
Bridal portrait session - tips and preparations

Bridal sessions make wonderful test runs. You get to see everything put together prior to the wedding day. You will want to consider hair, veil, make-up, jewelry, shoes, undergarment (for lines), and a bouquet. Because it is a day that involves some planning, we have some tips below....

Hair & Makeup

Dirty or gelled hair is easier to style and will hold an updo or curl longer. Either don't wash your hair 24 hours before it will be styled, or wet your hair, run gel through all your layers, and let it dry. Also, check with your stylist who may have a preference for one or another. Don't forget to wear a button-down shirt so that you don't have to remove a pull-over with your fancy new do!

When it comes to makeup, sometimes, less is more; if you are not a heavy makeup wearer, then it shouldn't show in the Bridal session, because it won't look natural.

Flowers

Whether you plan to use fresh or silk flowers, have a bouquet made for the portrait session. Even if it's a silk replica of your planned fresh bouquet, you'll have a prop for the photos that will give you an entire other set of images to choose from. The silk can either become your toss bouquet or can be displayed in your home with other wedding photos and memories.

Shoes

Wear comfortable shoes that are taller than your wedding shoes, so you can keep the dress from touching the ground as much as possible. If the shoes are an important element to your attire, bring them along and we'll do some shots with them, too.

"Assistants"

1-2 assistants can be a good thing. 3 or more can be chaos for both you and your photographer. Of course, if you happen to have quiet friends who will be helpful "behind the scenes", you may be able to bring a small group.

If you are relaxed and laughing, you'll have better images than if you are stoic and too "posed". Plan to have fun with your shoot.

The best time to shoot is usually early morning or late afternoon for at least two reasons: lighting and temperature. During the early morning, the sunlight is not as harsh and gives a more pleasing look to your skin over hard, midday light. Late afternoon also gives a warmer "glow" to the skin

and is not as hard. Both times are also good because it is not as hot and you won't "glisten" (see sweat) as much and will be more comfortable during the shoot. It's also a good idea to have some bottled water or maybe eat light before the shoot.

Most sessions last at least an hour and some last over three. We shoot until we get the shots we want. There is no set amount of photographs that we take or limit on time. We prefer to take our time and allow the Bride to relax and be her natural self.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Diane & Sarah

Photography By O'Neil