



*Meet the*

# WEDDING EXPERTS

*Our panel of experts answer your wedding planning, shopping and design questions*



*Neil*  
**HORNE**

◆◆◆  
AWARD-WINNING WEDDINGS, LIFESTYLE  
AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHER  
*eyeimagine.co.uk*

---

I WANT A MIX OF GROUP AND INFORMAL SHOTS, BUT HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF GUESTS WHO NEED TO BE INCLUDED AND I DON'T WANT IT TO BECOME TOO STIFF OR FORMAL. HOW SHOULD THIS BE ORGANISED?

---

**T**his really does come down to sound planning, so do discuss it with your photographer ahead of the wedding day and pin down exactly what you want to achieve in terms of both overall style and the groupings of shots.

I will always recommend to my clients that they should include some more 'formal' portraits and group shots in the mix – even when the overall style of the photography is reportage and informal. These don't have to be too stiff and posed, but in 20 or 30 years time it's important to have that image of key people all together in the family photo album.

Timing is crucial, so when you're planning build in a slot for the portraits and group shots to happen. I'd recommend it happens early – ideally between the ceremony and the celebrations and before guests relax, remove their hat, undo their tie and start to enjoy the party atmosphere. Even if you have lots of group shots, these (along with bride and groom portraits and shots of guests enjoying their day) should be manageable in 90 minutes or less, with organisation.

Do put together a list of the group shots you want and then give that to both the photographer and a trusted member of your team. That way, they can liaise and ensure that all the right people are located and come together for the shots you want for the photo album. ◆



*Jamie*  
**LANDESBERG**

◆◆◆  
PRINCIPAL OF LONDON-BASED WEDDING AND  
EVENTS ORGANISER 4 THE PEOPLE  
*4thepeopleuk.com*

WE'RE THINKING ABOUT ORGANISING A WEDDING ABROAD WITH INVITED GUESTS, BUT HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO START. CAN YOU ADVISE ON KEY AREAS WE NEED TO CONSIDER BEFORE WE DECIDE IF THIS IS A GOOD IDEA?

**M**arrying abroad can be wonderful and the fundamental planning rules don't change, but there are two extra points to consider at the outset. The first is suppliers; using British-based companies makes initial planning easier but adds costs for transportation and accommodation. If you choose local suppliers, on the other hand, this may be cost-efficient but the approach doesn't always match what we expect in the UK. This is why professional wedding planners always have networks they can tap into to help them source the best people with the right track record in any given location.

The second point is about fulfilling your role as host. While a glamorous chateau may seem a bargain compared to London prices it's easy to forget the extras. Factor in not only travel and accommodation support but also extra entertainment as guests will be arriving ahead of the wedding and staying on afterwards. As a bare minimum, a welcome and an after-party event need to be included in your budget.

Of course, these are practicalities that should not dissuade you from your dream, but careful planning is essential to avoid getting stressed over the details. I counsel anyone considering an overseas wedding to sit down with someone who's planned and organised something on this scale before. ◆



*Alice*  
**RAUSCH**

◆◆◆  
INTERNATIONAL WEDDING, MUSIC AND  
FASHION FILMMAKER  
*cinemalice.com*

I WANT TO FILM MY WEDDING, BUT THIS MUST BE IN LINE WITH THE OCCASION. HOW DO I CHOOSE AND BRIEF A COMPANY AND HOW SHOULD THE FILMING WORK TO GET THE RESULTS I WANT?

It's important to find someone whose style suits your vision. Videographers have vastly different approaches – my work centres on glamour, ensuring people and places look their best and I create a mini movie. Watching the work of different videographers is the best way to ensure you find the approach you want.

Like all modern videographers, I use a small handheld to be unobtrusive. But I also see it as my role to be as discreet as possible, so that guests don't know I'm there. And, because the goal is make people look their best I will never, for example, film them eating and drinking. I then choose my images in post-production really carefully to make sure everyone looks good.

These are all points you need to find out about, so do meet the videographer before agreeing to hire them to ensure you have a connection. I see that as critical because the bride must feel at ease with me from the moment I start filming. She's the most important person and I'm there to make her feel relaxed and beautiful, which requires trust. At your meeting, also get the videographer to describe their time commitment and process. For instance, I am there from start to end to capture the whole story. Then the editing takes two or three weeks, after which the couple approve the final cut. The film must match the magic of your day, so ask lots of questions to ensure that the final product will match your expectations on quality. ◆

**SUZANNAH  
CRABB**

*Suzannah Crabb has been described as party dress genius, with choices for everything from weddings to red-carpet events. Here, she advises mothers of the bride and groom.*

**T**here is no 'one size fits all' for mothers of the bride or groom. Things only go wrong if you choose what you think you should wear, rather than what suits you. For instance, the classic short bolero jacket and dress works for some, but cuts others off in the wrong place. We all have our own sense of style and maintaining that is important to ensure confidence on the day.

Our starting point is always enhancing the client's best points. We may recommend a shift or a 1950s-style fitted dress, or a coat-dress with an elegant line to create the illusion of height. A slash or scoop neckline or shallow v-back will show off a beautiful skin, and for great legs we might look at knee-length designs. While it's important to be sensitive to the bridal palette, often it's better to choose a complementary shade.

We guide clients on all these points and create a top-to-toe ensemble – including bags and shoes. We tend to recommend avoiding complete matches. One trick is to combine a very plain dress with a pair of fabulous shoes or a statement hat. We work with a great group of milliners and shoemakers so can ensure the complete outfit works perfectly.

We offer both bespoke and RTW outfits, dressing many brides as well as the wedding party. Made-to-measure garments typically take 12 weeks to create and RTW can be adapted by, for instance, changing the colour, in around three weeks. ◆



**Suzannah**  
3 New Quebec Street, London W1H  
*suzannah.com*