

HAPPILY EVER EXPO

Wedding Planning Magazine

2021 Holiday Issue



INSIDE:

*Chambord
Cocktail Recipes!*

*Learn About
Lux Box Co!*

and...

*An Interview with Cover Photo Contest Winner:
Jess Sinatra Photography!*



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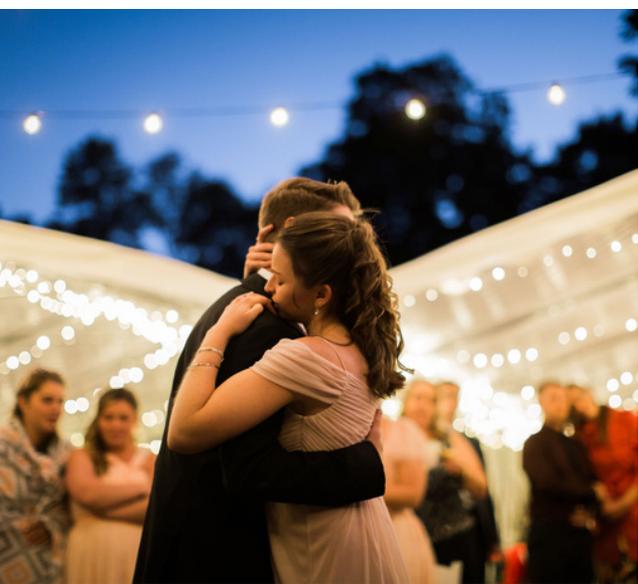
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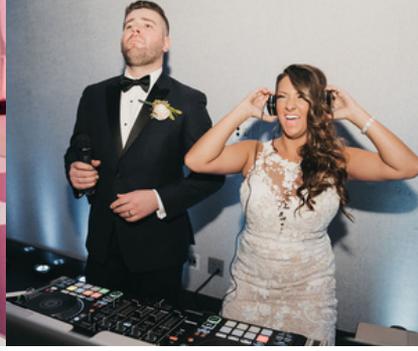
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A special thanks to all of the wedding professionals and advertisers who helped make this wedding planning mini-magazine possible, especially our Platinum Sponsor, Chambord!

A NOTE FROM HAPPILY EVER EXPO



Thank you for attending our virtual or in person expos throughout 2021 and getting on our mailing list for this complimentary wedding planning mini-magazine! We hope you enjoy reading through it and hope that you find some wedding professionals to help you in your wedding planning.

Our upcoming expos will be held on May 22, 2022 at the Boston/Woburn Hilton in Woburn, MA and June 5, 2022 at Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA with more dates and locations to be announced. We look forward to seeing you in person! And congratulations again on your engagement!

Happy Wedding Planning!

Lora Weaver, Owner

Lora Weaver

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5 Reasons to Consider a First Look

by Morayo Sayles of Piper Brown Photography

As you plan your wedding, you're going to encounter more than a few of your vendors inquiring as to whether or not you're going to have a first look. If you've done zero research or have not been to a wedding recently, odds are, you may not know what a first look is. So allow me to illuminate - A first look is a moment on the wedding day when a couple chooses to see one another before the formal ceremony. Today, many couples are opting for a "first look" on their wedding day, which is a distinct departure from the time-honored tradition of the groom seeing the bride for the first time as she makes her way down the aisle. It's usually a time filled with laughter and tears, and today is enjoyed by couples of all genders and ages.



Now, seeing one another before the ceremony has historically been bad luck, specifically for the groom to see the bride. In researching the origin of this superstition, I was horrified yet entirely unsurprised that this tradition emerged from the era of arranged marriages. The groom was typically prevented from seeing the bride keep him from rejecting a bride based on her appearance. Thank the stars for social evolution and enlightenment. The celebration of marital love has become more inclusive, and the wedding reveal's formality is changing.



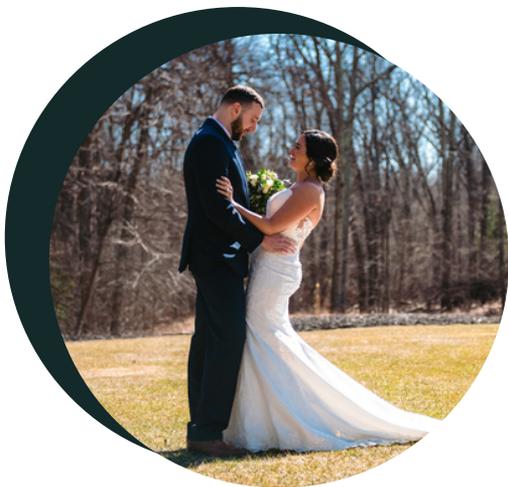
Now that you know what a first look is, would you consider having one? I think you should and here's why:



1. You get to calm your nerves. Having a bout of butterflies on your wedding day is not uncommon and indeed not the most comfortable feeling. Your partner is usually the person you go to decompress. Yet, you're not able to access your person because you're getting married. Or are you? Of course, you can. Many couples have shared that it's incredibly cathartic to get a chance to be alone together before the wedding. For the most part, they've not seen each other all day, and then when they do get to see each other, it's going to be for an audience. A loving audience, but an audience, nonetheless. Having a first look often serves as a release of sorts with the one you love the most. You get to be yourself with each other without everyone staring at you. If you want to cry, you cry. If you're going to laugh, you laugh. Now some believe seeing each other before the ceremony steals from the day's emotion. Still, I've not found that to be true in my experience. Despite having seen each other, there's nothing that could dull the burst of exhilaration you'll feel when you look at each other from each end of the aisle when you make your way there. With all the waves of love and happiness of your family and friends sweeping over you, you won't be able to fight the feeling of getting swept up in the emotion.



2. Get to see each other looking fabulous! First looks are scheduled right after the couple is primed and refined. Your outfit's looking its absolute best - hair, makeup, shave, everything is on point. Having a first look offers you the option to enjoy looking at each at the peak of your finery. I mean, this is the whole point of the day, right? You get to admire the gown, the suit, the kilt, or even the toga that your beloved has chosen to wear for you. There's no guarantee the mascara won't run during your vows, or you won't get a little rumpled from hugging and greeting all those guests. A first look can be an excellent opportunity to capture you and your partner at your best before the rush of the wedding day really begins.



3. Get the formal portraits out of the way early Suppose you've ever been part of a wedding or attended that of a family member. In that case, you know that the formal wedding portraits often take up a tidy chunk of time after the ceremony. Suppose you decide to wait till the ceremony. In that case, the couple's pictures of themselves, their wedding party, and their family members must be taken before the reception. This is usually the cocktail hour time, and your guests have separated away from you. Your guests could end up waiting for over an hour while you get these obligatory photographs out of the way. With a first look, your wedding celebration begins right after you say I do! Having a first look allows you to get most if not all of these pictures out of the way so you can spend the time after your ceremony enjoying time with your guests and eating hor d'oeuvres you selected.



4. Be present in the moment You've probably heard that your wedding day will go by in a blur, and it's true! One moment you'll be getting ready, and the next, the whole day will be gone. That's why photography is so important, and it's also why you should take a moment to pause, take a breath and just take the day in. A first look allows you to refocus on what's important and to appreciate the love that brought you to this day.



5. Don't miss out on natural light This applies more to winter weddings, but if you're having your wedding later in the day, you may miss out on the natural light if you push your couple's portraits to after the ceremony. Similarly, if you have great weather before you say "I do," take advantage! You never know when the weather will change, and you could miss your window to get some fantastic shots. Ultimately, it's your wedding! Tradition shouldn't dictate what you do on your wedding day, nor should the opinions of friends and family. When deciding whether or not to have a first look, choose what is most comfortable for you as a couple. After all, this is your day and no one else's, so do what feels right to you.

Like the idea of working with Piper Brown Photography for a First Look at your wedding? Reach out to Morayo: www.piperbrownphotography.com | 401-287-4120 | morayo@piperbrownphotography.com



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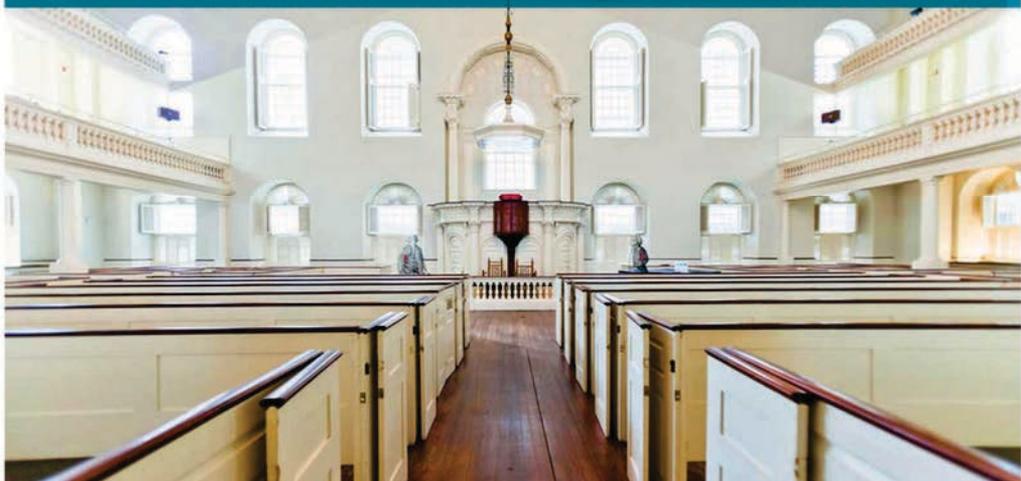
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Karla is an ordained minister and registered clergy. Her goal is to work with every couple to make their wedding ceremony a lovely, genuine, and memorable one that both the couple and their guests will reminisce about from the very next day to their golden anniversary—and beyond.



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Interview with Cover Photo Contest Winner: Jess Sinatra Photography!



Jess Sinatra won our Cover Photo Contest! Read on to learn more about her & don't forget to admire her front cover photo!

What is unique about your business?

One of the things that is unique about my business model is that we only take on a limited number of weddings each year. We want to ensure that each of our couples gets the time and attention they deserve from us and putting a cap on the number of clients we take on each season is the best way to do this. We like to meet with our couples multiple times throughout the planning process in order to build a rapport and level of comfort (and even a friendship!) with each other. We've found that this leads to the couple being more comfortable in front of the camera, which in turn leads to a more enjoyable experience for all involved.

Another thing that is unique about my business is that we are a wife-husband (and third wheel) photo and video team, who have been friends for many years. I find that our comfortability and rapport with each other, helps us work better together as a unified team, as well as helps put the client at ease.

What is something you are most proud of in your business?

I take pride that in being ourselves in our business, we can attract clients who share our values (and our vibes!) We enjoy working with couples from all walks of life and like to have fun while doing it. Relationship building with our couples is something we enjoy and take pride in. As a female-led business, inclusivity and

diversity across all walks of life is extremely important to me and sharing those values with our clients is an important part of having a successful business relationship.

Tell us a little bit about your background in your career prior to starting your business.

Photography was always a hobby of mine. I was actually a vet tech prior to becoming a wedding photographer, and a lot of my early professional experience started with doing pet portraits! However, it wasn't until I started to photograph weddings that I realized I wanted to make photography my career. Capturing the happiest day of people's lives is meaningful to me and giving them memories to enjoy for years to come really is my calling in life. Before starting my business, my team and I had each separately worked for other people for several years. We decided that with our combined talents, and our great working relationships and friendships that



taking the leap into our own business would be a risk that would pay off. It definitely has, and we are so happy that we made that choice.

What motivates you?

Our couples! Everyone's love is unique, and I want to make sure that I capture every couple's unique love story. This means that every wedding, every couple, every venue, leads to finding creative ways to capture the unique spirit of the relationship of THAT couple. It keeps me excited for each and every wedding we shoot.

Tell us about a memory you have from a past wedding that sticks out in your mind.

One of our couples enjoyed banter over who is better, *NSYNC vs Backstreet Boys. The maid of honor decided to end the debate once and for all, in favor of the bride of course. She surprised everyone by going straight to the source with a customized shout-out video from the founding member of *NSYNC, Chris Kirkpatrick! She played it for them during her speech, it was such a fun and memorable surprise for everyone at the wedding.

Who has been your greatest inspiration?

Seeing all the other bad-ass women in the industry running their own businesses and creating incredible art really inspired me to do the same! Boston has an amazing network of incredibly awesome and talented women running their own businesses. Starting your own business can be a scary and intimidating step but looking at the talent and successes of those who had done it before me was great motivation.

What do you do in your spare time to decompress?

Netflix. Lots and lots of Netflix, haha! There's nothing better than snuggling up with my dog Norbert, and



Meet Jess Sinatra!

two cats Ove and Mabel and enjoying a good series to unwind. I am also obsessed with caring for my 28 house plants. They bring serenity and peace into my living and work space. I have even named them and they have little name tags! When you spend so much time in front of a computer screen, it is really nice to be surrounded by greenery.

If you had to give just one piece of advice to couples planning their wedding, what would it be?

Do what makes YOU happy and be true to yourselves. You don't need to plan your day around anyone else, and you certainly don't need to adhere to any traditions just for the sake of "tradition." And of course, it's inevitable that not everything will go 100% according to plan, so just try to enjoy your day and leave all the stress of planning behind once the day begins; live in the moment!



What is something you would like our readers to know?

We also do video! Most people do not realize that we are a combination photo and video team!

Working with my husband is amazing, we know each other, we know how we work and what each other needs. This helps create a seamless and more easy-going day for our couples.

Visit jessinatraphotography.com to inquire about working with her for your upcoming wedding!

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Cover Photo Contest Honorable Mentions

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Chambord Royale

¼ oz Chambord Liqueur

Champagne, Prosecco or Sparkling Wine

1 Raspberry

Pour Chambord into a flute or coupe glass.

Top up with whatever your tongue desires.

Then plop. Finish with the important raspberry.





Chambord Bramble

1 oz Chambord Liqueur

1.5 oz Fords Gin

1 oz Fresh Lemon Juice

3 Blackberries

Fill a rocks glass with
crushed ice.

Pour in gin, lemon juice and
Chambord. Stir to combine
and garnish with a lemon
wedge.

Optional: add muddled
blackberries.



Chambord Margarita

1/2 part pomegranate juice

1/2 part fresh lime juice

1 part tequila

1/2 part Chambord Liqueur

Lime Slice

Take a margarita glass and pour the
pomegranate juice, lime juice and
tequila. Then add the velvety smooth
Chambord.

Shake and serve!





Chambord French Manhattan

1 part Chambord Liqueur
1 & 1/2 part bourbon
1/2 part vermouth Rosso
Orange bitters

Garnish with an orange twist
Fill a shaker with ice, bourbon and
vermouth Rosso.

Next, add a splash of the Chambord,
orange bitters and stir until chilled.
Pour into an elegant Martini glass.
Garnish with an orange twist for a
sumptuous cocktail!



Chambord Spritz

1½ oz Chambord Liqueur
4 oz dry white wine
Soda water

Take a large wine glass and fill
it up with ice. Add Chambord,
white wine and soda.
Stir once. Voilà!

2021 HAPPILY EVER EXPO RECAP!



In addition to our virtual expo, **Happily Ever Expo** held four amazing wedding expos this year! Three were held under the tents at **Lake Pearl** in Wrentham, MA, **Connemara House** in Topsfield, MA, and **Misewood Events** in Beverly, MA and one was held in the beautifully renovated ballroom at the **Boston/Woburn Hilton** in Woburn, MA.

Each expo provided the perfect opportunity for newly engaged couples to meet wedding professionals in person in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Engaged couples were able to take a photos together at our photo booth set up. Music played in the background to create the perfect setting for a fun and lively experience. **Chambord**, our Platinum Expo Sponsor, provided free drinks and free swag for all! There were also endless door prizes given away, including photography packages and wedding planning packages! If you didn't make it, don't worry, there will be more just like this throughout 2022!

May 22nd - Woburn, MA - Boston/Woburn Hilton
June 5th - Wrentham, MA - Lake Pearl
More TBA!

Step-By-Step Process To Finding & Securing Your Dream Vendors

This is the ultimate guide to help eliminate the overwhelm of hiring the right vendors for the job!

by Carissa Corsi of Carissa Corsi Events, Visit Carissacorsievents.com

The Basics Before you dive into researching, it's important you get yourself organized AND have a few bits of info solidified such as your date, budget, and venue. BONUS, but not insanely crucial to kickstart: your guest list count & wedding style. You'll want to know if vendors have your date available, willing to travel, pricing, etc.

Research Once your date, budget and venue are set, RESEARCH vendors. But how do you find your vendors? Some examples are wedding websites, wedding shows to meet vendors in person, word of mouth, social media, etc. A lot of couples tend to start with local vendors, but this doesn't mean you're limited to just that. P.S. Vendors travel!

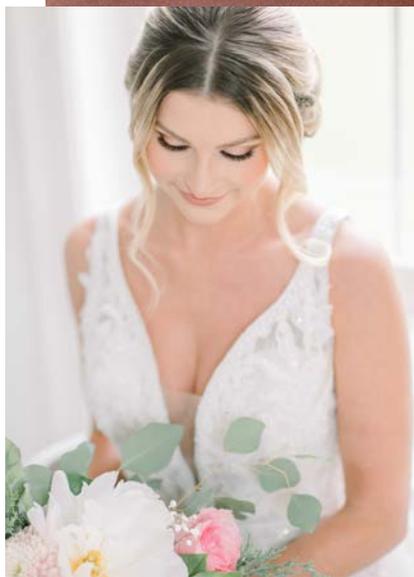
Attend A Wedding Show A wedding show is a great place to find your vendors. You can think of it as speed dating, but with wedding vendors! You've basically got it all in one place. If dedicating hundreds of hours researching / sending inquiries isn't your thing, a wedding show allows you the opportunity to meet loads of vendors in just one day! You can make personal connections with all types of vendors from planners, photographers, caterers, you name it. It's also a great way to boost inspiration, take advantage of vendor exclusives such as discounts and free content and mingle with other couples planning their weddings!

Reviews It's always a good idea to check out online reviews written by REAL couples. Reviews

provide a deeper layer of insight that you might not get from a vendor website or even meeting vendors at a show. Should you focus on the good reviews? Yes. But also look out for how the vendor responds to the negative feedback!

Narrow Down Options Although there are a lot of wonderful vendors out there, we suggest keeping your list a reasonable size. And definitely avoid sending mass emails to every vendor in your area. The key is finding vendors you genuinely vibe with and of course, trust. We recommend narrowing down your list to three top vendor choices per category (photographers, florists, planners, etc.). You can always revisit the pre-vetted list if the first picks go sour.

Reach Out / Inquire When you inquire, you can either send an inquiry through a vendor's form on their website or email them directly. We suggest keeping everything online for organization purposes. Your vendors will most likely need your date, location, guest count, budget and any unique wedding details upfront.



Stephanie Berenson Photography



Both Photos: BlueFlash Photography



Mareith Jane Photography

Respond! Once the vendor has responded to your inquiry, keep the conversation going! ESPECIALLY IF IT'S A TOP CHOICE. We suggest scheduling time to chat via phone with each vendor as opposed to just collecting a million vendor packages. If interested after the call, move onto the next steps. If you're not interested, simply let them know.

Ask Questions Before your meeting in-person or via Zoom, we suggest preparing a list of questions. This stuff isn't cheap and it's important that you're comfortable with your decision. Ex. If you're concerned about pricing, be open about your budget and ask if any adjustments can be made.

Read Contracts & Ask More Questions

Once you've selected the vendors you'd like to hire, get a contract. READ IT CAREFULLY, as a couple (and anyone else you think needs to review). If you're confused about any detail in the contract (especially payment plan or additional fees), don't be afraid to ask.

Negotiate When it comes to negotiating contracts, research pricing options and collect proposals to find the best fit for your overall budget, however, BE REALISTIC too. You need to respect their prices and be honest about what you can actually afford. A vendor's pricing reflects their experience and the overall costs of doing business with you. Instead of asking for a deal, try asking if there's anything that can be removed from the proposal to lower the overall cost.

Secure Vendors When you sign a contract, you begin your official working relationship with your vendor. Get clear on next steps regardless of how far out your wedding is. When will you be meeting with this person again? What's the best way to communicate with them moving forward (phone, text app, email, etc.)? At CCE, we send an onboarding email to the couple once the contract is signed. This email includes the countersigned contract, receipt of payment, communication guidelines, free content to get them started & more!

Stay In Touch DO NOT GHOST YOUR VENDORS. Did you know vendors typically keep you on their radar for at least a week (AKA holding the date for you and potentially turning down other couples to keep it reserved)? So, please, let them know as it goes a long way.

Get Reccos Your wedding will run even more smoothly if your vendors work well together! Don't be shy about asking your vendors for recommendations in other categories.



Stephanie Berenson Photography

Sort out your assets before you tie the knot

by Cherilyn Lawrence of New York Life | Newyorklife.com/agent/clawrence00



Americans are getting married later than ever, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The median age at first marriage has risen from 27.1 for men and 25.3 for women in 2003 to 29.8 for men and 27.8 for women in 2018.¹ While a variety of factors influence this trend, an important one is the widespread belief that education, a job, and some financial stability should precede wedding bells. The result: People acquire significant assets before they marry and may be set in their ways. This adds to the challenges of setting up a new home together. But with a lot of honesty—and a little planning—it's possible to realize the dream of domestic tranquility. Here is a to-do list to get you started.

Have the money talk:

As adults who probably have established careers and paper trails, you and your fiancé may have accumulated debts as well as assets. It's a much better idea to stage the big reveal now than to risk a big surprise later (like being turned down for a car loan or apartment). And while you're at it, take the time to check your credit scores and fix any mistakes.



Is an estate plan necessary?

Consider creating an estate plan to lay out how assets will be held and—if necessary—to provide for dependents. An estate lawyer can also advise you about setting up a trust to secure harder-to-quantify assets, such as stock options, an existing business, or an anticipated inheritance.

Don't forget home sweet home:

If you're moving into a property one of you already owns, consider who will pay the mortgage (if there is one) and whether the property should be re-titled.

How will household finances and tasks be divided?

Discuss the division of household finances as well as household financial chores. Will you keep money meant for day-to-day spending in separate accounts, or will it be commingled? No matter the arrangement, someone will have to pay the bills. Will the person who pays the bills also take the lead with savings and investments?



Check on benefits:

Finally, be sure to update workplace benefits for both you and your soon-to-be spouse. Update beneficiaries on IRAs and 401(k)s. Also update beneficiaries on existing life insurance policies, and examine your coverage to see if it is still appropriate. As your family circle expands, so does the circle of those whose well-being you've committed to protect.



Americans overwhelmingly cite love over financial stability as a reason to marry.² But why not have your (wedding) cake and eat it, too? As is so often true in life, communications and planning are keys to success —whether you're talking about your finances or your relationship.

This educational, third-party article is provided as a courtesy by Cherilyn Lawrence, Financial Services Professional offering securities through NYLIFE Securities LLC, Member FINRA/SIPC



My motto is "a dream without a plan is just a wish" - Cherilyn Lawrence

¹ "U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2018 Families and Living Arrangements Tables," United States Census Bureau, November 14, 2018. ² A.W. Geiger and Gretchen Livingston, "8 Facts on Love and Marriage in America," Pew Research Center, February 13, 2019.



Renee Farnham

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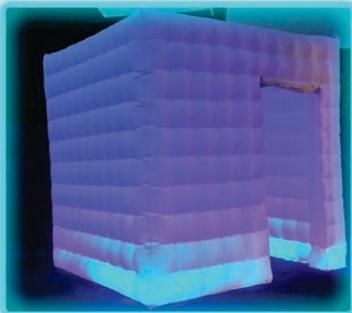
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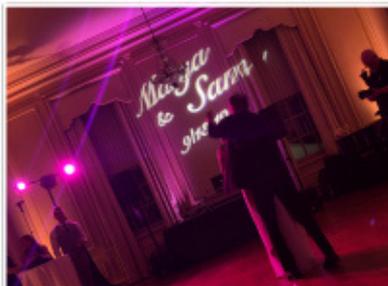
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THE SWEET LIFE



Where Cotton Candy & Couture Collide

Few things provide that sudden hit of nostalgia like cotton candy. This all-American treat captures memories of walking fairgrounds with wisps of pink or blue atop a paper cone. And now these clouds of fluff are receiving a grown-up makeover. Thanks to Liz White, the sweet treat doesn't have to just live in your childhood. She started Chic Cotton Candy catering service, a luxe cotton candy cart guaranteed to give guests instant nostalgia. Serving via the cutest 'grammable cart, Liz whips up artisanal cotton candy in the Boston area— with a new division launching in Las Vegas!

"I knew I wanted to create a whole new way of experiencing cotton candy in gourmet flavors with glam toppings. Chic Cotton Candy serves up freshly spun cotton candy straight from a little



luxe cart. The sweet sugar scent fills the room while little fluffy clouds of cotton candy come to life. Nothing beats seeing your cotton candy made right in front of your guests. It is something they will really remember well past the party."

"And forget about ordering "Blue" or "Pink" cotton candy, Liz uses quality ingredients and fun toppings to serve up flavors like champagne, honey rose, and mango which can be topped with add-ons like edible flowers or gold glitter sprinkles. And yes, they offer alcohol-infused flavors like piña colada and champagne! All of this fun can be served on individual cones, used as a cocktail topper or take-home treat for your guests.





Brides can completely customize their cotton candy experience. From the flavors, to the toppings-- to the cart itself. The options are truly endless. Chic Cotton Candy will help you create a unique atmosphere that takes your guests through an unforgettable experience. With a carefully curated menu of over 15 amazing flavors that are available year-round. They also offer a rotating menu of seasonal flavors with specialty toppings.

There's nothing better than a grown-up version of a favorite childhood treat. Chic Cotton Candy elevates this nostalgic treat to an art form. For those in Boston, the Cape (they even travel to most of New England)... Liz and her team are available for private parties, weddings and corporate events. www.chiccottoncandy.com and on IG & FB @chiccottoncandy



C-ZONE ENTERTAINMENT

IT'S NOT OUR SHOW, IT'S YOUR EVENT

C-Zone Entertainment is a unique boutique offering DJs, Live Jazz & Contemporary Combos, String Ensembles, Lighting and Photo Booths. Musician/DJ owned and run by Greg Capozzi, who has over 25 years as a pro in the music business. We believe it's not our show, it's your event. No egos, no gimmicks, no game shows. It's all about the music and bringing people together through the art of playing the right song at the right time. We create seamless transitions on the dance floor, keeping a party atmosphere through continuity and flow. Your guests will leave sweaty with blisters on their feet!

How did you choose the name C-Zone Entertainment?

Being Italian growing up, a lot of friends nicknamed me Calzone. I never thought it would stick but here we are 20 years later and people still call me Calzone. I used to go by DJ Capozzi when playing in the Boston clubs, but one day a friend made a joke and told me to go by DJ Calzone. Of course that was a joke, but then he said how about DJ C-Zone? So I went for it and here we are. All my friends call me Zone, Z or Calzone. I tell my couples this story sometimes and it always gets a big laugh!

What was your background prior to starting your own business?

I was a professional musician since 1990, played in cover bands, original bands and toured

the world as an original recording artist. I performed at the Montreal Jazz Festival and worked in the pit orchestra as a reed player for Carnival Cruise Lines. I decided to teach myself the craft of DJ-ing to supplement my musical income and quickly carved a niche in Boston as the guy who plays vinyl and rips sax solos at the same time! No laptop, just a crate of records and my horn. My club residencies slowly morphed into requests for private and corporate bookings and C-Zone was then incorporated on January 1, 2003.

Since then the business has grown so much! We have over 10 DJs, 30 jazz musicians, 175 string players, 4 photo booth attendants, some lighting technicians and a full administrative staff in the office.





What do you do in your down time to decompress? Spending time with my beautiful wife and helping with her fashion blog, doing photo shoots and traveling. Spending time with our adorable 12 year old Boston Terrier named Hudson (he's from New York). Love to do custom wood working, DIY home renovations, we are work our fanatics and love to cook too. Not much spare time in the life of a musician/DJ/business owner, but when there is down time, we love to be outside working on projects and hanging with friends/family.

If you had to give just one piece of advice to couples planning their wedding, what would it be? Do your research, take your time and invest in the right vendors. Do not penny pinch on critical vendors that will make or break your party. You will regret that in the long run. Find vendors who are genuinely passionate and down to earth, who seem easy to work with, knowledgeable and who take the time to educate you on what they do and what sets them apart, so you gain a deeper understanding of what you're paying for. Weddings book far in advance so it's a long standing partnership between the couple and their vendors. You gotta get a good vibe at the end of the day.

What is something you are most proud of in your business? Starting from absolutely nothing. It was just me and 2 colleagues — a drummer and guitarist. I maxed out my credit cards and bought a state of the art DJ sound system and pitched our service as unique being that clients can get both live music and a DJ at a very reasonable price, like a jazz trio for cocktail hour followed by DJ service for dinner & dancing. In 2003 we booked 23 events. In 2019 we booked over 400. We are not trying to be jack of all trades and master of none. We take a lot of pride in being true experts and artists. No cheese, no gimmicks, no egos, no game show hosts. We never use the mic to promote ourselves. We pour all of our energy into the quality of the performance and that does all the talking for us.

Get in touch with C-Zone Entertainment! Social: Instagram Facebook @CzoneMusic
Website: www.czonemusic.com Phone: 617.320.0723



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Wedding Day Tips & Ideas

From a photographer's point of view

by Robin Ganter of Robin Ganter Photography



GETTING READY

Mindset You have poured your heart & soul into creating this perfect wedding day...just remember what is truly important. Don't stress that the bouquet rose is not the exact pink you ordered. Instead, be grateful that so many people love you & came to celebrate this union.

Be Prepared with an emergency prep kit. I keep this little pouch in my camera bag and without a doubt, dip into it every single wedding! Here are a few things we couldn't do with out in the order of most requested: scissors, sewing kit, safety pins, Band-Aids, tampons, Q-tips, boutonniere pins, deodorant, mosquito spray.

Feed Your Tribe Be sure there is substantial food to eat while getting dressed like sandwiches, salad, fruit, cheese and crackers. It's a long time from getting ready until dinner and you want everyone feeling in tip top shape. Your besties will cooperate much better when they are not lightheaded or hangry.

BRIDE TIPS

Be 2nd to Last When it comes to hair & make-up, some artists prefer that the bride be

last in the chair on her list of lovelies receiving the service. If hair & make-up run behind - it's the bride stressing in the chair at the end. Placing 1-2 of the easiest bridesmaids for last leaves you free to carry on. While hair & make-up are finishing, the photographer can use this time to get more shots of you.

Buttons & Wrinkles Wedding dresses with a button back are so much easier with a crochet hook. Small investment, so worth it! Secondly, when transporting a wedding dress sometimes the dress is larger than the dress bag. So be ready and have a steamer available. Last weekend our bride opened the bag and the dress was completely wrinkled from waist down, train and all. The hotel front desk did not have a steamer, so the MOH called a reliable friend to do a target run and meet us at the venue. Whew!...But, unnecessary. Remember the steamer.





OUTDOOR CEREMONY

Unplugged means shutting down all cell phones during the ceremony. A wonderful option if you like the sound of your own vows and not ringtones. This little request also prevents attendees from blocking the photographer's aisle shots ;)

High heel protectors are super inexpensive and easy to find online. They slide onto your high heel and prevent them from sinking into the earth and perhaps ruining your favorite Milanos.

PHOTOS

All attendee wedding shot This works best if your venue has a balcony, loft or room that overlooks the ceremony site or dance floor - a ladder can also be used. Coordinate with your JP or DJ to announce "we are doing a group shot" to all guests. when the couple gets to the aisle's end, everyone look up at the photographeror invite everyone onto the dance floor.

KISS - Keep It Simple, Sweetie! Too much on your wedding day schedule can prevent you from enjoying the very event you spent all year planning. So, even though you have a long list of Pinterest wedding shots you want to accomplish...pick the 3 "Must haves" instead. Quantity does not leave time for quality. Having enough time for your photographer to be creative is not only more important to each shot, but more lasting.

RECEPTION

Say Hello to Your Guests

1st - The receiving line is still a tradition but not as popular as it once was. Forming a line directly after the ceremony with both sets of parents, thanking each guest for attending.

2nd - The best way to attend your own cocktail hour and greet your guests is to do a 1st look and portraits before the ceremony.

3rd - Table shots take place somewhere between toasts and entrees. The bride and groom visit and take a portrait with each table. Everyone has a photo with the couple and you just thanked everyone for attending.

Additional Portraits Couples often request extended family or special group shots...all the cousins, work crew, college buddies, etc. I am a huge fan of getting additional portraits during reception. DJs & MCs are very supportive in announcing any group shot you wish.



Interested in working with Robin Ganter for your wedding?
Call: 508-221-7274 Email: robin@robinganterphotography.com
Visit: www.robinganterphotography.com

5 Reasons you *NEED* to do a Boudoir Shoot as a Bride-to-be!

by *Shelby Medlin of Mon Chari Boudoir*

1. Because Self-Love is Important

When was the last time you did something truly just for yourself? I'm not talking about picking up that shirt you need for work from Target.. or when you grabbed that Starbucks iced coffee because YOLO.

I mean truly took the time to love yourself and reward yourself. Being a bride-to-be is HARD. You spend all your free time planning the wedding and trying to keep everyone happy and on the same page, you deserve to give ourselves that same time and attention. A boudoir session is the perfect opportunity to practice Self-Love and celebrate your time as a bride.

2. Being pampered is not only okay, it's encouraged!

You know that amazing feeling you get after you get your hair done or right after you got your nails all fresh and you've got that extra pep in your step? Okay, now multiply that by 1000. ...That's a boudoir session.



When you book a session with Mon Chari Boudoir we take care of all the work so you just get to sit back and relax. From providing Hair & Makeup styling by our talented team, to posing you from your head to your toes, and finally to providing you with the perfect high quality products to display your images so you and your fiancé can oogle at yourself for years and years to come. All you have to do is show up and revel in the experience. You are going to feel amazing.

3. Confidence BOOST

Remember that pep in your step we talked about in #2? Yeah it's real- and you'll be riding that high for awhile. Seeing yourself through someone else's eyes is important. Often times we are our own worst critics and being able to view yourself in a different light can be exactly what you need to switch that perspective.

Think about those closest to you; Your kiddos, your partner, or your friends & family? They deserve the best version of you and that YOU knows how to love and be loved. It may not happen overnight, but it WILL happen. And when it does, it will be SO worth it. Taking this opportunity before your big day will give you that extra confidence to strut down the aisle like the QUEEN that you are.



4. There's no time like the present!

If I had a dollar for every time I've heard "Maybe when I lose 10 lbs" or "I just need to tone up a bit first" ... Well, I would probably be living in Fiji sipping Mojitos and reading trashy romance novels on the beach.

The first and most important thing you'll learn from a boudoir session is you are perfect exactly how you are in this moment. I have literally never had a client in my studio who had perfect skin, perfect hair, or a perfect body. Perfect does not exist. But the imperfections...Those are what make you beautiful and unique.

5. Laughter is the best medicine!

Worried about what to do with your hands or feeling awkward? What about being naked or nearly naked in front of a stranger? Welcome to my life.

First things first, we aren't going to just JUMP RIGHT IN to stripping down to your skivvies. You'll start with hair and makeup styling and we will chat and get to know each other.

Once your shoot starts I play some #bootyjams and I will tell you just like I tell all of my clients the first 5 minutes of your shoot are the most awkward part. But don't worry, I'll be your hype girl. I will cheer you on in your sexy lingerie and you'll feel right at home doing the no pants dance. Then once we are settling into your first couple poses and you're adjusting to this new stretch or shape your body is making it might feel a bit strange if you've never done this before.



You might find yourself thinking "Am I making that face? I feel like I'm making that face" (FYI I will totally tell you if you are making that face). After that? Smooth sailing. You'll probably be laughing at me tripping over my own feet, sweating profusely and telling you a corny joke and honestly, you will probably forget you're even naked in front of a "stranger". Because by then, we will be old friends.

So amidst all the chaos of wedding planning, be sure to take time for yourself. The fact that your fiancé gets this wicked awesome wedding day present is just a bonus.

See you SOON.
XOXO
Shelby
Mon Chari Boudoir



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monchariboudoir.com

**LUX
BOX**
company



image by
Katherine Brackman Photography

WHO WE ARE

LUX BOX is a mother-daughter trio with backgrounds in interior design, fashion and graphic design who love beautiful things. Our love for events brought us to start LUX BOX where we could play a small part in this amazing fun world!

WHAT WE DO

We are a full-service gifting company. We work closely with our clients to design the perfect gifts for their events. We take care of the curation of items, graphic design needs, printing of materials, writing note cards, hand assembling all gifts, handling all the deliveries and shipping with attention to detail throughout. We make giving easy and beautiful!

WEDDING GIFT BOXES

Whether we do Wedding Welcome Boxes or Wedding Party Gifts, the options are limitless. We will work with your vision and theme. Every project is different and that is what we love about our work. It's all about you! Guests LOVE to receive goodies at their arrival and it instantly sets a warm welcoming tone.

GET STARTED

Reach out to us to get started on your gifts. We would love to connect. We are here to help and take some stress away during this busy planning time.

xoxo,
Anne-Marie, Olivia, Chloé
and the LUX BOX team

HAPPILY EVER

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