

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

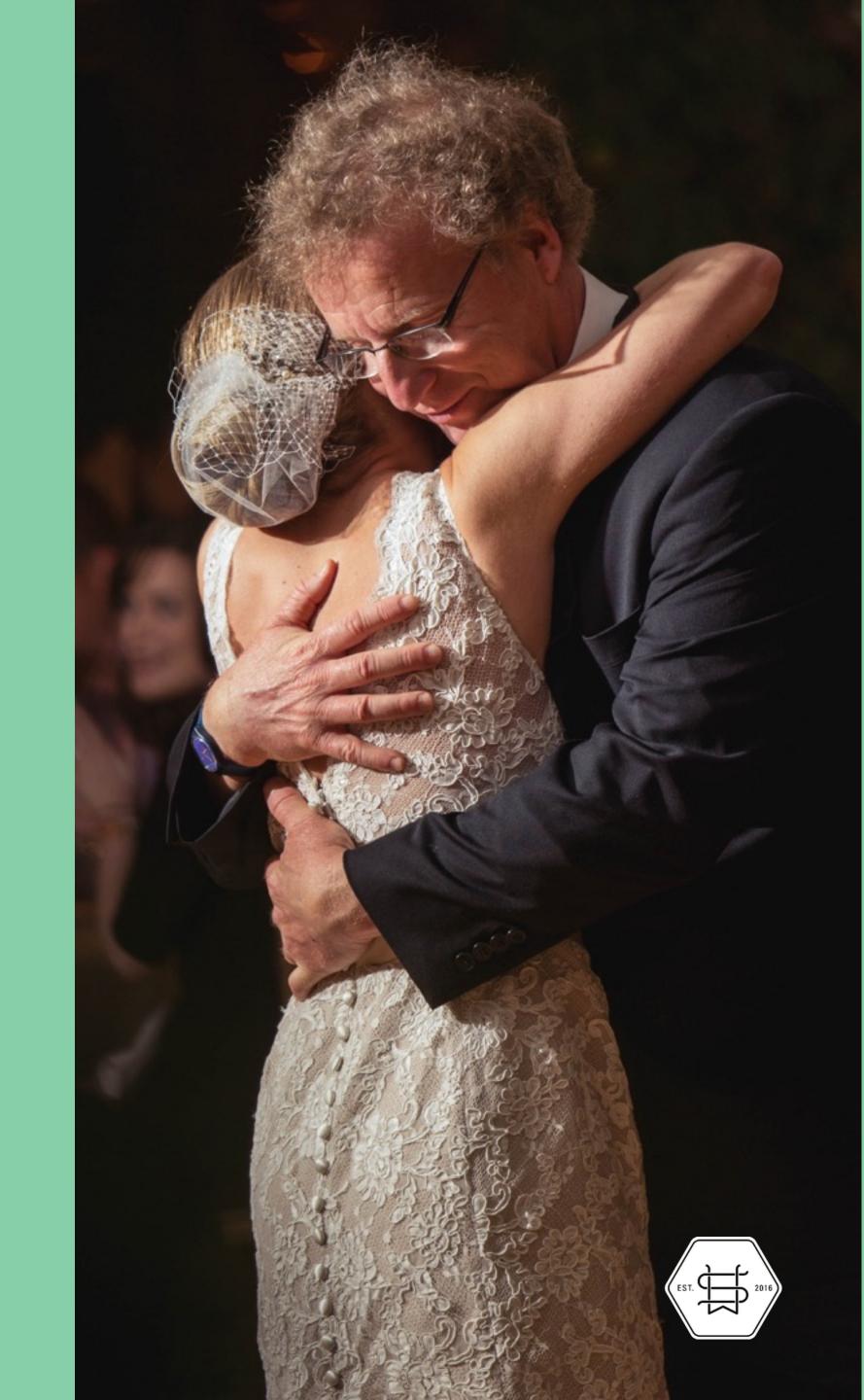
INTRODUCTIONS

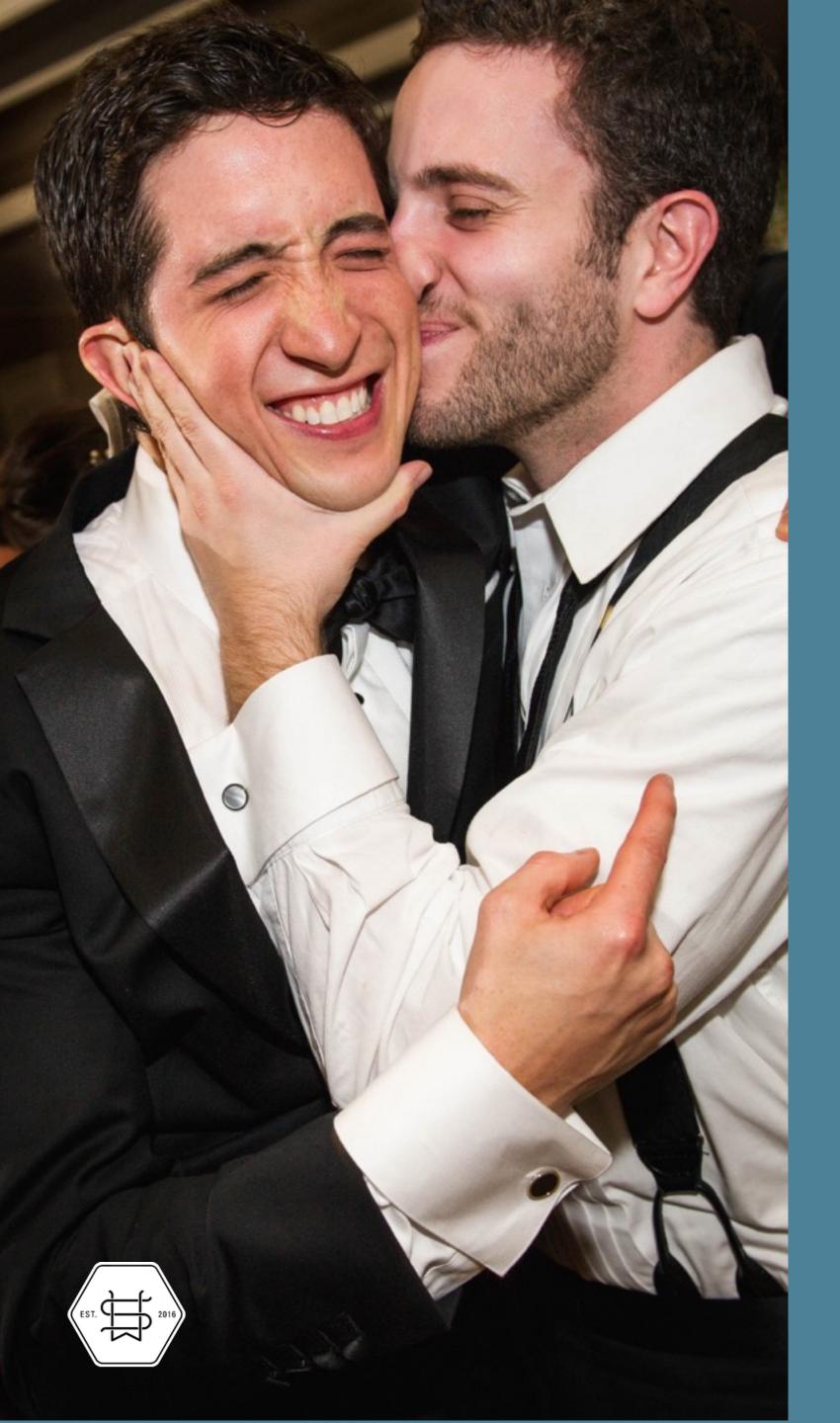
- Learn where they're coming from
- Figure out who is being announced
- Ask all of this before the wedding
- Ask the catering manager, bandleader, or DJ before the cocktail hour is over
- Where is video positioning themselves?
- Are they doing anything strange or different?
- What I wish I knew about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



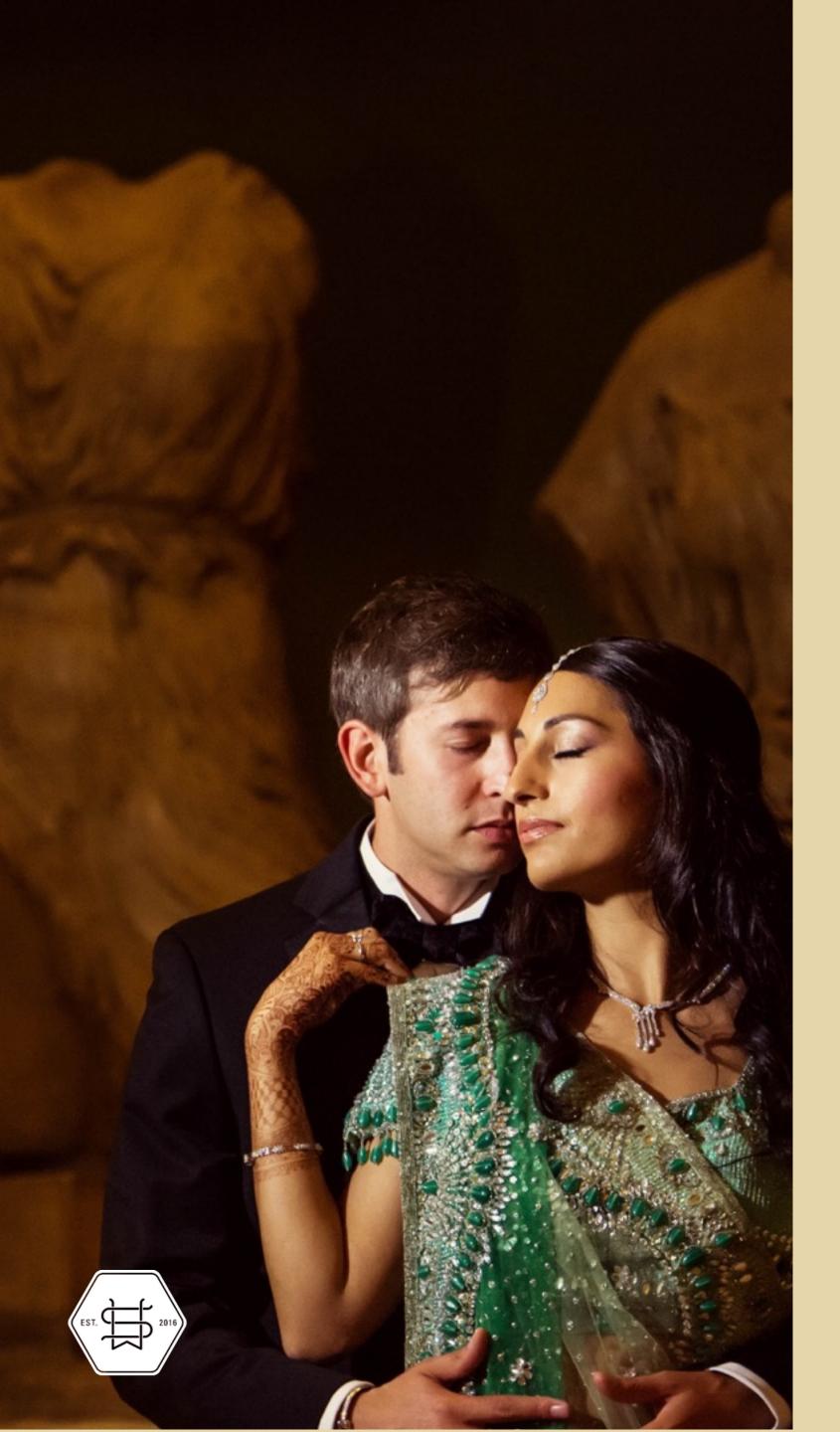
PARTY DANCING

- 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