



THE
WEDDING SCHOOL
PHOTO SKILLS

PHOTO 101

PHOTO SKILLS

- ▶ Photographing ability
- ▶ Along with wedding skills, this pillar is what will get you through the wedding day from start to finish
- ▶ You cannot overcome a lack of technical skills with marketing, personality, or anything else!
- ▶ Your photo skills will set you apart from your competition
- ▶ Your photo skills are the foundation of your business





ISO

- ▶ To create a proper exposure, your ISO, shutter speed, and aperture work together
- ▶ ISO = your camera's sensitivity to light
- ▶ Higher sensitivity means that you can shoot in dim light, but it will incur noise or grain
- ▶ Each ISO step doubles light sensitivity
- ▶ Increase ISO when you don't have enough light to capture an image properly...usually
- ▶ Adding flash changes that equation

SHUTTER SPEED

- ▶ When you take a picture, the shutter opens and lets light through the aperture. After it's done, it closes
- ▶ The actual shutter speed is the length of time the shutter is letting light into the camera
- ▶ Fast shutter speeds typically freeze action
- ▶ Slow shutter speeds typically cause motion blur
- ▶ ...except when you're using flash!





APERTURE

- ▶ Aperture size affects depth of field, which is how much of the image is sharp, or in focus
- ▶ The lower the f-stop, the larger the lens opening is, equaling shallow depth of field
- ▶ The larger the f-stop, the smaller the lens opening is, equaling greater depth of field
- ▶ I realize that sounds contradictory!
- ▶ Aperture, shutter speed, and ISO work together to create your exposure

**HOW DO THESE
THREE THINGS APPLY
TO WEDDINGS?**

IN SO MANY WAYS!

- ▶ Shutter speed and lens length are intertwined
- ▶ A slow shutter speed combined with flash can allow great ambient light in reception dancing images
- ▶ A higher ISO capability on your camera can help you with low light ceremony images
- ▶ A fast shutter speed can freeze motion during a quick recessional
- ▶ And so, so, so much more



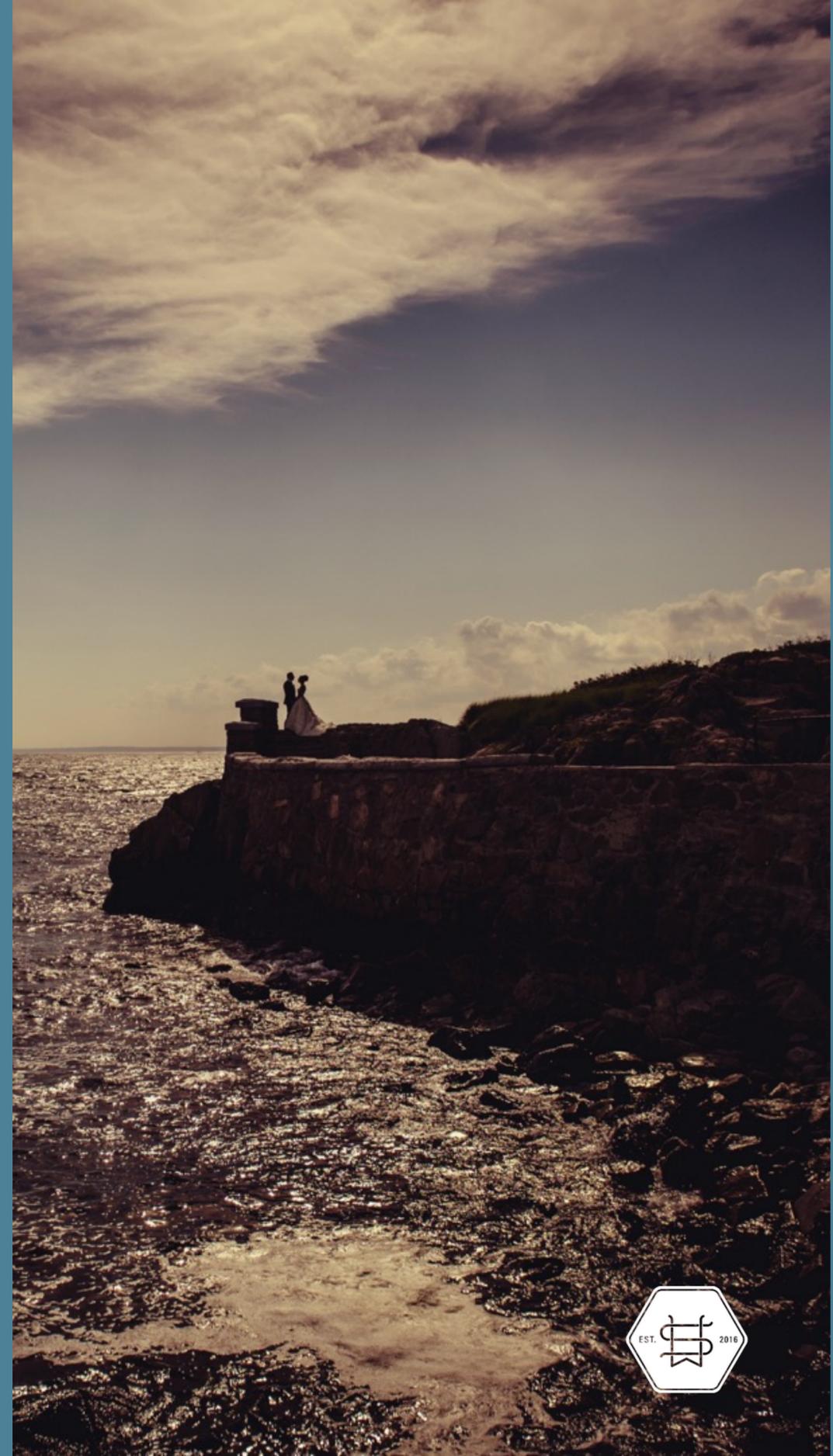
PROPER EXPOSURE

- ▶ Chimping and fiddling is not the answer
- ▶ Trusting your camera equals in an average histogram, which isn't always what you want
- ▶ I prefer to learn in manual, then switch to aperture priority when you learn to trust your instincts
- ▶ What part of your image do you want properly exposed? Expose for that and don't worry about the rest
- ▶ If the rest is too bright or dark, adjust



OBTAINING PROPER FOCUS

- ▶ What is your f-stop? Can you focus and recompose?
- ▶ Is your shutter speed too slow for your focal length?
- ▶ Are you back-focusing?
- ▶ Is your subject moving too fast?
- ▶ Do you prefer using continuous mode? (I don't)
- ▶ This is crucial when it comes to weddings?



CAMERA BRANDS AND BODIES

DOES BRAND MATTER?

- ▶ No
- ▶ Nope
- ▶ Not really
- ▶ What feels right to you? If you're not sure, rent
- ▶ The mirrorless debate
- ▶ Do you need medium format for weddings?
- ▶ Why Nikon?



DOES THE BODY MATTER?

- ▶ Buying older versus the latest and greatest
- ▶ “Prosumer” vs “Professional” bodies
- ▶ Do I need to shoot film to be an artist?
- ▶ What if I never shot film?
- ▶ How often do I really need to upgrade?
- ▶ How often do YOU upgrade?

