

Chelsey Nelson

Photography

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BLOG

STYLED SHOOT: 21C HOTEL & MUSEUM

I wish I'd known about "StyLED Shoots" as a little girl. Of course, I had my own version complete with Barbie dolls and a hot pink corvette (reception exit inspiration?). The beauty is getting to work with other wedding vendors, and execute a vision that helps us say to brides "if you love this as much as we do, we may be a great fit!". It gives a glimpse of what they can expect.

This styled shoot took place at 21c Museum Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. I may or may not have experienced a celebrity sighting when I walked into the lobby with all of my equipment (and saw he who must not be named - franchise hint).

I've now photographed three styled shoots with Victoria Stanton (pictures of the third are coming soon!), and I must say her work is beautiful! I've listed all of the vendors at the end of the post. Enjoy!



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Featured by

KENTUCKY BRIDE



BRIDE & GROOM



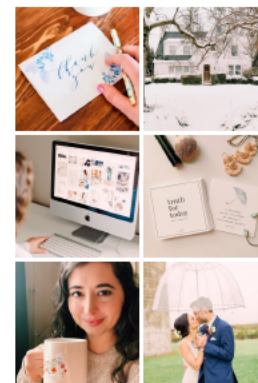
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THE GLAMOROUS DETAILS



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VENDORS

Wedding Planning/Design: @VSIEvents, Venue: 21c Louisville/@21chotels and @ProofOnMain, Bride Model: @mirandagopp, Groom Model: @billybadboysmith, Dress and Jewelry: @moderntrousseauLouisville, Chairs and Tableware Rentals: @reliablerentalsky, Linens and Chair Decor: Millenium Events and Floral, Photography: @chelseynelson, Cakes: @louisvilliouscakes, Floral Design: Sarah Busby Designs, Hair and Makeup:

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@carleyrandall (fun fact: we worked at Anthropologie together!), Design of Printed Goods: @inksheepress, Watercolor
Map: @maizieclarke, Welcome Bag: @kentuckyforkentucky, Coffee: @heinebrocoffee, Drinks: @butchertownsoda

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HARMON FAMILY SESSION ▶

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CHEROKEE PARK ENGAGEMENT PHOTOS



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We had near perfect weather for this fall Cherokee Park engagement session! This was the first week we really started to get chilly temps, and it made this session all the more cozy.

And what's cuter than including your dogs in a session? Daniel and Emily's little fur friends Gonzo (left) and Shotgun (right) were just as cuddly and adorable in person as they look here.



Emily and Daniel were married on a perfectly crisp October day at Historic Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky (aka my favorite place in town period - anyone tired of me going on about it? no? hope not :)).

Just days before the wedding, our "fall" felt more like a heatwave with temps inching up just under 100 degrees! But by the time their wedding arrived, October gave way to the familiar rhythm of colorful leaves, warmth that lingers like a hug, and a breeze to rustle the trees and remind you why this is such a magical time of year.

It was an honor to document Emily and Daniel's Locust Grove wedding photography!

You may remember them from their Cherokee Park Engagement Session, Emily's Disney princess-like hair (really though, how is she real?) or from their adorable doggies Gonzo and Shotgun.

There is something very sacred about a wedding ceremony, and I can't help but feel reverent when I witness a couple vowing their lives to one another before God, their families, and friends. They certainly left an impression on me and I left the day feeling grateful that I got to spend it with them and their families to celebrate their marriage!

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BLOG

CHELSEY NELSON PHOTOGRAPHY: OPEN FOR BUSINESS

• BUSINESS •

STARTING MY CREATIVE BUSINESS

HOW I GOT THERE

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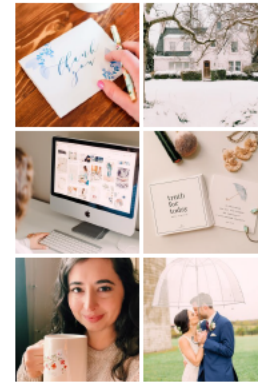
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EST. ♥ 2016
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Welcome to the home of Chelsey Nelson Photography! It took me a while to figure out what I really wanted to do in life. At least to me, 26 years feels like a while! I've heard that once you decide what you want to do, you'll realize there was a trail leading you there that you'll be able to recognize throughout your life. That was so true for me!

Hint #1. When I was seven years old, my family had to evacuate our home due to a tomado coming through and making it unlivable. The sweet family who took us in for those first weeks after the tomado had a collection of photo albums on their bookshelf chronicling their every day memories and family vacations to the Florida Keys. I'd spend *hours* going through them, over and over again, fascinated to learn about their family history. I think it helped me feel connected to them while I was sorting through what it was like to technically be homeless, away from what was familiar.

#2. What was the first thing I ran to when we got to my grandmother's house each visit? The picture collages hanging throughout her house. I loved seeing me and my cousins as little kiddos, and the chic retro glasses my aunts and uncles sported to classic 90s BBQs.

#3. At the age of 14, I began to obsess over our family collection of home videos and photo albums. It was around this time I also realized how awesome my big brother was! I already had a lot of respect for him, but there's nothing quite like watching him make sure I'm OK after sliding off a tricycle ("Jelsey, ar wu OK?" *heart melts*). Those photo albums helped me peek back through time, a theme throughout why photography means so much to me and a core factor in why I'm passionate about offering it to others.

#4. Once I upgraded from disposable cameras to a Kodak point-and-shoot to take on a mission trip in high school, I took it with me *everywhere*. That nugget lived in my purse at all times, capturing youth group shenanigans that are thoroughly documented on Facebook.

#5. I fell head over heels with blogging. Reading them, writing them, proofreading them - you name it. But you know what? I realized that I loved blogging because I liked the photography! Every part of it. Styling the shot, finding the right angles, editing, etc. But even at that point, I was afraid to think of myself as "creative" because then there would be a standard I might not reach (an invisible, mysterious one mind you, like so many of our fears!).



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Now I see a dotted line woven through the roadmap of my life. After all, what was the first thing we rushed out of our home after the tornado hit when we heard "gas leak!" (no joke)? Our pictures! It was the sentimental value in the memories the photos represented that made them so valuable and irreplaceable. My hope is to give that gift to others - beautiful images that will represent special memories, become family heirlooms, and tell the story of each legacy represented, because it matters. If you'd like to invite me into your story to capture your life, I'd be honored. Whether it be a special event, family and couples portraits or some fresh head shots to land your next gig on LinkedIn, you can get in touch with me [here](#), or leave a comment below to let me know you stopped by! Here's to big things coming!

Big shout out to **Jenna Kutcher**, who helped me take the plunge and taught me how to make a good net to catch my fall ;) And thanks to my sweet new friend Laura of Laura Cook Photography. God brought you into my life at just the right time. Thank you for creating images that reflect my brand so effortlessly. To my husband, Derrik, who lovingly challenged me to do something about my dream instead of getting lost in talking about it. You are the greatest gift on earth Jesus could have possibly granted me.

I think that's enough mushiness for this post! Thank you for reading this and being part of my journey. It means so much to me.

Chelsey Nelson / 11 Comments

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\$3 STORAGE SOLUTION →

Comments

Newest First

 **Courtney** 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Hi Chelsey! I love this post so much! Loved getting to know a little more about you :) You're cute as a button too. Good luck with your photography adventure!

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Chelsey Nelson 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Courtney, you are so sweet! Thank you. Also, I loved perusing through your website!



Courtney Swaim 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Aw! Huge congratulations to you for taking a leap of faith! I admire your bravery and wish you all the best in your business.



Chelsey Nelson 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Hi Courtney! Thank you so much, and thank you for taking the time to read this :)



Nicole 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Yay for following your heart! Best of luck!



Chelsey Nelson 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Yes! Thanks, Nicole!



Ashley 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Congrats on taking the plunge!!



Chelsey Nelson 5 years ago · 0 Likes

Thank you, Ashley! It's a great feeling.



Lorinda Leigh 5 years ago · 0 Likes

How fun that you're able to look back and pin-point all of those hints. Your post has me wanting to map out my own "dots"!



Chelsey Nelson 5 years ago · 0 Likes

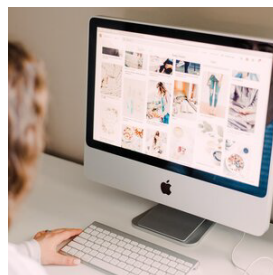
Lorinda, you totally should!

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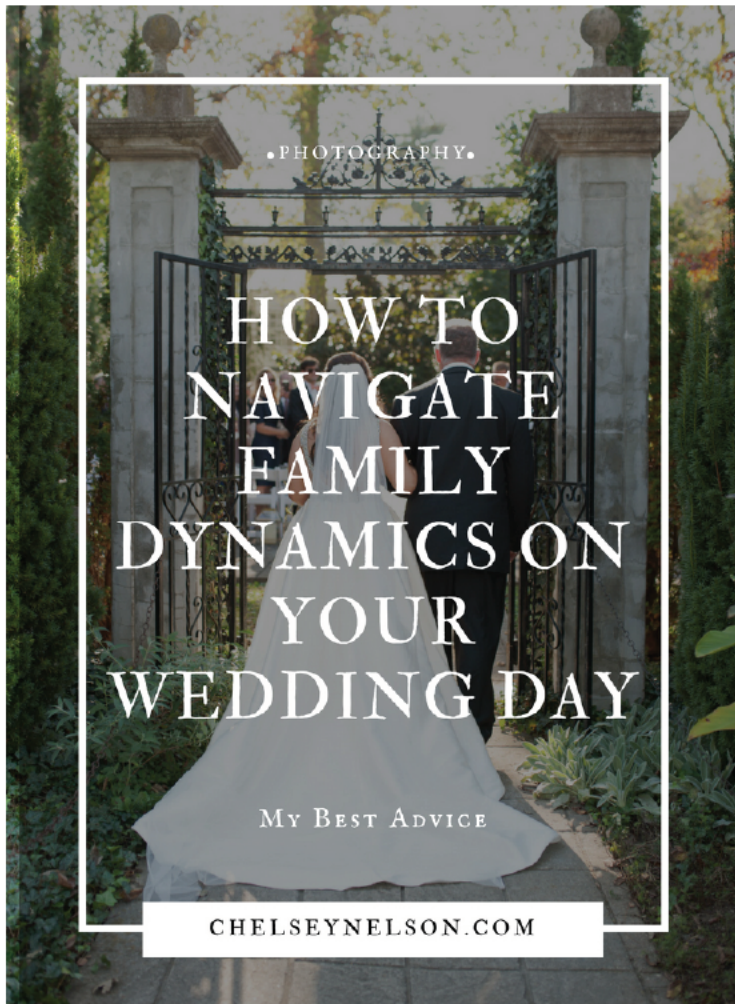
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BLOG

HOW TO NAVIGATE FAMILY DYNAMICS ON YOUR WEDDING DAY



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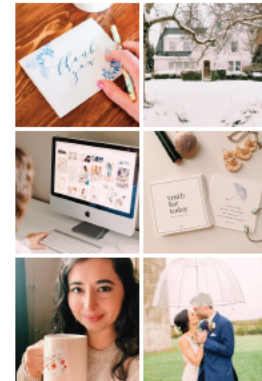
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I'd be the first to say your wedding day will be one of the happiest days of your life. It's like you've traveled through time mentally, because now you finally know the name of your husband, his voice, exactly who he is, but you also probably remember what it was like wondering and daydreaming about who that man would be, hoping for it, praying for it. The entire season of your engagement and preparing your heart for marriage is something to savor. But every family likely has dynamics that could bring some stress into planning and enjoying this once-in-a-lifetime event you've envisioned.

As your photographer, I recognize the privilege it is to not only serve you, but also serve your family. I have a VIP pass into your sacred moments. When your Dad who never cries starts weeping in joy when he sees you as a bride, I'm there. When you make a vow before God, your family, and your friends, I'm cheering you on with everyone else. I care about your marriage and your family. So inviting me in (however much you feel comfortable) if there are scenarios you anticipate could be uncomfortable can help take stress off of you as I'm able to help navigate with your best interests at heart. As an example, if there are any sensitive situations that could make taking family formals tense or difficult, it could be helpful to let me know ahead of time so I can accommodate your family and make sure everyone is as comfortable as possible through each transition. You can think of me as an honorary bridesmaid, extra hair pins in hand.

I'd love to know if you found this advice helpful. My heart is to help prepare and educate you as best I can for your wedding and your marriage.

Chelsey Nelson

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◀ DREAM LOCATION: PARIS, FRANCE

FEATURED BY KENTUCKY BRIDE ▶

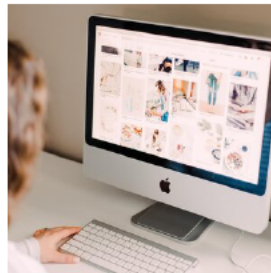
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