

## *Tips for a successful Engagement Photo Session*

Many times we are asked for suggestions on what to wear to for an Engagement Photography Session. Engagement sessions are a great way to get to know us. It helps out a lot on the wedding day if you already know us and our style and how we interact with the two of you. Also, if you know us, and we know you both, you'll be a lot more comfortable around us on your wedding day, and we can get natural images that better reflect your personalities and relationship.

Think about where the session will take place and make note of the dominant colors. For example, if you're shooting in nature, the dominant colors are often green and brown. To avoid blending into the background, wear something bright, but complimentary to the key background colors. Since some nature backgrounds can be dark-ish, wearing bright colors (e.g. yellows, oranges, reds) can enhance your photos, especially during the fall.

- ✚ Wear something you love, and make sure it's 'you'. You also have to consider what you think you look best in. You're the expert, so decide what you've always looked good in. Remember that these photos are yours and you have to be happy with them in the end, this is your day. Wear clothes that are complementary in style and color. Don't be too matchy. For example, you could both wear fall colors or both wear different shades of blue or green.
- ✚ Wear clothes that are the same level of dressyness. Don't dress up and have your fiance wear everyday street clothes.
- ✚ Wear your eye makeup as you would normally in neutral colors. Bring some lipgloss with you to reapply after kisses, even if you don't normally wear it, it helps with dry lips and reflects nicely off the camera. We also suggest that you go easy on the eyeliner, and heavy mascara. It tends to smear and flake, and causes eyes to smear for those close up shots where we want to bring our your eyes, also be sure to bring a small mirror and comb or brush for quick touchups in between.
- ✚ Accessories are also important. Don't forget to wear some of your engagement jewelry, especially your ring. Things like an umbrella, scarf, hats or flowers are always fun additions.
- ✚ Wear something you are comfortable in. If you're not comfortable, it will show in the pictures. 2-3 outfit changes are welcomed, and they give a nice variety to the photographs.
- ✚ Think about layering your clothing for easy changing.
- ✚ It's best not to wear too tight jeans or other clothes that are overly tight and restrict movement or show curves you don't want shown. We sometimes like to ask you to sit on the ground for some interesting casual shots.
- ✚ A touch dressier than what you would wear on a normal night out can be fun, just make sure it's still you.
- ✚ Have the clothes match the location and season for the shoot. Shorts and flip flops probably are not the best on a cold day (this goes back to being comfortable, if you are not warm it's harder to look warm and happy)
- ✚ Darker colors are slimming and they are also easier to photograph. But if you have something in a lighter color that you love, don't be afraid to wear it.
- ✚ Patterns go out of style quickly, and the background usually has enough texture that patterns can sometimes make the photos too busy.
- ✚ Wear shoes you love. Heels can look awesome and sexy with a pair of jeans, as well as boots.
- ✚ Wear shoes you can comfortably walk in. You can always carry your dressy shoes to change into.

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- ✚ We recommend that you leave your purse behind or in your car, unless you want it in the photos. (You can be more free and fun without it) We can carry your keys and a few necessities in our camera bag. We prefer to not be responsible for glasses so please leave those behind or in your car. We can go back to the car for clothing changes or change when we switch locations.
- ✚ If you want to have your dog in some of the photos, it would be best to have a friend come along to watch him/her while we are taking other shots.

### A Final note.....:

- ✚ Plan to have fun. Think of it more like a date, and less of posing and smiling for the camera. We'll ask you to pose a bit, turn this way or that, move a hand this way or that, but we want to capture your love and personalities, not show off our posing abilities.
- ✚ The best time for photos is late afternoon/early evening when the light is soft, and we have the chance of getting a sunset.
- ✚ If there is something you want us to avoid photographing it helps if you let us know. That way we can work with you to keep the scar, tattoo, part in your hair, or whatever you want us to keep out of the pictures out. We can always remove or make changes in PhotoShop later, but it's always best to know in advance.
- ✚ Remember, the most important part of your engagement photo session is the way your love and excitement shows through to all those who have a chance to see your photos - so have fun, be yourselves, and enjoy!