

# 7 TIPS *your* PLANNER *won't* TELL YOU



*By Katie Lynn Studio*

*When you begin planning your wedding, you're dreaming of the moment you walk down the aisle in your perfect dress, the groom begins to tear up, you say "I do" and enjoy that first kiss as newlyweds. You work so hard to create the perfect day, you want to re-live the moments again and again. That's where a stunning wedding film comes in. While wedding photography is incredibly important, it can't capture the total emotion of your day like a wedding film can. If you want a wedding film that sparks the feeling you had when you first fell in love, you need to plan your wedding with an incredible wedding film in mind.*

***This ebook will walk you through 7 planning tips that most wedding planners don't think about. If you put these tips into practice, it will help to ensure your wedding plan leads to a stunning wedding film and photographs that stand out above the rest.***

***So let's get started!***



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# STEP 1:

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## BE *picky* ABOUT YOUR *prep* LOCATION

*“Planning a wedding can be an overwhelming task. At Katie Lynn Studio, we help you save time and money by offering combo wedding photography & video services. This ebook will walk you through 7 planning tips that most wedding planners don’t think about. If you put these tips into practice, it will help to ensure your wedding plan leads to a stunning wedding film and photographs that stand out above the rest. So let’s get started!”*

*~Katie Elwell*

*When planning your wedding, the location where you'll get hair and makeup done and get into your dress is often an afterthought. From the standpoint of your wedding video though, the prep shots set the mood for the entire video. Be picky when choosing your location and consider the following:*

*When getting hair and makeup done, choose a hotel room or other place that has a big window. Have your makeup artist set up near the window for stunning natural light shots. A sliding glass door or bay window works great. If you're unsure about the best place to set up, ask your videographer for recommendations. An experienced wedding videographer or photographer will be able to spot the best location in seconds and help ensure you look your absolute best in your video.*



*When choosing a prep location, consider where you will be getting into your dress. Hotel rooms are often plagued with clutter. Is there a spot free of clutter and furniture where you will be able to slip on your dress and get buttoned up? Is there easy outdoor access from where you are? The videographer will want to capture your dress before you get into it. Often, the best place for this is outdoors. If the hotel has a beautiful courtyard, does your room have easy access so the videographer can sneak the dress out for a few quick shots?*

*A hotel courtyard is also helpful for your formal shots with your bridesmaids. In an effort to save time after the ceremony, brides will often opt to have formal photos with their bridesmaids taken at the location where they're preparing. If you're in a time crunch and don't have time for a photo stop before the ceremony, having easy access to a hotel courtyard will provide you with a beautiful backdrop for photos with your bridesmaids.*

*Your videographer will also use prep time to capture the rings, shoes, garter, flowers, and other details if they're available. Keep these items in one location near where you are preparing to ensure everything is captured.*

*Finally, don't overlook the men. Many touching moments happen as a groom buttons his tux, talks with his dad, or writes a love letter to his bride. Have a plan for where the groom is getting ready and make sure your videographer has a plan to capture these moments too.*



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# STEP 2:

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*IMAGINE your*  
**VENUE**  
*from ABOVE*





*Choosing a videographer who offers aerial video adds an unmatched level of beauty and professionalism to your final wedding video. Not all venues are created equal though when it comes to video from above.*

*When choosing a venue, look beyond the inside. Look at the entire property and imagine how it might look from above.*

*If the locale is lacking in beauty but you still want to have your ceremony or reception there, consider setting up a special wedding shoot at a stunning location. Rent a canoe on a nearby lake the day after the wedding, or visit a vineyard for a quick shot between the ceremony and reception. A sweeping view sets the stage for the expanse of your love depicted in your video.*

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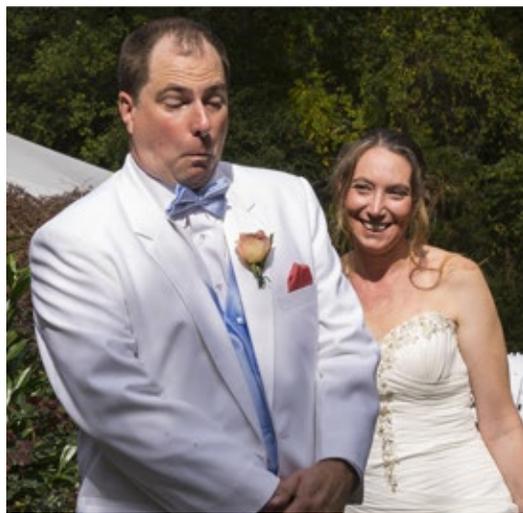
*STEP 3:*

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*SAY yes!*  
*to a*  
*FIRST LOOK*



*He stands still in anticipation, hands folded, looking sharp in his tux, that goofy grin on his face. She nearly floats up behind him, her wedding dress billowing in the breeze. She taps his shoulder. He turns, that goofy grin transforming into a jaw drop, then a huge smile as his eyes tear up. He stands in awe at his beautiful, perfect bride. They take a moment together, just the two of them, and the rest of the world disappears.*



*Deciding if you're going to see your groom before the ceremony is a very personal decision, but if you're on the fence, just say YES! A first look is that moment when your groom sees you in your dress for the first time.*

*Traditionally, this moment has taken place when he first sees you coming down the aisle. Don't worry, if he sees you at a first look, his eyes will more than likely still tear up when he sees you at the end of the aisle. The emotion has only been strengthened by having a quiet moment with you beforehand, and that first look moment will put your wedding film over the top!*

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*STEP 4:*

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*MIC if*  
*UP*



*When choosing a ceremony location, don't forget to ask about the microphone situation. A quality videographer will look into this for you, but don't assume that they will! Having the ceremony mic'd will make a huge difference, not only for your video, but also for your guests. This is a general courtesy for those in your audience who might be hard of hearing. No matter how booming your officiant's voice, grandma is there to see and hear you say "I do." If she can't hear your heartfelt vows, it's a moment forever missed.*

*If your venue doesn't have a sound system, consider having your DJ for the ceremony too. If all else fails, make sure your videographer has a way to capture audio. At Katie Lynn Studio, we clip a recorder directly onto the officiant to capture the speaking as well as the vows. A second recorder is either attached to the sound board or hidden near the front as a backup. Having the beautiful spoken words of your ceremony is one of the many things that sets apart a wedding film from wedding photography. This is a once-in-a-lifetime moment and one of the most important you'll ever have. Capture those vows!*



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# STEP 5:

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## SET UP *for* SUCCESS





*When laying out your ceremony and reception, think about the backdrop behind each important moment. What will be behind the cake, head table, guestbook, DJ and other important areas at the wedding? Is there a tent pole or garbage can in the background behind your cake table? Will the DJ show up behind you while you're saying your vows? Look beyond how each table is decorated to what's behind and around the area.*

*This same principle applies to how you set up your bridal party during your ceremony. Can the faces of your bridal party be seen when you're standing at the front? Will the videographer be able to see your faces from the side or will you have your back turned the entire time?*

*Thinking beyond the decorations to the sound and backdrop of your wedding day's most important moments will help ensure your wedding video is above and beyond.*



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# STEP 6:

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## TOAST to a *happy* FUTURE



*Before handing the mic to the best man, consider this: Your videographer is going to want to capture your reactions to what your friends and family have to say. Are you in a location where she can see you clearly, or are you hidden behind the decorations of your head table? Something as simple as moving to a chair in front of the table where your videographer and your guests can see you clearly during the toasts can make a world of difference. This same principle applies when cutting your cake or throwing the bouquet. Set up at a location where the videographer can capture your and your guests' reactions.*

*Give your videographer a few minutes notice before any of these important events happen. You can even have your DJ make an announcement to call her to the front. A videographer who has a couple of minutes to set up a shot will create a much more compelling shot than one who is rushed.*

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*STEP 7:*

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*HAVE  
an exit  
PLAN*



*How will you wrap up your night? Will you drive off into wedded bliss in an antique car? Pass between your sparkler-holding guests? Ride away in a horse-drawn carriage? Even if you're coming right back to the party, have a plan of exit to offer a clear end to your wedding and a wrap-up for your video. If you are planning a formal exit, make sure your videographer is booked through the end of the day. Some videographers are there for the entire day while others only work a certain number of hours.*

*You only live this day once. With an overwhelming number of choices when it comes to venues, vendors, colors, and details, you can rest assured that your wedding film will be a stunning reminder of your day when you follow these 7 steps.*





**HAPPY**  
*planning!*