

# PHOTOGRAPHING INDIAN WEDDINGS

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# My First Indian Wedding

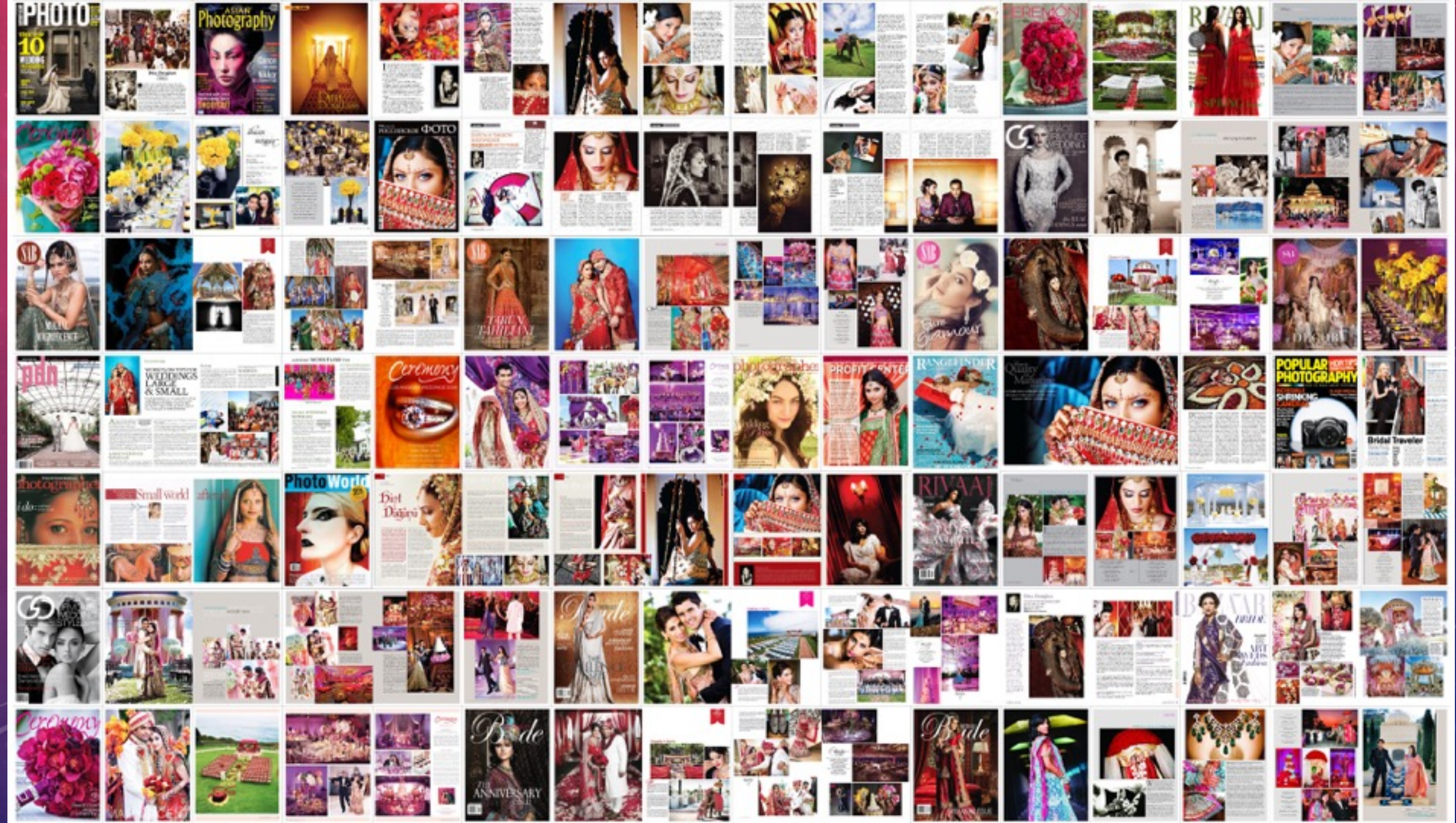


PROFESSIONAL  
photographer

MARCH 2005 | WWW.PPMAG.COM | \$4.95

*i do*: weddings  
of the world

*Unveiled*: Wedding photographers Ben Quillinan and Jon Solano



Mystery

~~Mystery~~



# SOUTH ASIAN VS. INDIAN

SA Includes India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

Indians Represent Approximately 1% Of The U.S. Population  
(3.1 Million)

India's Population Nearly 4x Greater Than The U.S.

Wedding Traditions Vary According To Religion, State And City

# HINDU

Gujarati, South Indian, Punjabi Hindu, Bengali, Sindhi, Jain



SIKH





MUSLIM

Indian Muslim, Pakistani Muslim, Ismaili



BUDDHIST

Sri Lankan



Learning Every Ritual For Every Religion = Almost Impossible

# WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

If It Costs Money, It's Important

If They're at the Wedding, They're Important

If It Happens, It's Important

# PHOTOGRAPHING INDIAN WEDDINGS

Wedding = 15-20 Hours

5 a.m. Start

1 a.m. End



Mendhi = 3-4 hours

Sangeet or Garba = 4-5 hours

Haldi/Pithi = 3-4 hours

Puja = 2-3 hours

## KEY DIFFERENCES

Getting Ready

Mandap

Length of Ceremony

Baraat

Other Events

Clothing Change

Reception

# GETTING READY

Three Hours





# MANDAP

Hindu Ceremonies  
Usually Open on All Sides











# LENGTH OF CEREMONY

1-2 Hours



# BARAAT

Entrance of the Groom

Horse, Elephant, Car or Walking





# OTHER EVENTS



# HALDI OR PITHI

Turmeric Paste Put onto Bride and/or Groom's Face and Body





# MENDHI

Henna Designs for Bride and Guests





# SANGEET

Dance Party the Night Before the Wedding  
Performances, Singing and Dancing







GARBA

Sangeet with Stick Dancing



PUJA

Prayer Ceremony

Private Home Or Wedding Venue





# CLOTHING CHANGE

1-2 Hours





RECEPTION

Close Quarters



HELPFUL THINGS TO KNOW

# FAMILY PHOTOS

Groupings Can Involve 50-100 People





Use Lighting to Fill Mid-Day Sun Shadows





Indian Ceremonies Do Not Include Recessionals







May or May Not Have Bridesmaids and Groomsmen



The Right Team for the Guest Count







No Kissing at Ceremony or in Wedding Galleries

Relatives in India May View Kissing as X Rated

“Is there any way to remove pictures 218-222 from the online gallery (the ones of us making out) so that we can send the link to our parents without them freaking out?”

“Is there any way you can send another link to our gallery that has taken out pics of us kissing? I realize I'm 40 but my mom still has an image of me as a virginal 13 year old.”

“Would it be too much trouble to delete the photo of us kissing in the gallery? Some of my relatives are really conservative....”

#1 Complaint Of Parents = Not Enough Guest Photos







Get Involved With The Timeline Early

Take Charge and Don't Be Afraid to Move Things Along

Shoes Not Allowed on Mandap

Make It Work, No Matter What Obstacles You Encounter

Instagram: @dinadouglass

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/andrena](http://www.facebook.com/andrena)

[www.andrenaphoto.com](http://www.andrenaphoto.com)