



# the Wedding magazine

**Look like a Princess on your Wedding Day**

**Wedding Favours**

**Countdown to your Wedding Day**

**Lavish Dresses and Mens Formal Wear**

*Cakes, Decor, Diamond Rings, Footwear,  
Photography, Venues, Video*





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# Welcome to The Wedding Magazine

The essential guide for every couple planning to tie the knot



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## Editors' Letter

You found the man of your dreams, and he's popped the question. Congratulations! – and welcome to Parikiaki's second wedding magazine, designed to help you realise your ultimate dream wedding.

As the leading Greek Cypriot newspaper in London, we are pleased to feature some of our community's major wedding suppliers in our publication, making it all the more easier for our brides-to-be to plan their special day.

Our pages are devoted to your nuptial needs – with advice on venues, bridal

gowns, cakes, rings, transport, photographers and more, we hope you find all the help you need and have fun with everybody involved along the way.

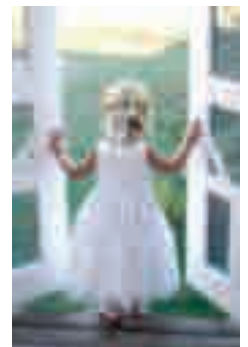
Your wedding day will be one of the most special and memorable days of your lives so enjoy these first steps on your road to wedded bliss...

The very best wishes to you,

Andrea Georgiou

Lydia Georgiadou - Bilotti

*Editors*



## Inside this issue

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# Wedding countdown - your checklist

From choosing an engagement ring, to saying “I do”, couples spend an average of £20,000 and at least a year preparing to celebrate their wedding. Here’s what you need to cover...

## At least a year before your wedding

- Check you have the relevant legal paperwork.
- Set your budget.
- Decide on the type of marriage ceremony you want and the church, register office or licensed venue you want to have it in.
- Put down a deposit on your chosen reception venue.
- Start choosing your wedding suppliers, such as a florist, photographer, videographer, cake maker, car hire company etc.
- Draw up your wedding guest list.

## Nine months before your wedding

- Choose your bridesmaids, best man, ushers, flower girls and pageboys.
- Choose your wedding colour scheme.
- Book your band or DJ for the reception.
- Order your stationery – you can even send out save-the-date cards.
- Begin browsing for your wedding gown

## Six months before your wedding

- Order outfits, shoes and accessories for your attendants.
- Order your wedding rings.
- Choose a honeymoon and book the hotel for your wedding night.

## Three months before your wedding

- Send out the invitations, along with directions.
- Check you have the relevant visas and vaccinations for honeymooning abroad.
- Book a few practice sessions with your hairdresser and make-up artist.

## Two months before your wedding

- Think about the seating plan.
- Time for best man and chief bridesmaid to plan the stag and hen parties.

## One month before your wedding

- Confirm the final number of guests with the caterers.
- Go for a final dress fitting.

## On your wedding day

You’ve done all the planning - now just cherish each and every moment of your big day!



# Your Perfect Wedding Invitation

If you are planning your wedding, you want everything about your wedding to reflect your personality and your sense of style. From your wedding dress to your wedding invitations, you want everything about your wedding to be perfect. Today, there are many different styles, colors and textures available for wedding invitations and finding your exact style may take some time. Following are several considerations that can help you find the invitations for your wedding that will reflect the beautiful and stylish person you are.

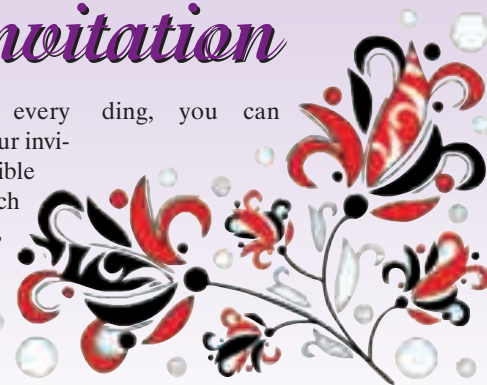
## What is the Setting?

When you are choosing wedding invitations, it may help you to consider the setting of your wedding. Whether you are having a formal wedding or a more casual wedding, there are invitations that reflect that setting. If you are having a formal, black-tie wedding, you may want to consider invitations that are formal as well. If you are having a more casual outdoor wedding, an invitation that is casual may be just your style.

## What are your Colours?

Another consideration that can help you find the wedding invitations that are perfect for you are the colours of your wedding.

Invitations are available in almost every colour you can think of, so matching your invitations to your wedding colours is possible and a great idea. You can also match colours to the theme of your wedding, choosing bright, sunny colours for a summer outdoor wedding or Christmas colours for a Christmas wedding.



## What is Your Theme?

You may also want to consider the theme of your wedding when you are picking out your wedding invitations. If you are having a beach themed wedding, you can often find invitations that have pictures of the beach or follow that theme. If you are having a garden theme, you may want to have invitations that have flowers on them to go with the garden theme. Whatever theme you are having at your wed-



ding, you can probably find invitations that complement that specific theme.

## What is Your Budget?

When choosing your wedding invitations, you also should consider the budget you have. If you are spending more money on your dress, you may have to cut back on the money spent for invitations. Even if you are cutting back on the budget for invitations, there are many great choices that are budget friendly.

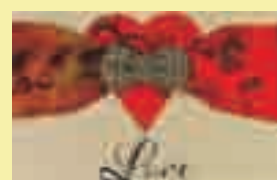
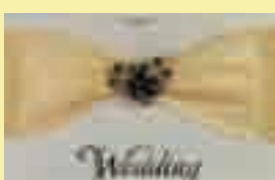
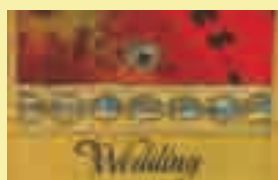
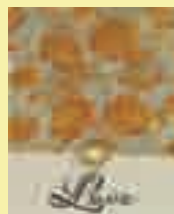
*Your invitations are one way that you will let your friends and family know about your big day, so you want them to be perfect and a reflection of you and your love. Keeping these considerations in mind can help you find wedding invitations that will be beautiful, unique and a wonderful way to invite your cherished loved ones to share in your special day.*



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There is so much choice out there for a wedding makeup artist that we can be overwhelmed by who to choose. Firstly take a look; does the company have a good website which offers pricing and an online portfolio? This gives you an indication of their work straight away. What you should look for is someone who has a good track record and reputation for providing an efficient and successful wedding makeup service you can tell this from portfolio's, testimonials or word of mouth, but always judge for yourself by having a trial makeup session.

### *Check out qualifications*

Does the makeup artist have beauty therapy or makeup qualifications? If yes then you can be sure they have undergone the correct training to be able to apply your makeup and have a good knowledge of skincare too. You should be offered a trial so you can have your makeup applied and discuss what looks you would like to achieve for your special day.

### *At the trial*

You should have plenty of time to flick through ideas and discuss colours etc before your makeup is applied and if you have any concerns this is the time to air them so that you are 100% happy with your final look. This will then be recreated for you on your wedding day.

You will see that prices can differ quite dramatically from area to area and person to person. Base your judgement on quality and not just price as you can find you could get a suitable artist and also save some money. You could still afford an exclusive bridal service without breaking the bank!

Ask the beauty therapist/makeup artist if you can go along to meet them before committing to any bookings. It's nice for you to be able to meet the person who will help make your day start off with a wow and a happy smile. Here you can find out what type of makeup is used and maybe even take some skin care samples away with you.

Once your happy you have made the right decision you can sit back and look forward to your big day with the confidence you are going to look your best right on through to the evening!



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# Look like a princess on your special day

**Y**ou've got engaged and have set the wedding date and now it's time to get down to business! All the planning and decisions can be overwhelming to the most organized and practical bride-to-be. There is help out there for you. Below are some suggestions of how to go about buying your wedding dress.

## *How much time do I have before my wedding to look for my dress?*

You should begin looking for the dress as soon as possible after the date is set. It could take you a while to find the "perfect" dress. Once you do find it, there is likely to be alterations that need to be done and accessories to be bought.

## *Where can I look for a dress that offers a variety of styles at various prices?*

Look in bridal magazines. The choice of dresses will depend greatly on the time of year your wedding will take place, the type of wedding you are planning, and your budget.

## *Why do I need someone to come with me while I am looking for my wedding gown?*

The reason for having someone with you is for moral support and to help you decide whether a dress is a good style for you or not. Besides it can be fun shopping with someone else.

## *How much can I expect to put down on a deposit for my dress?*

You can expect to put down at least half of the total price of your dress. It is a good idea to pay this portion of your dress with a credit card. If goes something seriously wrong with the purchase you might be able to negotiate reimbursement through your credit card company.

## *I wear a size six dress but my wedding dress is a size 10, why is that?*

The wedding dress designers each use a different sizing chart and these sizes tend to be a bit larger than typical sizes. It is best to look at and/or buy a dress that fits. If you

lose weight it is easier to take the dress in than it is to increase its size.

## *Do I need to have the things I will wear with my wedding dress when I go for a fitting?*

Yes, have what you will be wearing with you when you go for fittings. The undergarments including a slip or hoop skirts size could be affected if you wear something different. You will want to have the same good fit on your big day as you do during fittings.

## *What should I look for in a wedding dress?*

When you are looking for a dress make sure the buttons are secure. Turn the dress inside out and inspect all seams. Make sure the stitching of the seams is solid and that there are no gaps in stitching. Check the beading and appliques to be sure they are well stitched. If the beads are glued on you might consider another dress as the beads could fall off.

## *How can I protect myself in the event something goes wrong with the purchase of my wedding dress?*

The best way is to pay the deposit for your dress with a credit card. This way if the deposit is non-refundable as is the case in most places, you might be able to go through the credit card company. Also make sure you get your purchase order in writing so that if there is difficulty you can refer to it.

## *Will I still be able to get a terrific dress if I am on a budget?*

Yes, you should be able to get a terrific dress no matter what your budget is. Some of the well-known wedding dress

sellers will hold sales. Also, don't just

look at wedding dresses. Take a look at prom dresses. Designer knock-offs can be purchased at prices that are up to 50% less than the origin.







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# WEDDING EVENT



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# How to get the groomsmen in tuxedos, painlessly!

The groom may feel like a prop compared to his lovely bride, but he (and his groomsmen) has still got to dress the part. And while brides have it easy because they know from the start that their wedding dress will cost a fortune and be impossible to find, it's not easy for the groom to navigate cummerbunds, bowties, ascots, morning coats and all the other foreign words associated with wedding attire for men. So let's get into it.

What the groom and groomsmen wear to the wedding depends entirely on the occasion itself and what the bride wants the groom to wear. The good news is that the bride has been visualising her wedding for a long time, be it an ultra-formal, ultra-traditional white tie event, a morning wedding or a beach wedding. Each of these types of weddings require different wedding wear for the groom and groomsmen. Not every wedding needs to be black tie, even if you're doing something very traditional, there's room for a bit of creativity within the bounds of that slightly itchy, chemically-treated, rental tuxedo you're contemplating.

Of course, we begin with one the groom's duties: get his groomsmen suited up for the wedding. It's a vastly more important task than figuring out the differences between a long tie, bow tie or ascot. Why? Because it's the groom who will have to deal with "Costas", his groomsman, who's habitually late for events, forgetful, and likely to forget to bring his rented bow tie. Sound familiar? The groom will be able to ease some his bride's anxieties by learning a bit about the ins and outs of wedding attire.

#### *An intro to formal wear for the groom:*

*Tuxedo Jacket, Trousers, Shirts, Ties, Cufflinks, Shoes (and socks),*

*Buttonholes (aka the only flowers a groom needs to think about),*

*Morning coats, Wearing a suit instead of a tuxedo, Whether to buy or rent a tux,*

*If you're buying a tux, whether to get it custom-made or off the rack tuxedo, Beach wedding attire.*



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# The Greek Orthodox Wedding Ceremony

**Y**ou may have seen the movie "Big Fat Greek Wedding", but what is really the Greek Orthodox wedding ceremony really like? The wedding service in the Greek Orthodox faith is an ancient and beautiful ceremony, which has been celebrated in its current form for centuries. The wedding ceremony is full of symbolism and is a great experience if you have never attended one before, because it is likely to be quite different from other weddings you have attended in Western Europe.

The service is also rather unique because the bride and groom do not make vows to each other. Their presence together in the church is taken to mean that they are serious about getting married.

## *How it all begins...*

In most cases the wedding guests will wait with the groom outside the church until the bride arrives (a few sneaky wedding pros will go into the church early to secure a good seat). In the

one sits together and in the case of small churches, many people prefer to stand in a spot where they can get a good view of the proceedings.



## *Service of Betrothal*

The wedding ceremony itself is in two parts: the Service of Betrothal and the Ceremony of the Sacrament of Marriage. The exchanging of rings is the focus of the Service of Betrothal. The priest blesses the rings by holding them in his right hand and making the sign of the cross over the heads of the bride and groom. The rings are then placed on the third fingers of their right hands. The "Koumbaro", the couple's religious sponsor, then swaps the rings over between the bride and groom's fingers, three times. A number of rituals in the ceremony are repeated three times and this symbolises the Holy Trinity: God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## *Ceremony of the Sacrament of Marriage*

This Ceremony consists of several key parts. First, several prayers are said and then as they come to an end, the priest joins the right hands of the bride and groom. Their hands remain joined until the end of the wedding ceremony, which symbolises the couple's union.

## *The Crowning*

The bride and groom are crowned with thin crowns, or "stefana", which are joined by a white ribbon and have been blessed by the priest. The crowns symbolise the glory and honour that is being bestowed on them by God, and the ribbon symbolises their unity. The "Koumbaro" then exchanges the crowns between the heads of the couple, three times.

## *The Common Cup*

The crowning is followed by a reading of the Gospel, which tells of the marriage of Cana at Galilee. It was at this wedding that Jesus performed his first miracle, changing water into wine, which was then given to the married couple. Wine is given to the couple and they each drink from it three times.

## *The Ceremonial Walk*

The priest leads the couple, who are still wearing their "stefana", three times around the altar on their



**S u m m e r ,** when most weddings take place, it is not unusual for ceremonies to be arranged back to back, so the guests attending a marriage will often stand around with those who have just attended the previous wedding as they prepare to leave. Wedding dress commentators among the crowd will get to consider and discuss at least two brides and maybe even a third as they leave the church – bargain! Meanwhile, the nervous groom waits for the bride at the entrance to the church, often holding her floral bouquet. He hands it to her as they meet and they then go inside together followed by the guests. There is no separation of the guests into guests of the bride and guests of the groom – every-



first steps as a married couple. The "Koumbaro" follows close behind the couple holding the "stefana" place. At this point the couple (and anyone standing nearby) is usually showered with rice, which was earlier handed out to the wedding guests. The priest will often make use of the bible he is holding to give himself some protection!

## *The Removal of the Crowns*

When the Ceremonial Walk has ended, the priest blesses the couple, the crowns are removed and he then separates their previously joined hands with the bible, reminding them that only God can break the union which they have just entered into.



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**F**avours are as unique and varied as the couples whose marriage they commemorate.

From shot glasses to chocolate roses, coasters to napkin holders, the bride to be has literally hundreds of ideas to choose from.

Wedding favours have been a part of traditional wedding ceremonies dating back to the 16th century. The newlywed couple presents a gift to their guests as gestures of gratitude for having attended their wedding and participating in the couple's new life together.

The wedding favour may vary according to culture, wealth, the interest of the couple, or can be centred on the theme of the wedding. The ideas for a wedding

favour are limitless. A bottle of vintage wine with a personalised label is a nice wedding favour for those couples with a large budget, or a simply made personalised candle is a nice gift.

A very unique wedding favour is about the music. For example the bride and groom can arrange to have the music at their ceremony recorded on compact disc, and the guests all given one as a keepsake. All they need to do to re-live that special day is to pop in the disc and press play.

Whether you choose to record a compact disc of your ceremony, or seed packets, or chocolate roses, your unique wedding favour will help those who love you remember your wedding day. A unique wedding favour is a special thank you gift that will bring warmth, love, and joy to your friends and family for years to come.



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## *Turning an event into a special occasion...*

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Our role is to advise and organise rather than dictate and take over. We will discuss your ideas, work to your budget and using our long term experience, develop the perfect package for you.

Most couples under estimate the time it takes to plan a wedding, the practicalities involved and the vast number of options available. Whether you select a romantic, traditional, modern, vintage or retro style wedding we can help you fulfil your dreams. Every couple has a vision of their "Big Day", we will translate this into reality for you.

We will arrange everything for you and most importantly, we take the stress away. One Stop Wedding Co-ordinations will plan your wedding day as if it was our own, with passion, emotion and attention to detail. We plan weddings and events for an intimate gathering through to an elaborate production, in the United Kingdom, Cyprus and many other countries.



# My vow to you



## *I will make your Wedding Day Perfect*

Whatever your dream wedding, Maria Mavlappas at the Holiday Inn London Brent has all the expertise to make it come true. She will create a day for you and your guests to relax and enjoy, confident that everything will be perfect in every detail. A day to remember forever!

Maria Mavlappas the Events Manager at the Holiday Inn at London Brent Cross born here in London, her parents are from Yialoussa and Famagusta, has many years experience in event management. Along with her team of experts at the hotel, will help you organise your wedding to ensure you have the perfect, romantic wedding day to remember!

Being Cypriot herself obviously she is aware of the Cypriot wedding traditions. Maria Mavlappas is one of the few

Cypriots involved in events management at a major hotel. Maria says that it is important to be able to liaise with the wedding couple

of her dedicated service. Maria says she has noticed that the weddings are now smaller and she is pleased that at her venue she can



and find their needs and make sure they are comfortable and reassured on the day by taking some of the burden by taking advantage

accommodate for a small wedding and make it a fairy tale for the happy couple. Maria can also help you by giving you a unique sense of

style and personality to the event, by providing a variety of themes and alternative solutions. The Hotel can cater for 40 to 120 guests. Providing reception drinks, full course meals, sandwich buffet, entertainment and of course the red carpet. And with the hotel's stylish and modern accommodation readily available, none of your guests need to worry about heading home.

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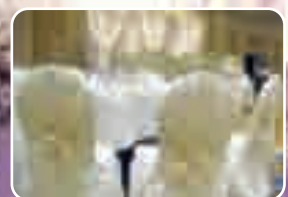
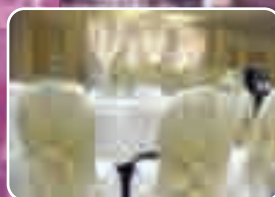


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# Choosing a wedding venue

Some people plan their whole day around their dream wedding location, while others start with a blank page. Either way, choosing your wedding venue is one of the most important wedding planning decisions you'll make.

## Wedding venue checklist

- Before signing on the dotted line, check the detail and small print.
- **Wedding fees.** Exaggerated costs, such as a hefty corkage fee or drinks prices, might mean compromising on other aspects of the wedding. Vote with your feet if you feel it's not worth it.
- **Wedding venue staff.** Are the staff experienced and professional? Are they willing to adapt to your needs? Flexibility will be a major factor in how smoothly your day runs.
- **Wedding venue facilities.** Is the venue suitable for guests with a disability, and can it provide appropriate seating for the elderly and/or young children?



- **Wedding transport.** Is there enough parking for guests who drive, and decent transport links for those who don't?
- **Wedding guest accommodation.** Is there a reasonable range of accommodation within easy access of the venue?
- **Wedding venue restrictions.** Does the venue impose limitations that could negatively affect your plans? Some stipulate no loud music after a certain time, others don't like confetti or candles, and certain (usually historic) venues forbid high-heeled shoes for fear of their flooring being damaged.
- **Wedding photography.** Plenty of natural light in your venue will mean better pictures. You might also want to check that there are plenty of appealing outdoor spots close at hand.
- **Wedding decoration.** Are table linen, flowers, place cards and other decorations included in the quoted price, or will you have to provide your own?



- **Wedding extras.** Check the availability of extras such as a cake stand and cake knife. Many wedding venues will lend you these, but having to hire them separately adds to your hassle and your wedding expenses.

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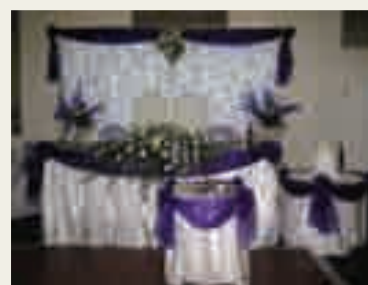
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# The Pavilion



**T**he Pavilion Sports Club has thrived since Parikiaki visited them last year. It is more vibrant in a nice improved decor and more so a very relaxed atmosphere.

The Cypriot owned Sports Club is based in the heart of North London in Crouch End surrounded by eight acres of grassland consisting of cricket, tennis and football playing fields. These facilities are used by the local residents. It is also the North Middlesex Cricket Club's home ground and its football pitches are used by football academies from under 10's to under 14's. The

Pavilion has had the privilege to have Mike Gatting and Andrew Flintoff grace its cricket fields. It is a very active sports club with facilities to hold functions and events suitable for weddings, engagements and birthdays catering up to 150 persons seated. Also upstairs there is a smaller function room with its own entrance and facilities.

We, Parikiaki, enjoyed our day there, the food and facilities were exceptional, plus we had the bonus of a lovely sunny day to sit outside and enjoy the pleasures of the outdoors activities.

*The Pavilion is situated at 185<sup>A</sup> Park Road, London N8 8JJ*

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A woman with dark, wavy hair, wearing a blue halter-neck dress with a gold lace collar, is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is standing in front of a classical building facade with many columns. The background is a light blue and white pattern with floral and butterfly motifs. The text 'The Emerald SUITE' is written in a large, elegant, blue script font.

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Selecting a wedding photographer can be a daunting task. Not only does the photographer need to be able to produce outstanding memories of your wedding day but also has to be able to fit into the celebration and be highly professional every step of the way.

Often couples make the mistake of basing their decision on wedding photography entirely on price. It is wise to keep your budget in mind when selecting a photographer but it should not be an excuse not to do your homework and evaluate the quality and professionalism of the photographer. Remember, you will have to live with the consequences of your decision.

#### How to evaluate a wedding photographer

- The style of the wedding photography is very important. Is the photographer a photojournalist with heavy emphasis in documenting the wedding without directing? Do you prefer posed photographs with pre-planned posing and controlled lights? Most couples these days prefer a combination of journalistic and traditional wedding photography. They look for a photographer that can capture the true emotion and spirit of the celebration as well as portraits that deserve to be framed. Whatever style you prefer the photographer has to be a master of the craft.
- Take a close look at the photographer's portfolio. Is the work consistent? Insist on

looking at a complete wedding. After photographing 20 weddings, it is easy to have 20 lucky shots. Very few photographers have the guts to show you a complete wedding. Only the good ones do.

- Are the photographs a true representation of the photographer's work? If you are considering a studio that has several photographers insist on looking at the



work of the photographer that is going to photograph your wedding.

- Does the studio or photographer offer high quality albums and custom printing? Nowadays it is common for some photographers to offer to photograph the wedding and hand you the proofs and a CD or the negatives with the photos and be done with you. Are you going to be happy with a set of proofs or would you want a fine album with custom printed photographs?
- Has the photographer been in business

for a considerable amount of time? Is this his first wedding? Is he a commercial or sports photographer beginning wedding photography? There is nothing wrong with starting out in a different photography field but you, as the client, need to know this. Wedding photography requires special artistic, technical, and people skills and a wedding it is not the place for a beginner to learn.

- Does the photographer carry good quality equipment and backup of camera bodies, lenses, tripod, lights etc? You will be surprised to learn that many photographers go to weddings with only one camera. God help you if that camera breaks in the middle of your wedding.
- Personality plays a very important role in wedding photography. Hire the wrong photographer and you and your guests will suffer the consequences. Does the photographer listen to you? Does he have a controlling personality? Does he abide by the rules of the church, temple, or synagogue? Does he want to steal the show and be the centre of attention? Does he have people skills? Does he dress professionally? Does he look and smell clean? Before hiring your photographer please make sure that you answer all the questions above. Have a happy wedding and enjoy your beautiful photos. Please don't forget to feed your photographer - he or she will be working hard to capture your wedding memories!

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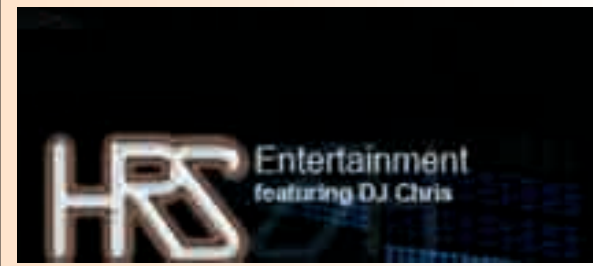
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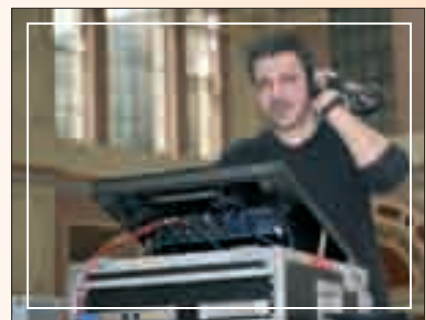
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