



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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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!

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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

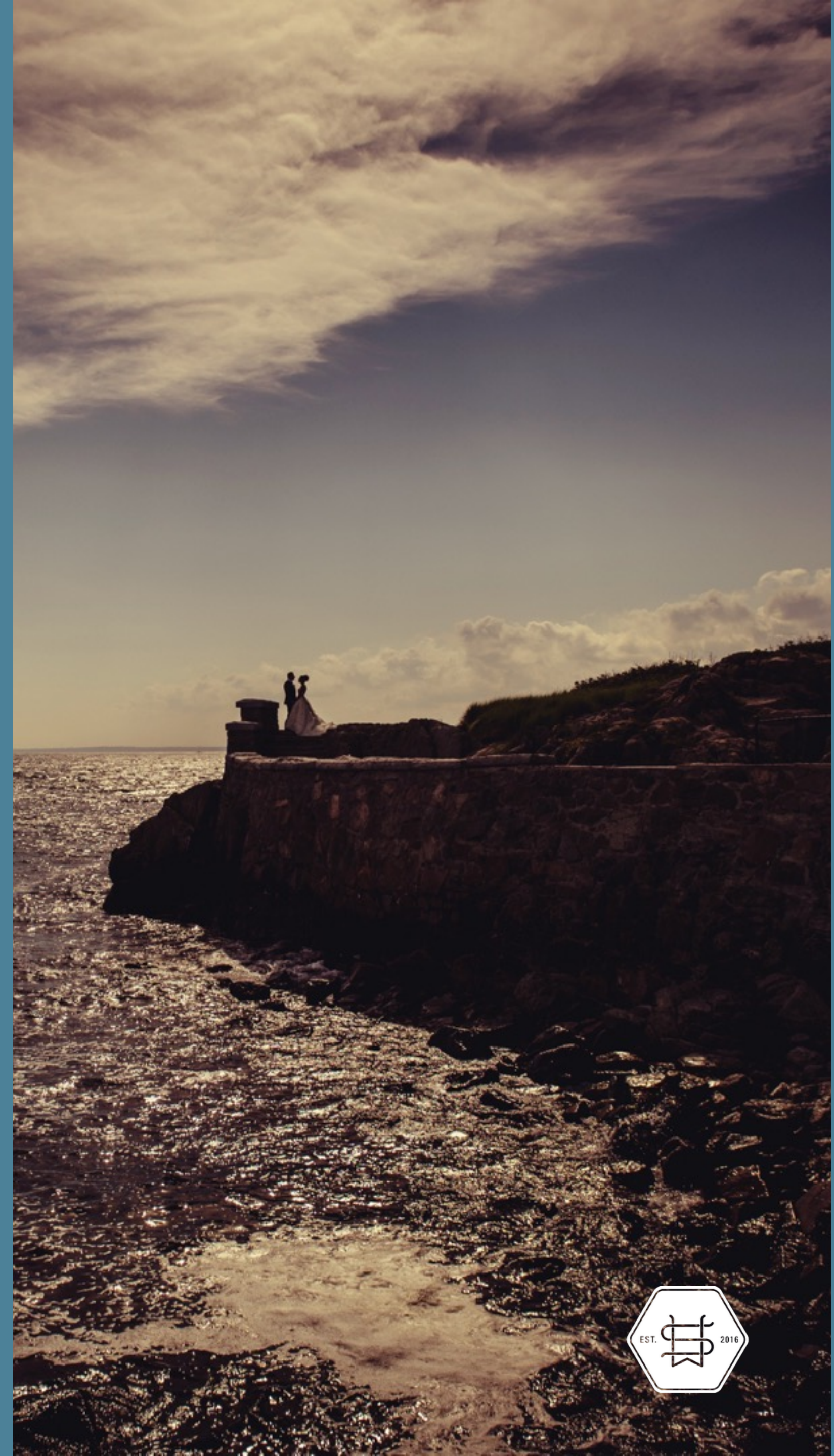




# OBTAINING PROPER FOCUS

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- ▶ 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?

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- ▶ 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?

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- ▶ 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?

