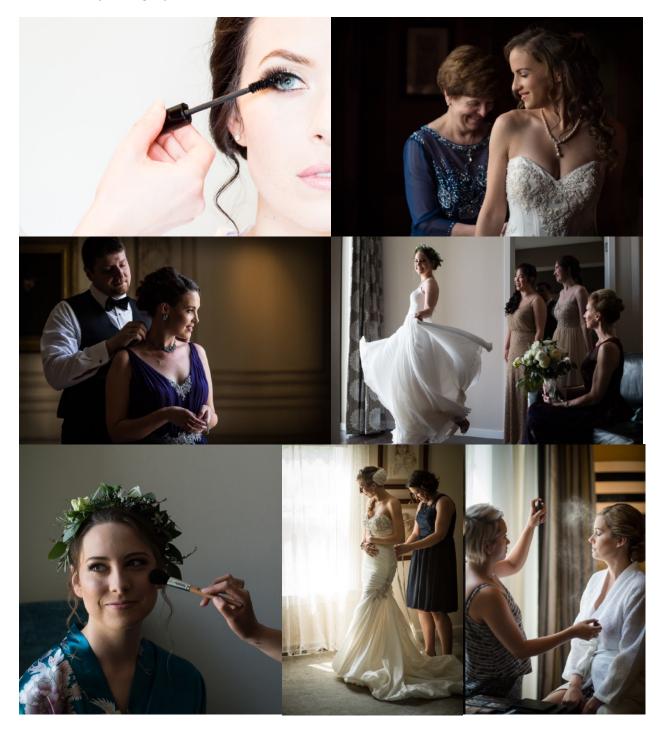
Photography by Steve & Jane

## Simple Ways to Improve Your Wedding Day Pictures

1. **Don't get ready in sweatpants.** Old baggy t-shirts and sweatpants may be comfortable, but when you're looking back through your wedding day pictures you don't want it to look like you and your bridesmaids were about to paint the house. Great alternatives are: matching robes, kimonos, cute pajamas, and custom shirts.



2. **Chose your getting ready location carefully.** It may seem logical to do hair and makeup in an area where it's easy to clean up and there is plenty of counter space available like a kitchen or bathroom, but the indoor lighting in these areas is usually very unflattering. Plus, cabinets and appliances make for less than ideal background material. Whenever possible, have all getting ready moments and hair & makeup setup near a window. This will give plenty of flattering, natural light to both the hair & makeup artists and photographer.



3. **Keep your getting ready location as clutter free as possible.** There's a lot going on the morning of your wedding - hair, makeup, and lots of people getting ready in a small space. This can lead to a lot of clutter with hangers, plastic bottles, boxes, bags, and dry cleaner plastic being strewn all over the place. Ask a couple of your bridesmaids to be on the look out for these items and to put them in another room or someplace out of the way to limit them showing up in the background of your getting ready photographs.



4. Schedule your hair and makeup to be done at least an hour before your departure time for the ceremony. Hair and makeup tend to run late. This can leave little to no time for bridal portraits of you and your bridesmaids. Also be sure to allow time to get your dress on, and add some extra time if your dress has laces to be tied or buttons to be fastened.



5. **Don't kiss so quickly that if someone blinks they'll miss it!** Almost everyone wants a picture of the first kiss, so hold the first kiss for an extra 1-2 seconds so there will be plenty of time for an experienced photographer to not only capture the moment, but get both a closeup and wide-angle photograph.



6. **Assign a helper for family formals.** These are arguably the most important pictures that will be captured on your wedding day, and the ones that will be passed down for generations. However, all these photographs in a short period of time can be very tiring for the couple. Here are some things to help them go as quickly and efficiently as possible: Ensure family members know before hand when and where pictures are going to take place. Assign a family friend who is familiar with your family to help round up family members, as they tend to wander off, especially if there is a cocktail hour nearby. Try to keep the list as short as possible. To help keep the formal list shorter, know that the reception is a great time to get informal photographs of groups of extended family and friends that don't necessarily need to be done in the "formal" location. These will be tedious, but don't be tempted to quit early and finish them at the reception, as formal pictures are very hard to accomplish once reception activities start, and when it's all said and done you'll regret not taking the time to make sure you have those photographs with your loved ones.



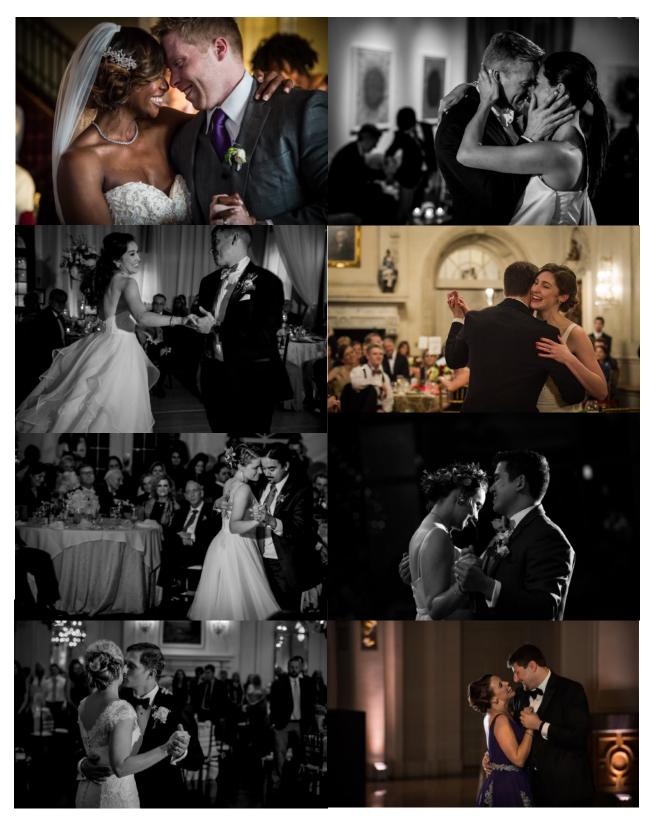
7. **Get the photographs you want anyway**. Almost ALL weddings run a few minutes late. When this happens there's often a temptation (or pressure from family or planners) to skip photographs to make sure events start on time. Resist this temptation. Long after the wedding you won't remember that something started a few minutes late, but you'll always remember not getting those photos you really wanted but didn't take the time to get. Photographs are all you'll have to remember your big day, so if they are important to you before your wedding, make sure they are important to you during your wedding.



8. Weddings tend to run late - don't less stress ruin the pictures. Stress shows in photos, and no-one wants to look angry in their wedding pictures. Even the best planned weddings can run a little late, and most weddings run 5-15 minutes late. Sometimes just knowing this can help. Just be in the moment and enjoy the day for everything that it is.



9. Think twice about the dance lessons for your 1st dance. Dance lessons can make for a of lack of emotion during the 1st dance. Instead emoting during their first dance as a married couple, they end up stiff, looking at their feet thinking about what dance steps are next. Definitely take dance lessons if that's something you want to do, but practice, practice, practice so that during your first dance you're thinking about each other and not the next step. Relax and enjoy the moment. It's ok if you aren't the best dancers in the world.



10. **Receptions don't have to just be dancing pictures.** There's a lot of free time during receptions. Sneak away for 10 minutes to create a unique nighttime portrait.

