

THE RECEPTION



COCKTAIL HOUR

- ▶ When I do - and when I don't - shoot cocktail hour
- ▶ Having a second photographer
- ▶ What do you actually shoot during this time? Isn't it....boring?
- ▶ Figuring out when to shoot the reception room
- ▶ What if they are doing formals at this time?
- ▶ What I wish I knew about cocktail hour five years ago



INTRODUCTIONS

- ▶ Learn where they're coming from
- ▶ Figure out who is being announced
- ▶ Ask all of this before the wedding
- ▶ Ask the catering manager, bandleader, or DJ before the cocktail hour is over
- ▶ Where is video positioning themselves?
- ▶ Are they doing anything strange or different?
- ▶ What I wish I knew about intros five years ago



IMPORTANT DANCES

- ▶ Find out when it's happening
- ▶ Find out how long the dance will be
- ▶ Find out if the dance is choreographed
- ▶ Are they doing a "dip?"
- ▶ Are there any religious dances or traditions?
- ▶ Watch the observers as much as the dancers
- ▶ What I wish I knew about these dances five years ago





TOASTS AND BLESSINGS

- ▶ Try to have input over where the person giving the toast is standing
- ▶ Talk to the bandleader, DJ, or catering manager beforehand to explain your position
- ▶ Videographers and their lights
- ▶ What I wish I knew about toasts and blessings five years ago





PARTY DANCING

- ▶ Figuring out what to shoot
- ▶ Being afraid to wade into the crowd
- ▶ Do I always have to be shooting?
- ▶ When it gets slow and boring
- ▶ Protecting your gear and equipment
- ▶ What I wish I knew about reception parties five years ago



CAKE CUTTING

- ▶ Make sure they don't schedule it too close to the end of their coverage
- ▶ Why don't they let them cut the whole cake by themselves?
- ▶ "Look at the photographer!"
- ▶ Manging videographers
- ▶ What I wish I knew about the cake cutting tradition five years ago

NIGHT PORTRAITS

- ▶ Make sure this is something that the bride and groom want
- ▶ Dinnertime is the best time
- ▶ ...or at the start of party dancing before they get too hot and sweaty
- ▶ What I wish I knew about nighttime portraits five years ago

