



New York Wedding Photographer

"OMG, these photos are unreal. We can not thank you enough for your talent and eye, we are so thrilled beyond belief at how this day is memorialized. Thank you, thank you! You are wonderful, thank you again!" -Heather & Erinn

Hi, I'm Nicki. I've been a wedding photographer for over a decade. I love my job and the couples it allows me to work with. I consider it a huge honor to be with couples on one of the most important days of their lives.

No matter what kind of wedding you've having, big or small, fancy or casual, I'd love to document it. My style is mostly documentary with lots of fun thrown in for good measure. If you're hoping for candid moments and laughter over stiff cheesy poses, then I'm your girl. With the exception of couples portraits and family formals (yes I do take family photos) I try to blend in as much as possible letting events unfold as they normally would.

During couple photos, I'll give you enough direction to make you feel comfortable, but not so much as to make you feel posey. My job is to make you feel comfortable, relaxed, help you enjoy the process and make sure you look your best. I promise lots of laughs and lots of me exclaiming how amazing you look, because really, you will look awesome. It's my job to make sure you do! I promise to do my best to help your wedding day go as smoothly as possible.

Be sure to check out the pages below for more information, tips and reviews from past clients!





NYC Proposal Photography:

I love photographing proposals in NYC! Proposals are a special kind of photography all their own. They require the skills of a planner, a photo ninja, and super spy all rolled into one. For proposal photography I work with clients and use my intimate knowledge of NYC to help you pick out the best location and timing. Then I help you plan the perfect moment to pop the question. Asking your true love to marry you with the iconic backdrop of New York? It doesn't get more romantic than that. Make sure you have the moment captured to treasure for years to come!

NYC Engagement Photos:

After most proposal sessions and with most wedding packages I offer engagement sessions. I also offer engagement photos a la carte for those that are interested. I love to do engagement sessions that reflect you as a couple! Let's pick an activity you enjoy to do together, stroll your neighborhood streets, hang out at home or go out for ice cream. Engagement sessions are often a chance for us to get know each other better and for you to have some more casual photos of you both together outside of your wedding day. So let's have fun! Bowling, art exhibits, museums, mini golf, riding the ferry, riding bikes, playing games, rock climbing, drinking wine. I'm up for any and all adventures!

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THE TEAM

PHOTOS

FILMS



PRICING

FAQ

BOOK US

Welcome to the fam!

We're the two faces/brains/artists behind Natura Collective, and we are SO happy you're checking out our website. Together with our team we work to create an incredible client experience for all of our amazing couples. **NO STRESS IS ALLOWED**, I can't emphasize that enough, from start to finish everything is super simple, seamless, and pleasant. We obsess over our craft so you can rest assured that you're in good hands. Scroll down to learn more about us and our team.



TO MAKE OUR STANCE + VALUES EXTREMELY CLEAR

We will absolutely not tolerate racism, homophobia, sexism, or discrimination of any kind. We are an inclusive wedding vendor and it brings us joy to capture weddings for all of our couples, no matter their religious beliefs, size, sexuality, or skin color. We strive to be actively anti-racist and are dedicated to the **Black Lives Matter** movement. As part of the LGBT+ community and being in an interracial relationship we understand that representation matters. We will always do our best to ensure that our prospective clients feel represented when looking at our body of work. We are definitely not **PERFECT**, but we are committed to educating ourselves to better bring about positive change in the wedding industry as a whole.



Christian

Oh hi, I'm never one to enjoy making things all about me but I guess you probably want to know who the hell you're internet stalking right now. On first glance I'm essentially just your standard issue basic iced-coffee drinking sushi loving bookworm.

Here's some general info about me:

- Born and raised in Clearwater, FL (eww humidity, give me snow pls)
- Pretty damn tall, I'll get all those good angles, trust me
- Back to iced coffee... yes I will order an iced coffee and carry it through 17 degree weather
- Every Valentine's day while Emilio is distracted for any given amount of time I will (somewhat influenced by a bottle of wine) book an entire vacation absolutely spur of the moment without telling him



- I am not good at keeping secrets. So I'll tell him within a few hours. 2018 was Israel. 2019 was London. I think you all know what happened with COVID in 2020 ... so stay tuned for 2021
- Addicted to reading. Seriously. I read 50+ books a year and my guilty pleasure is a good psychological thriller. Ask me for book recommendations 🤩 In 2020 I made it to 88 books, just trying to catch up to my grandma!

[check out some of my work](#)

Emilio

Hey, I'm Emilio. I'm the other half of Natura Collective and I'm not at mad about the spontaneous trips Christian plans. This is a common thing for us. I love exploring new corners of the world. If by somehow (miraculously) we aren't busy shooting a wedding or binge editing you might find me:

- Falling down the YouTube/TikTok rabbit hole
- Supporting local businesses and artists – whether it be a drag show or small plant shop
- Attempting to be a food network star in our cute little kitchen – current obsession: pies + pastries
- Taking our lazy dachshund to the park (stay tuned for Paco's latest glamour shoot)
- Making clay vases, dishes, and anything cute to paint and display in our apartment

[check out some of my work](#)



@naturacollective

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Destination Wedding
Photographer/Videographer





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BROOKLYN GAY WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

April 19, 2019
Articles, LGBTQ+, New York



Brooklyn Gay Wedding Photographer

Post by Christian for Natura Collective // NYC LGBT Wedding Photographer

NOT ONLY DO WE SPECIALIZE IN LGBT WEDDINGS, WE'RE PART OF THE FAM 😊

If it isn't obvious enough on our [about page](#), we are super gay [and gay friendly]. You just found your Brooklyn gay wedding photographer, so start the party now. Head over to that page and read our cute lil' story about how we met on Tinder! With every single wedding we capture, we are always fully invested in our clients and so eternally grateful to be trusted with these moments. When it comes to LGBT weddings we are impacted even more so by what the day means for everyone. The fact that some of our wedding couples fought for equality for so long and weren't legally recognized for a majority of their relationship really gets the feels going on a wedding day.



Sidenote, let's take a moment to think about how marriage equality in the United States for most states was only FOUR years ago!? – [for a detailed timeline on the fight for marriage equality check out this article!](#)

Wedding planning can be a stressful time for a lot of couples, and worrying about having to come out through e-mails to your vendors over ... and over... and over again is just not fun. Coming out once was **plenty** for us, not sure about you.

Both Emilio and I, as Brooklyn Gay Wedding Photographers know that looking for a vendor who understands you is so incredibly important for the big day. That's why we always recommend finding vendors who are either allies or who are part of the LGBTQ2IA+ family themselves! We're also very familiar with the unique aspects that come with LGBT+ weddings. Sometimes the family dynamic is completely different, or the only family present is your chosen family – and we're here to say ... *this is a safe place*. We're happy to embrace whatever style wedding you and your partner want.

We won't make you come out over e-mail or make wrongful assumptions about your gender, pronouns, relationship, or partner. That's another nice part about hiring a gay wedding photographer 😊 Will the shameless plugs ever stop? We don't know! Take a look at some of our LGBT galleries below! We're always adding content to our website; we are so happy that you found us too!

0 COMMENTS

SHARE:  

Best lgbt friendly wedding vendors in nyc, , Brooklyn Gay Wedding Photographer, , Brooklyn LGBT Wedding Photographer, , brooklyn wedding photography, , gay lesbian wedding photography, , gay lesbian wedding photography ny, , gay lesbian wedding photography nyc, , lgbt friendly wedding photographer in brooklyn, , LGBT NYC Wedding Photographers, , NYC Gay Wedding Photographer, , NYC Gay Wedding Photographers, , photographer brooklyn ny, , Wedding photographer in brooklyn, , Wedding photographer in NYC, , wedding photographers brooklyn new york,









Same Sex Weddings

Our photography and video studio have been honored to capture beautiful same sex weddings at the top venues in NYC. Huge supporters of the LGBT community and equal marriage laws, our photographers and videographers provide stunning wedding photo and video for you and your partner to cherish for a lifetime!

From the proposal to the engagement shoot, our team will be there every step of the way! Our [wedding package builder](#) helps you to stay in charge of your budget without sacrificing quality. Our team also works with a host of gay-friendly New York professionals that can be added to your wedding package including officiants, wedding planners, florist and more. Be sure to give us a call to find out more.





Andrew and Ivan

ANDREW AND IVAN

Fort Tryon Park provided the perfect backdrop for the romantic elopement of this adorable same-sex couple. The pair have a beautiful love story that includes a chance meeting at an LGBTQ event that ultimately lead to a proposal at this popular NYC elopement location. (Read more about how the couple met and fell in love in this [New York Times article](#)). Unfortunately due to Covid-19, Andrew and Ivan had to rethink their wedding day plans which originally included a Fort Tryon Park wedding ceremony followed by a reception at New Leaf Restaurant.

While the reception was no longer an option due to restriction from the epidemic, their [Fort Tryon Park elopement](#) was everything they had hoped for! Our photographer and videographer had a great time capturing their special day.. check it out in the link below..

[View the gallery](#)



Joseph and Frank

BROOKSIDE BANQUETS WEDDING

Brookside Banquets offered the perfect backdrop for this beautiful same-sex wedding celebration. Joseph and Frank booked our affordable photography and wedding trailer video package to commemorate their big day and the wedding photos and trailer came out great! The grooms hosted an elegant wedding at the NJ wedding venue complete with romantic portraits, fun wedding party photos and a fun reception! Be sure to check out their wedding photos at Brookside Banquets to see more of these handsome grooms' celebration!

Check it out!



Joel & Eric

PROSPECT PARK PICNIC HOUSE ENGAGEMENT

Our photographers love engagement season! It's a great time to get to know our wedding clients before the big day and provide them with some practice in front of the camera while scoring great photos for the save the dates. NYC has plenty of great places for outdoor shoots to choose from but we are partial to the diversity of Brooklyn locations. This adorable same sex couple chose the Prospect Park area and Grand Army Plaza for their shoot, check it out...

[*View the gallery*](#)



Nicole & Alison

MYMOON BROOKLYN SAME SEX WEDDING

This hip same-sex Brooklyn celebration is one for the books. Not only are the brides both gorgeous but they were naturals in front of the camera. Everything was perfect, from their first look in a Williamsburg park by the East River to their outdoor ceremony filled with special memories about how they met and fell in love. Our photographer and videographer were excited to return to My Moon. The restaurant and event space housed in a 19th century building offers clients all-inclusive packages with easy accessibility (the subway is 3 blocks away). The reception was filled with touching (and funny) speeches about the Brides and once the party got started this awesome crowd kept the dance floor rocking! Check it out..

Check it out!



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WEDDING DATE *



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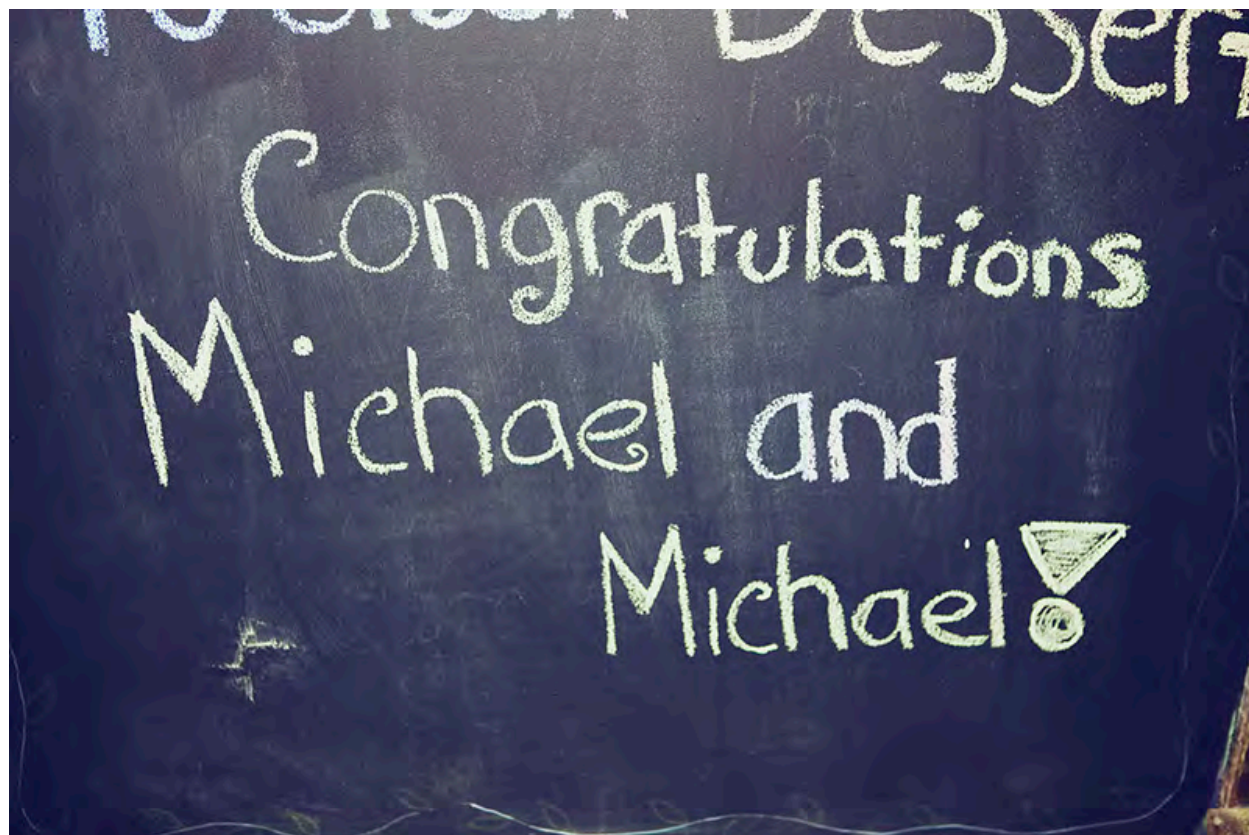


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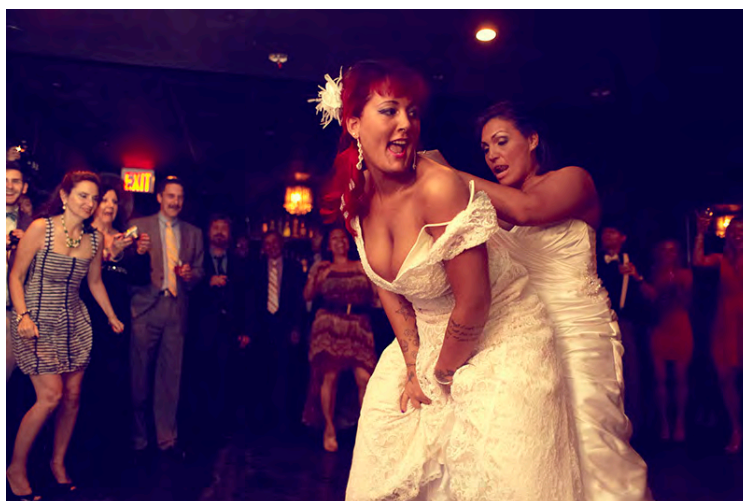
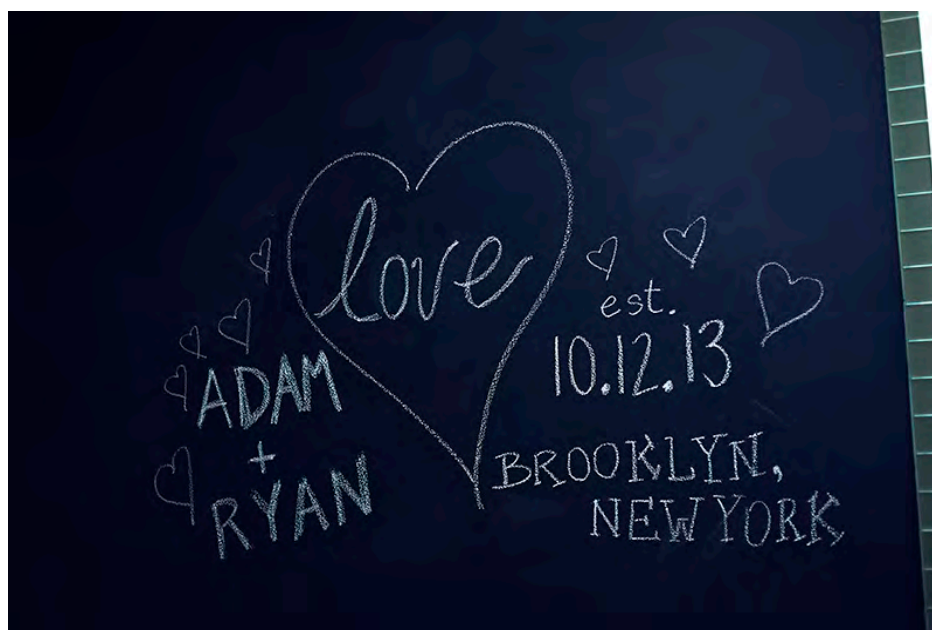
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Capturing Life's Moments

hello

NICE TO MEET YOU



Welcome! I'm Adena and this is Studio A Images.

I love working with couples and families who are authentic, fun, down-to-earth, and want to celebrate their individuality. For over 10 years, I've been providing couples and families with dedicated caring service as they've trusted me to document and capture one of the most important days in their lives.

I'm honored that people invite me to be a part of their wedding day and that my photos will tell their story for years to come. I've always enjoyed working with and getting to know all sorts of different people – I loved meeting new people during my days as a newspaper photographer and wedding photography has allowed me that same joy.

I like to get to know you first, whether it be through your engagement session or dinner at your favorite restaurant, so that I'm not a stranger on your wedding day. I would never treat a couple as just another set of names in fancy clothes. Instead I want to get to know your love story so that I can capture it with honesty and intimacy. I love when couples have unique touches to their day that are special and their own and maybe a little different. My approach is to capture and document your day as it unfolds, so when you look through your wedding photos afterwards you can say, "Yes, that's me. That was my day."

For my portrait clients, let me tell the stories of you and your family: Those every day simple things that we may take for granted. Those little moments

that you will want to remember forever. The natural interactions of you with
your family.

My business has always been firmly rooted in inclusivity and equality. So if you're looking for an experienced New York/New Jersey photographer who will honor the uniqueness of you, your partnership, and your family—then look no further than Studio A Images.



Capturing Life's Moments

{SUMMER OF LOVE} GAY-FRIENDLY WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER | NYC WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015

My "Summer of Love" project will be looking back at some of my amazing couples as well as an array of wonderful venues that I've had the opportunity to photograph over the years. To start things off and celebrate Pride Month, I'll be showcasing some of my favorite same-sex weddings and engagement sessions.



To see more of Lisa and Megan's Chelsea Piers wedding, [click here](#)



To see more of Kim + Tara's snowy wedding day, [click here](#)



To see more of Sarah + Amy's engagement session, [click here](#)

POSTED IN LGBTQ, SUMMER OF LOVE, WEDDINGS

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Capturing Life's Moments

CATEGORY ARCHIVES: LGBTQ





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Capturing Life's Moments

METROPOLITAN BUILDING WEDDING PHOTOS | NYC WEDDING
PHOTOGRAPHER | EMILY + JULIA

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018



I was so excited for Emily + Julia's Metropolitan Building wedding a few weeks ago and it did not disappoint. I had so much fun with the two of them last fall for their engagement

session around Brooklyn – and where I was first introduced to their dog, Bear. Bear of

course made an appearance at the wedding as – you guessed it- ring bearer. Everyone who

gets married at the Metropolitan Building loves the green-mirrored hallway (as do I!).

Their wedding celebration was full of emotions AND singing. Friends sang their first dance and Julia surprised Emily with a song later in the reception.

This wedding was full of love and joy (and song) and I was honored to be a part of their celebration.

Congratulations Emily + Julia!

Venue: Metropolitan Building

Florist: Xylem + Phloem

DJ: Hank Lane



POSTED IN LGBTQ, WEDDINGS

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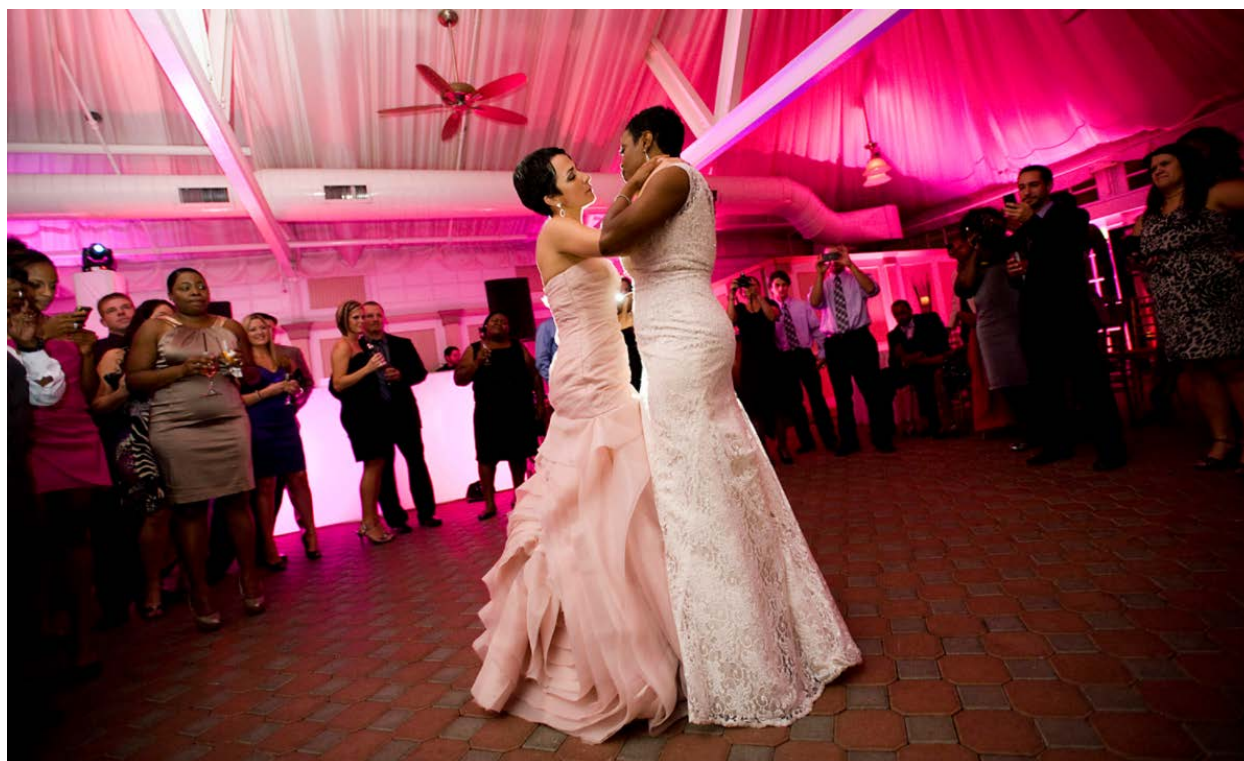
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Same Sex Wedding Photography New York

Lin-Manuel Miranda said it best when he wrote:

"And love is love is love is love is love is love is love is love, cannot be killed or swept aside."

LGBTQ+ weddings

I celebrate love. I celebrate marriage equality. I embrace, welcome, and wholeheartedly celebrate same sex marriage. I am honored to document LGBTQ+ weddings.

I would be humbled and proud to tell your story, to photograph your wedding, and work with you to provide you the best wedding photography I possibly can.



These two women are a revelation together. They make each other laugh, hold each other with joy, and love each other with every fiber of their being. I was deeply honored to have them as models for a workshop that I taught in New York about posing a wedding couple together.

If everyone in this world found even a fraction of the love that these two women have for each other, well, the world would be a much better place!



This image illustrates the type of images that I would make for you at your same sex wedding in NYC. I want to show the love that you two have for each other, and to create beautiful photographs of your wedding in the process!

This image was taken just after twilight outside my studio in Brooklyn, New York. I had the two women climb up on top of a picnic table to get their heads closer to the gorgeous garden lights strung across the courtyard.

I had an assistant with a simple video light illuminate the background so that the women's faces were better highlighted.

I love this image, and I feel that it truly illustrates the dramatic love that these two women have for each other. To quote Lin-Manuel Miranda again, "How lucky we are to be alive right now." I am so proud to live in a city that honors same sex weddings and embraces everyone's right to marry their loved one.

Same Sex Marriage in New York

To get married in New York, just click on [this link](#) and follow the clearly laid out instructions! This website of the City Clerk in NYC states the following:

"New York City has always prided itself on its openness and diversity, and we look forward to welcoming all couples who want to get married amid our bright lights and legendary sights, including many landmarks of gay history. Whether you are a native New Yorker or someone who has dreamed of having your wedding in New York City, that opportunity is now yours. The City is committed to accommodating all eligible couples who would like to marry, whether they are of the same or opposite sex."

To have your same sex wedding in New York city, here are the steps you must follow:

- Fill out and submit your application for a Marriage License online. Receive your confirmation number, and take it with you when you visit the City Clerk's office in person. If you don't have internet access, you can obtain the proper paperwork in person and fill it out at the City Clerk's office when you go.
- Next, go to the City Clerk's office to finish the process. Make sure that you go together! Both of you must be present to finish the application in person and get your Marriage License.
- You can get married right then and there at the City Clerk's office if you want! You need a Judicial Waiver if you want to get married on the same day that you pick up your License.
- As of June 2017, the charge to get a Marriage License in NYC is \$35. You can pay via credit card, but not check.



Questions About Same Sex Marriage in New York

Here are a few common questions about having your same sex marriage legalized in New York City:

1. ***Can we have our same sex wedding and get married in NYC if we don't live in New York?***Yes, you can!
2. ***Do we have to have a witness to sign our Marriage License in New York?***Yes, you do!
3. ***Is there any difference between a same-sex marriage in New York and an opposite-sex marriage?***From the City Clerk's website directly, no. It states : *"The Marriage Equality Act gives married same-sex couples the same rights, responsibilities, and benefits that married opposite-sex couples have under Federal, State and City law."*
4. ***If we have our same sex wedding in New York, will we still be married when we leave New York and go back to living in another state?***Yes. You will still be just as legally married when you go home!

City Clerk Offices in New York City

If you are trying to find a City Clerk's office in any of New York's boroughs, here is the information direct from the NYC City Clerk's website:

Manhattan Office

141 Worth Street
New York, NY 10013
8:30 am to 3:45 pm, Monday through Friday

Bronx Office

Supreme Court Building
851 Grand Concourse, Room B131
Bronx, NY 10451
8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Brooklyn Office

Brooklyn Municipal Building
210 Joralemon Street, Room 205
Brooklyn, NY 11201
8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Queens Office

Borough Hall Building
120-55 Queens Boulevard, Ground Floor, Room X001
Kew Gardens, NY 11424
8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday

Staten Island Office

Borough Hall Building
10 Richmond Terrace, Room 311
Staten Island, NY 10301
8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday

If you're getting married, I'd LOVE to document your love.



1/800; f/4.0; ISO 640; 70.0 mm.

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NYC Gay Wedding Photography

As I'm sure you can see, there are lots of words on this website. There is a story that goes along with every single photograph in every single gallery on this entire website. If you feel like taking the time out of your day, you can click and read every caption for every photo.

Some of the captions are funny. I do my best to tell jokes, attempt to amuse my audience, and add a lightness and humor to my written word. I like to think I'm a fairly funny person, although my children and closest friends might tell you something different!

Some of the captions are technical. I talk about how I, as a wedding photographer, was able to make the image that you are looking at. I talk about things like apertures and shutter speeds, composition and storytelling. I talk about the light, whether I found it were made it, and how the light contributed to the story I was trying to tell with the image.



Some of the wedding photography image captions on this website are serious. I tell the stories of my clients. I talk about how emotionally connected I felt to the moment that I was capturing. I talk about my life experiences. I even have an entire page on this website dedicated to what I learned from planning my own wedding.

I am really good with words. I have written over 250,000 words for this website. I have written educational articles for brides, grooms, families, and even for wedding photographers directly. I have written text books and articles for wedding photographers.

Love is love is love is love

However, sometimes words fail me. When attempting to describe how incredibly important I believe it is for people to be able to love the one they love the most, I cannot find the words. It is such a simple thing, to be able to marry your soulmate. It should be such a simple thing. It should always be a glorious celebration, a beautiful thing to be treasured, and a right that we should all celebrate equally. Together.

My dear friend Emily put it better than I ever could with this text on her [wedding photography website](#):

"As photographers who celebrate love and its expression in all forms, we are enthusiastically supportive of gay weddings in Vermont and beyond. we adore photographing couples who adore each other; whether that's two grooms, two brides, or whatever combination of labels makes you feel happy and joyful.

We have close friends and family members in the gay community, and the pride and elation we felt when the supreme court ruled that marriage equality was established nationwide can hardly be described. Our emotive and fluid way of working with our clients throughout their wedding days allows us to capture genuine emotion and affection between newlyweds.

We don't work from a set list of poses that assume gender stereotypes; we prefer instead to see our clients as individuals with their own histories and ideas, not objects to be molded into a rigid framework to make an image look a certain way. this style of creating unique and romantic portraits works with anyone: gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer; it doesn't matter how you identify as long as you're in love.

We carry this philosophy through all aspects of our business, and strive to be inclusive and supportive with a public voice, choosing to showcase beautiful images from the weddings of a wide variety of couples rather than quietly stating our good intentions."

I loved her words so much that I asked permission to share them here. Thanks Em, for letting me!

Gay marriage in New York

Photographing this wedding was an extraordinary honor. I have known one of the grooms since my days in high school, and I was completely blown away when he reached out to me for his own wedding photography.



It was an absolutely gorgeous day that these two men were married. The sun was high in the sky, and time it seemed to stop all they said their vows to each other. It was such an extraordinarily moving and personal ceremony.

If you are celebrating your love and sealing it with a marriage ceremony, I would be honored to be there. I would be proud to stand by you as you say your vows and begin your life together as a newly married couple. I would be honored to be your wedding photographer.

I hope to hear from you soon. I would love to tell your story.

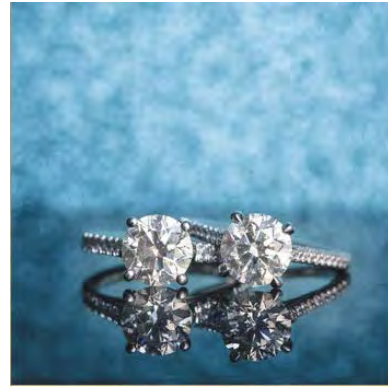
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1/250; f/4.5; ISO 160; 200.0 mm.

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Gay Wedding Photography



History Was Made, We Move Forward

After a very long battle, we won! Same-sex marriage became legal in New York State in 2011, but it was not until

June 26, 2015 that “the Supreme Court ruled that it is legal for all Americans, no matter their gender or sexual orientation, to marry the people they love.” Fast-forward to 2020-21, same-

sex marriage has become commonplace.

For the record, I feel a little uncomfortable referring to our marriages as “same-sex weddings” or “gay weddings.” The battle that our community has fought for so long is not so that we can have “special rights,” but so that we can be free to marry who we love — that we hold the same rights that most citizens in the U.S. have always enjoyed.

So, until recently, I’ve taken a somewhat political stance by not qualifying our unions any differently than “weddings.” However, given the relative newness of it all and the way in which people search for goods and services on the internet, I identify it as “gay wedding photography” here.

I photographed my first gay wedding in 2010 which saw Josie and Pankti get married on the beach in [Provincetown, Massachusetts](#). Now, nearly half of my business is gay wedding photography. This experience has also contributed towards my willingness to think and talk about our weddings differently. While we now have the same rights everyone else has, when it comes to marriage, our ceremonies and celebrations often take a different form.

Why do I love photographing gay weddings?

In large part, it’s because many of my clients never imagined the possibility of a nationally legal marriage for themselves. While it’s commonplace in 2020-21, it’s still a historically new phenomenon. There’s an added layer to the celebration because — after having been in loving, committed

relationships for 10, 15, 25 years, some having raised families in that time — they are now able to get married. These are truly remarkable events.

My approach to any wedding informs what you will ultimately see in my photographs — I listen to my clients, first. I want to know everything about your wedding and the two of you. How did you meet? What do you like about each other? How did you decide to get married? What are your families like? What are you wearing? Who is speaking? What are you most excited about and looking forward to about your wedding? What kind of pictures do you like? Where do you want me to photograph you? Are you comfortable in front of the camera? Do you need help knowing how to stand? Or do you prefer more candid portraits? Everyone has a different level of comfort in front of a camera and I want to know yours.

I love photographing people. It is my passion. People continually surprise me. You just never know what they will do from one moment to the next, which is why I love photographing weddings. For one or two days, people come together from different parts of the world, different families, different cultures, all with one thing in common: they are celebrating two people WHO they love. It’s a melting pot of love and connection. As the phenomenon of gay weddings just begins to unfold, there is often a remarkable intensity that I’m fortunate to be able to document.

— Laurie



➔ [Learn more](#) about my photography training, awards, exhibitions and work history. If you're planning, I would love to hear the details — I'm happy to schedule a phone call, Skype session or an in-person meeting.



History Was Made, We Move Forward

After a very long battle, we won! Same-sex marriage became legal in New York State in 2011, but it was not until June 26, 2015 that ["the Supreme Court ruled that it is legal for all Americans, no matter their gender or sexual orientation, to marry the people they love."](#) Fast-forward to 2020-21, same-sex marriage has become commonplace.

For the record, I feel a little uncomfortable referring to our marriages as "same-sex weddings" or "gay weddings." The battle that our community has fought for so long is not so that we can have "special rights," but so that we can be free to marry who we love — that we hold the same rights that most citizens in the U.S. have always enjoyed.

So, until recently, I've taken a somewhat political stance by not qualifying our unions any differently than "weddings." However, given the relative newness of it all and the way in which people search for goods and services on the internet, I identify it as "gay wedding photography" here.

I photographed my first gay wedding in 2010 which saw Josie and Pankti get married on the beach in [Provincetown, Massachusetts](#). Now, nearly half of my business is gay wedding photography. This experience has also contributed towards my willingness to think and talk about our weddings differently. While we now have the same rights everyone else has, when it comes to marriage, our ceremonies and celebrations often take a different form.

Why do I love photographing gay weddings?

In large part, it's because many of my clients never imagined the possibility of a nationally legal marriage for themselves. While it's commonplace in 2020-

21, it's still a historically new phenomenon. There's an added layer to the celebration because — after having been in loving, committed relationships for 10, 15, 25 years, some having raised families in that time — they are now able to get married. These are truly remarkable events.

My approach to any wedding informs what you will ultimately see in my photographs — I listen to my clients, first. I want to know everything about your wedding and the two of you. How did you meet? What do you like about each other? How did you decide to get married? What are your families like? What are you wearing? Who is speaking? What are you most excited about and looking forward to about your wedding? What kind of pictures do you like? Where do you want me to photograph you? Are you comfortable in front of the camera? Do you need help knowing how to stand? Or do you prefer more candid portraits? Everyone has a different level of comfort in front of a camera and I want to know yours.

I love photographing people. It is my passion. People continually surprise me. You just never know what they will do from one moment to the next, which is why I love photographing weddings. For one or two days, people come together from different parts of the world, different families, different cultures, all with one thing in common: they are celebrating two people WHO they love. It's a melting pot of love and connection. As the phenomenon of gay weddings just begins to unfold, there is often a remarkable intensity that I'm fortunate to be able to document.

— Laurie





➔ [Learn more](#) about my photography training, awards, exhibitions and work history. If you're planning, I would love to hear the details — I'm happy to schedule a phone call, Skype session or an in-person meeting.

"One of New York's finest photographers"

—Professional Photographer Magazine

CONTACT LAURIE

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LGTBQ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY IN NEW YORK

We love all of our wedding couples. We love our same sex couples. Our gay couples. Our lesbian couples. Our straight couples. Our Queer couples.

There is nothing quite as moving as photographing a wedding between two people who have had to fight for the right to get married, and who continue to fight for equal rights under all of our laws.

It is amazing to witness parents who love and support their gay, lesbian and transgendered children.

I have celebrated with their friends, gay and straight, as the couple hits the dance floor for the first time as husband and wife, partners in love.

We have been honored to photograph many queer weddings in New York City and all over the Hudson Valley and throughout New England.

Our photography has been recognized by: Equally Wed, Gayweddings.com, Brides Magazine, New York Magazine and The Knot Print Editions.

Many of our images were also featured in "The New Art of Capturing Love" available in its second edition on Amazon.com.

Why differentiate gay weddings from straight weddings?

We book what we show. If we didn't actively work our advertising to feature queer couples they may not find us and we want them to find us! The bonus for us is that our straight couples families are diverse. Most of our straight couples have gay friends, trans friends, queer friends and families. We want all couples to know that we are inclusive and marriage and gender equality is important to us.

Are you a queer owned business?

Yes. I married my longtime partner Linda in 2013 in Red Hook, New York. We also strive to use only vendors who support unequivocally marriage equality.

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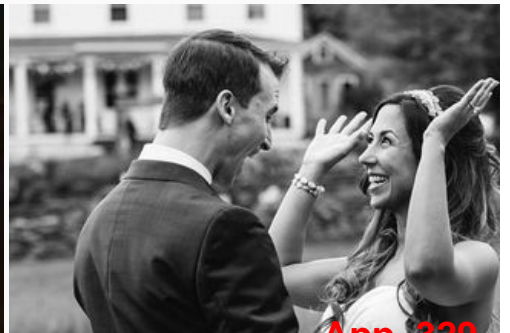
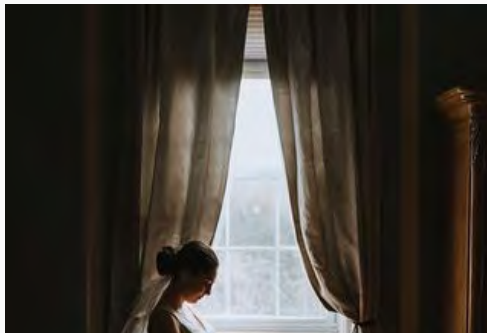
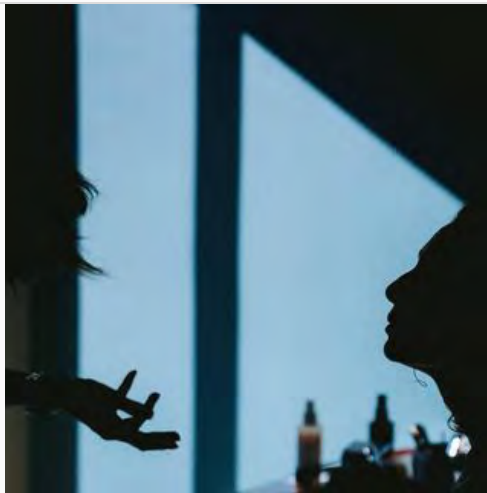
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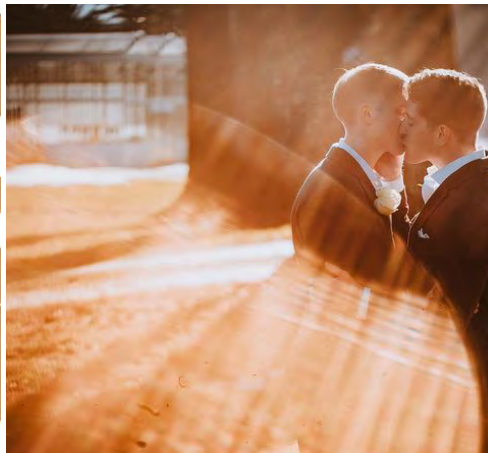


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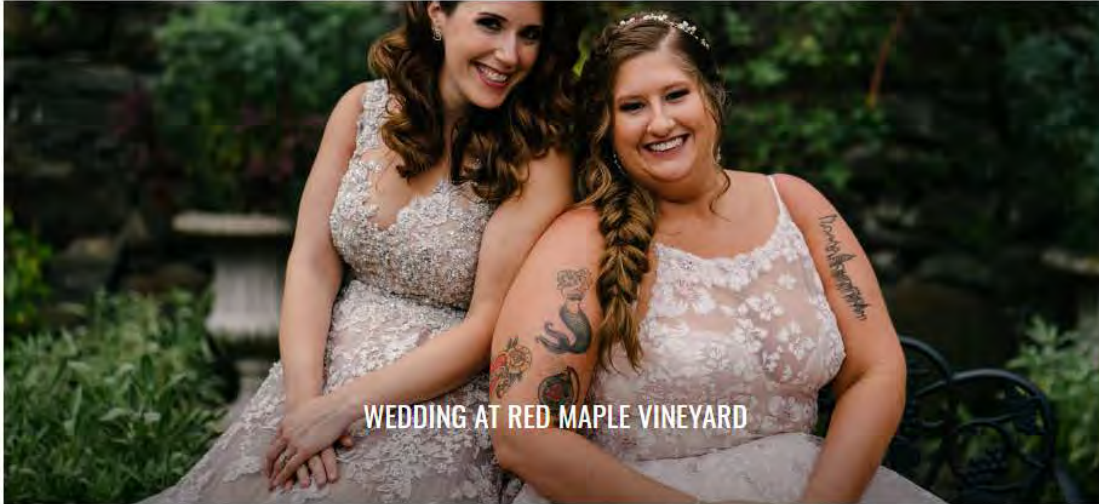
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WEDDING AT RED MAPLE VINEYARD

These two lovely ladies married this fall at Red Maple Vineyard in West Park, New York. Their wedding was a magical affair, gorgeous flowers, amazing dresses, good food and music and enough love to fill several tents! Enjoy their wedding story!

- Venue: Red Maple Vineyard
- Wedding Planner: Jeanne Stark, Hudson Valley Ceremonies
- Flowers: Floral Fantasies, Sara Salazar
- Music: Diverse Concert Artists, Altitude Band of Around Town Entertainment
- Catering: Corner Stone Caterers, Deisings Bakery
- Rentals: Columbia Tent Rentals, Hudson Valley Vintage Rentals
- Dresses: Hayley Paige, Tony Ward
- Shoes: Harriet Wilde, Gucci, Toms









CAPPETTA ANGELA

Love is Love

Love is Love

CAPPETTA ANGELA

Love is Love. NYC Wedding Photography and Article by Angela

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Paul Cutting Restoration Artist Interview by NYC Photographer

Recent Comments

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Cappetta

Love is love! The Supreme Court has cleared the way for same sex marriage in CA. And now, DOMA has its place in history as an unconstitutional ban. What does this mean? This means I can photograph more and more weddings in a land where all are truly equal. Thank you Supreme Court, you done good. Here are a few highlights of favorite same sex moments from weddings and engagements we love.

Barry H. on NYC Photographers on Painters: An Interview by Angela Cappetta

Caroline on Your New York Central Park Wedding Photo Survival Guide

Yelena Smith on Your New York Central Park Wedding-Photo Survival Guide

Shoot Film on Seven Must Have Wedding Shots

Zara the Photographer on Your New York Central Park Wedding-Photo Survival Guide

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(<https://www.parkavestudio>)

LGBTQ+ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

Since the 1970s, people have been fighting for the right to marry their same-sex partners. Finally on June 26, 2015, The Supreme Court ended all state-level bans and made same-sex union legal in all 50 states. Park Ave Studio believes in equality for all and is thrilled to be a part of this historic time in the United States.

WE LOVE TAKING LGBTQ+ WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

Love is love. And it's our job as your **wedding photographer and videographer** to capture the love between the wedding couple. We are known in the industry as being some of the most unobtrusive wedding photographers, meaning we allow you to enjoy your wedding while still filming and capturing all the little details you've spent months planning to make your day special.

WHY PARK AVE STUDIO

As Long Island's premiere wedding photographers, we offer you our professional, courteous, and creative services to make sure your wedding pictures are as inspiring as your love for one another. With over 1,000 weddings in our portfolio, Park Ave Studio will provide you with amazing and unique photography and videography that you can cherish for a lifetime.

Contact one of our experts today by filling out our contact form (<https://parkavestudio.com/contact/>), or by calling (631) 589-7735.

Browse our gallery for samples of our LGBTQ+ wedding photos and videos!



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A b o u t



<http://kellyprizel.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/about-kelly-prizel.jpg>

My Mantra: The reason I started in this industry was because I had something to say. Namely,

“Where are the f**king gay people? The people of color? Where are the rip-your-heart-out-emotionally-gorgeous weddings minus the trendy hipster-gear?”

I love people choosing to commit publicly to each other. Each wedding I shoot, whether you're 20 or 50, gay or straight, black, white or anything else, I strive to tell the story of what your wedding is about: love, community, and commitment.

Need a hand? Text me at 203-513-9377 to find out if your wedding date is available right now



<http://kellyprizel.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/kelly-natalie-from-emilia-jane-42.jpg>

I'm pretty much the gayest photographer you'll ever meet. That means lots of different things to different people, but for me it means:

- Though I'm inexplicably attracted to Jeff Goldblum, I'm married to my lady- friend and wife, Natalie.
- I bleed glitter.
- I've focused on LGBTQ folks from the inception of my business and have made those hundreds of queer couples the center of my mission.

If you're LGBT or Q or all/none of the above, I want to shoot you. In a good way. With my camera.

As the late-great queer theorist Eve Sedgwick once put it, "People are different from each other." Difference is what I love most about wedding photography: if I wanted to work in a uniform setting with uniform objects, I'd be a food photographer. Or at least do only one kind of wedding with one type of couple. Yawn.

What excites me most about my job is the opportunity to meet widely divergent people, celebrate with them, and carefully craft aesthetically compelling images that have the emotional feel of an old snapshot.

I'm a FEMINIST, pet mom, a dinosaur nerd, a huge Jad Abumrad fan, and an avid watcher of The Wire. Also, you should know, I'm half of a wife-wife team. Natalie, whose day job is getting a PhD in Victorian literature, is my second shooting side- kick, co-pet-parent, and the Bert to my Ernie—but not quite as cranky, just practical.

If you're looking to hang out with some baller lesbians who also take fantastic photos of everyone, we're your girls.

Located in Princeton, NJ but I travel up and down the East Coast. [Contact me \(http://kellyprizel.com/contact/\)](http://kellyprizel.com/contact/) to tell me where you're getting hitched. Or go ahead and text me 203-513-9377.

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 - No: Fake poses
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Pet Mom



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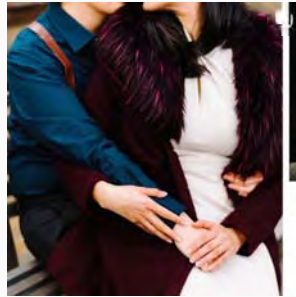
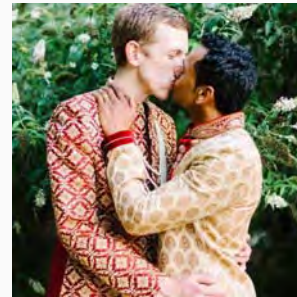


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Weddings

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HEY, I'M KATE.

IT'S SO GREAT TO MEET YOU!

ONCE UPON A TIME

I always loved Disney growing up, but working for them had never crossed my mind. In college, an advisor suggested applying to their student program, which I didn't even know existed. It was a defining, mind-blowing, light bulb moment! Less than a year later, I was heading to the West Coast after being offered a dream job, as a PhotoPass Photographer at Disneyland! My camera quickly became my favorite thing as I sharpened my skills. I soon joined the exclusive special events team photographing international dance teams, marching bands, live shows, all your favorite characters, and countless proposals in the Magic Kingdom for five enchanting years.

A NY LOVE STORY

In 2014, I followed a new dream to New York City. Since then, I've been using my own pixie dust to creatively capture personal fairytales with colorful imagery of the absolute coolest couples. My style is a little offbeat, a little alternative, and a little non-traditional. It's vibrant and inclusive, with pops of punchy color, and filled with love. Weddings set my heart on fire, the same way that Disney magic did. *Telling love stories is what I was meant to do.*

QUEEN OF THE CASTLE

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Photo by Whom Studio (<http://whomstudio.com/>)

My pronouns are she/her. I'm an introverted Aries, a very independent first born child, and a part-time bartender. I collect tattoos and colorful leather jackets and am always up for happy hour. My wife, Olivia (who I met at Disneyland), and I love to snuggle with our rescue chihuahua, play board games, and advocate for equality. We also love visiting new places and sharing our adventures on LesBiTravels (<https://www.lesbitravels.com/>), our travel blog for queer womxn. I am a co-founder of the Queer Wedding Collective (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/225942235497924/>), a planning and advice resource for the LGBTQIA+ community, and lead the NYC chapter of the Rising Tide Society (<https://newyork.therisingtidesociety.com/>), an international network of creative entrepreneurs and small business owners.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

As a photographer and a recent bride, I know wedding planning can be overwhelming. With an education in event management and marketing, 15 years of hospitality experience, and 10 years in photography, I promise to make sure everything is a piece of Funfetti cake!

I currently split my time between New York City and New England, and am available for travel. If you're interested in working together on your wedding day, send me (<https://www.katealisonphoto.com/contact>) all the details by clicking "Let's Make Magic" below or emailing me at kate@katealisonphoto.com. I can't wait to hear from you!

LET'S MAKE MAGIC! (/CONTACT)



KEEP IN TOUCH

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A Little Magic, Two Gorgeous People, and So Much Love. Same Sex Backyard DIY Wedding in Rochester, NY

Ciao! I'm so excited that you're here! So many people already know me as [Ciao Bella Boudoir](http://ciaobellaboudoir.com/) (<http://ciaobellaboudoir.com/>), a business I've owned since 2008. I also was co-owner of Hanlon-Fiske Studios, shooting weddings since 2009. In 2016 I launched [Ciao Bella Studios](http://ciaobella-studios.com/) (<http://ciaobella-studios.com/>) and I couldn't be more excited! Under Ciao Bella Studios I will be continuing to photograph gorgeous weddings, fresh and lovely newborn babes, and amazingly fierce boudoir. These things are food for my soul. I can't express how much joy I receive from each and every one of these shoots. I am one lucky girl!

I have worked with so many amazing people over the years, and 2016 was no different. I've always told my clients that it's the relationships I build with my couples that allows me to create magic. I now have friends all over the world, friends who let me into their lives for one of the most important days of their lives. A major bucket list goal is to travel the world. I've had invitations from lovely souls in Switzerland, London, Berlin, Nice, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Carolina; this goal is closer all the time! Wouldn't it be incredible to line up weddings in each of those locations? YES!! Make some magic happen!



One of my amazing couples is Kyle and Stephane. When I first heard from Kyle, he sent me a link where I would get to see Stephane propose! How amazing is that? Even more amazing? Stephane proposed while they competed on Italy's Got Talent. (<https://youtu.be/U8JVGwHXBvA>) Seriously? I cry every. single. time. (Yes, I may have watched it a few times :)) The biggest part of this wasn't that it was on the show, it was that Stephane dared to propose to Kyle when Gay marriage was not legal in Italy. Their very public engagement was part of a HUGE push in Italy to legalize same sex weddings. On June 5th, 2016, Gay marriage was officially legalized in Italy. So when Kyle and Stephane were married in Pittsford, New York this past September, it was also legally recognized in Italy! How amazing is that!

So now that you've dried your tears of joy from watching that proposal, on to their gorgeous wedding! Kyle and Stephane did everything with the help of their families. Their wedding was in Kyle's aunt's backyard. They spent a ton of time cleaning up a wooded area by a stream, creating PURE MAGIC! I'm not kidding, the light made me tingle. Every shot I took had this pure magic to it that is indescribable. Since I can't find enough words in the english language to do it justice, see the photos below!

Every detail was perfect. They chose to decorate with a simple geometric white theme with touches of greenery. There were lawn games for family and friends to play during cocktail hour.



Kyle and Stephane got ready together, dressing in completely matching suits. Who looks this good in a suit, let alone BOTH looking this good in the same suit?



The ceremony? Perfection. You didn't think I was exaggerating that magical light, did you? Goosebumps. Kyle and Stephane created that arbor themselves with potted plants and twinkly lights, this is my favorite ceremony site to date!



Remember those suits I mentioned? Can't you just feel the love they share? Look at the way Kyle looks at Stephane! I didn't pose these two, they were so natural and comfortable in front of the camera. Have I mentioned how lucky I am?



And finally their reception. Such a blast! The clear topped tent was overflowing with love and joy. And again, you can feel it just from the photos. This is why I do what I do. This is why I consider myself incredibly fortunate every day.



A HUGE thank you to my partner in crime, Jen Waldow! She has been my rock over the last couple of years. I am SO excited to move forward with her as my second!

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About



IT'S AWESOME TO MEET YOU!

Hi! I'm Teri, owner and main photographer at Ciao Bella Studios. I am snarky, driven, nerdy, fiercely proud of my kiddos (who are equally as snarky as I), totally in love with my handsomely bearded, amazingly talented photographer husband Dave Jones of [Empire West Live](http://www.empirewestlive.com/) (<http://www.empirewestlive.com/>), (seriously, go check out his live band photography, the man rocks), and excited to join you on this crazy journey of getting married! I am an inclusive photographer who believes with all my heart that you should never have to say "are you ok that we're...". Dude, seriously, all I want to know is this: Are you in love?

Do you want epically emotional photographs of an awesome day? And finally, and maybe most importantly, can we hang out? You see, one of those most important things to think about when hiring your photographer is exactly that, would you hang out with that person? Because we are going to spend a lot of time together. And it is going to be AWESOME!

WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT MAKE ME, ME?

- I can not start my day without cinnamon in my coffee.
- I will never give up cheese. You can't make me. Give me wine and cheese and we'll be friends.
- I will go from listening to Green Day to The Beatles, to the ENTIRE Guardians of the Galaxy album over and over. Yes I have it on vinyl.
- I am addicted to vinyl. As are my husband and my kids.
- The best song to listen to LOUDLY in your car, especially randomly at an intersection with all of your windows open is 'Hooked on a Feeling' by Blue Swede. Fight me. I'll win. Ooga-chaka ooga ooga.
- I drive a cafe racer motorcycle. I drive it really slow. Because – safety. But it looks kick-ass. I do want to learn how to drive a dirt bike and drive it really fast though!
- My favorite past times are: going into the youtube rabbit hole selecting random songs. Start with anything by Hall and Oates, you'll thank me. Putting weird puzzles together with my husband (ask me about the MC Escher one, no it's not done), watching ANY comic novel movie, hiking, camping, baking and cooking, starting lists, buying notebooks, and reading.
- I can help any woman find her fierce in a boudoir session. Any. Woman. And every woman's partner will thank me after, trust me.

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- I was a nurse. I worked in the emergency room. There's pretty much nothing that can happen on a wedding day that can throw me. I've got you covered. This also makes me really good at handling high stress situations. Give me that list of the people that will stress you out on your wedding day, I'll handle it. Maintaining the calm is what an ER nurse does.
- My business name comes from when I worked as a visiting nurse. I was assigned an older Italian patient who wouldn't allow anyone to touch her. She didn't speak a bit of English, and no one could connect with her. My first day with her I walked in and said "Ciao Bella!" It's honestly the only Italian I knew, but it was enough. That tiny bit of connection was all she needed. She allowed me to care for her, draw her blood, anything that was needed. And all because I made the attempt to connect with her. That lesson has never left me.

Proud to support my LGBTQ+ family. I firmly and adamantly believe that **LOVE is LOVE!**



[Click here to see Ciao Bella Studios' latest feature on LoveInc \(https://loveincmag.com/an-emotional-celebration-on-the-steps-of-buffalos-history-museum/\)](https://loveincmag.com/an-emotional-celebration-on-the-steps-of-buffalos-history-museum/)



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An elegant, intimate wedding in Manhattan for two brides. They got ready together at the Highline Hotel and took portraits on the grounds that used to be a monastery. Their ceremony took place at Carnegie Hall, followed by a luncheon reception at Maialino.

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A Chic Vintage Lesbian Wedding in Brooklyn | Kat & Lauren (/blog/kat-laurens-brooklyn-lesbian-wedding)

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Kat and Lauren's Brooklyn wedding mixed Black tie styling and luxurious details with slightly vintage touches, resulting in a wonderfully modern, feminine wedding day.

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Bryan and Tim's Northfork Vineyard wedding photos.

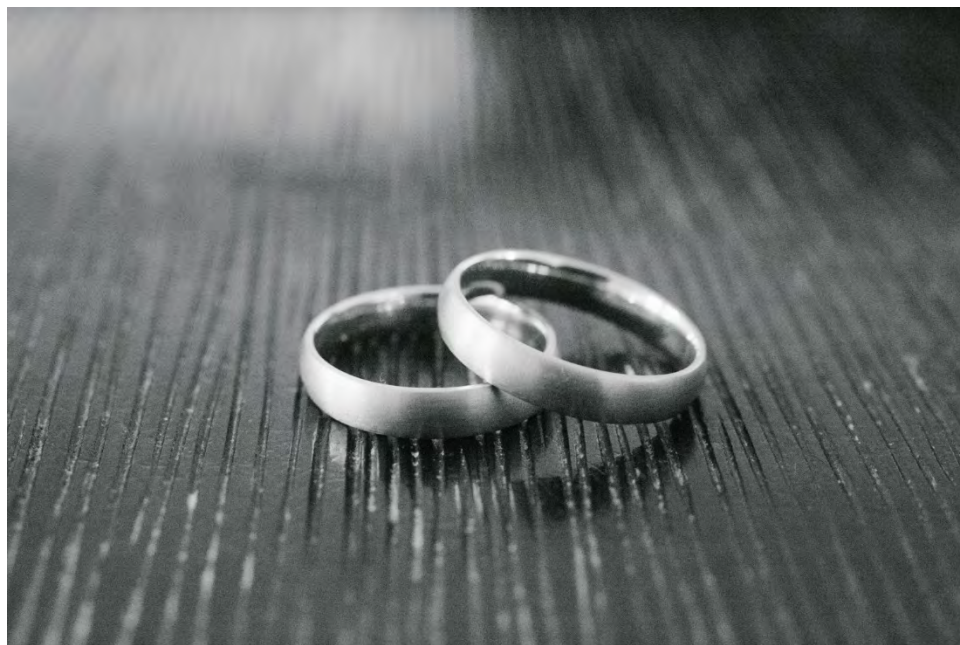
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NYC + Thailand

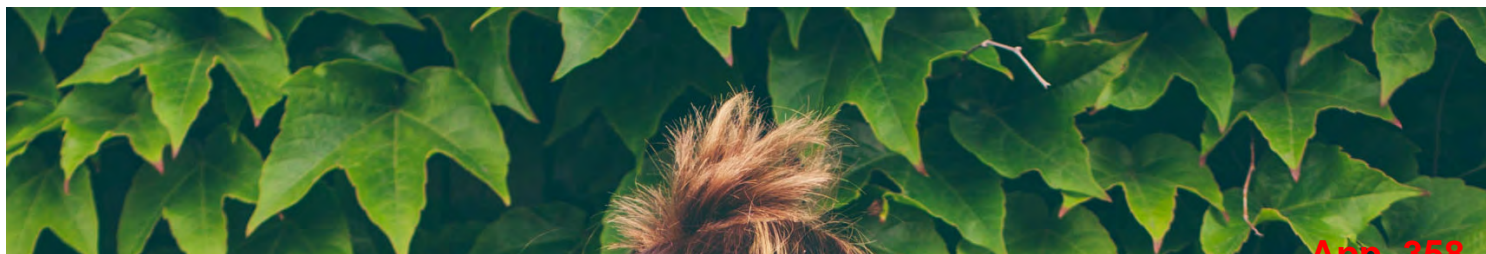
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GAY WEDDING AT WINDRIFT HALL COLLIN + RAJA

DECEMBER 3, 2019



Testimonials

what people are sayin'

Her energy is unbelievable and her eye for documenting moments is astounding. She made all of our guests comfortable and captured our day beautifully. Her ability to catch the little things happening around us was incredible. She will give you everything you ask for and help you to know what you may be missing. Our parents and other guests were so impressed with how efficiently she worked and always with a smile.

Johnny + Adam

We wanted a queer-friendly photographer who could capture the right moments, and Erica proved to be so much more than that. The photos were the most important element of the wedding for us, and we couldn't be happier with our decision. Erica was so tuned into every stage of the wedding that she caught so many moments we wouldn't have otherwise remembered, or that we'd viewed from a different vantage, or even that we missed entirely. She had a magical ability to be present everywhere at once, but simultaneously nearly imperceptible and completely unobtrusive.

Tatum + Mekhala

As artists ourselves, trusting someone else to take the photographs of a carefully choreographed wedding wasn't an easy step and involved reviewing hundreds of portfolios. While we were impressed by the imagination and technical skill we saw in Erica's online work, we were dazzled in person by how carefully she listened and how clearly she understood what we wanted. And then she managed to exceed those already stratospheric expectations, producing an exquisite tableaux of the two of us. Photos that played with and defied convention... group portraits that avoided the stiffness that seems endemic to the structure, and deeply moving action shots that somehow caught just the right major

moments, but also the minor ones. We spend most of our time critically assessing images, and we were blown away by Erica's artistry and professionalism. If this weren't intended as a once-in-a-lifetime event, we'd want to work with Erica all over again.

Jill + Anna

COPYRIGHT © ERICA CAMILLE 2021 // NYC WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER // LGBT WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER // THAILAND WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER. PHOTOS THAT MAKE PEOPLE WISH THEY WERE THERE.





I have been a photographer for the last 10 years, shooting weddings, elopements and portraits. Located in Brooklyn, NY, I work with all types of couples, but am proud to have shot more than 100 same sex weddings,

which is probably more than, well, just about anyone. That said, I've worked with almost as many straight couples as LGBT ones. I don't discriminate. All couples are welcome, brides and grooms, brides and brides, or grooms and grooms.

As a portrait photographer I have turned my lens on thousands of subjects, but I have a particular fascination for people who seem to live in a different time and place. I work with lovers of vintage clothing, wearing everything from suits of armor, to flapper dresses, to poodle skirts, and just about everything in between. I photograph steampunks, goth families, and burlesque queens.

There are many other photographers whose work inspires me, but my primary inspiration comes from painters. Especially John Singer Sargent. I long for the days that people sat for portraits. Enough with the selfies already!

I've won numerous awards including:

2014 Rangefinder Wedding Photography contest, People's Choice award.

First Place winner 2013 Top Knots contest for best wedding photography of the year, getting ready division.

Winner 2013 Faces contest for best portrait photography of the year, children's portrait division.

I've also been featured in many magazines, newspapers and online publications including:

CNN.com, New York Magazine, Photo District News, Rangefinder, The New York Times, Newsday, New York Daily News, Shutterbug Magazine, Wedding Pride Magazine, NYC Pride Guide, Time Out New York, The OffBeat Bride, and various jumbotron screens across Times Square.

Here's are some random facts about me. I...

- Love show tunes.
- Saw a ghost once. Ask me to tell the story.
- Am always up for good barbecue.
- Still cry when Bambi's Mother dies.
- Mastered Photoshop before I learned photography.

- Lived in Italy for a year and would go back in a second.
- Once photographed a rarely seen sperm whale, just below the Arctic Circle.
- Designed ten-years' worth of souvenir books for Walt Disney World

- Love live theater and have seen over 500 shows since moving to New York (and have the Playbills to prove it).
- Created my own costume jewelry line, which was featured in Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Elle, Life magazine, among many others, and was sold in hundreds of stores around the world.



— THE NEW ART OF —
CAPTURING
LOVE

The Essential Guide to Lesbian and Gay
Wedding Photography

Kathryn Hamm and Thea Dodds

Foreword by Martie Maguire
of the Dixie Chicks and Court Yard Hounds

AMPHOTO BOOKS
an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group
New York

IN THE CANON OF POSE BOOKS FOR photographing couples, one can find, almost without exception, heterosexual couples and traditional wedding moments: a man and a woman, a tux and a wedding gown, wedding parties divided by gender, a bouquet toss, the first dance, and so on. This is “heteronormativity” in action—a worldview grounded in heterosexuality as the norm—and it is so deeply ingrained in our culture that we may not even realize that we have a biased foundation informing our expectations and wedding-planning experiences. Because of this, even well-meaning, open-minded, and seasoned photographers can end up applying recommendations specific to opposite-sex couples to all of their clients, regardless of sexual orientation.

As a result, during their sessions, photographers may find themselves asking things of same-sex couples that are awkward at best and offensive at worst. For example, it’s awkward to see two men on their wedding day posed as siblings or platonic friends, and it can be downright offensive if a photographer recommends poses that presume that one member of the couple is the “man” (the masculine one) and the other is the “woman” (the feminine one).

Undoubtedly, the suggestions of traditional pose books can be a helpful starting place but an overreliance on outdated traditions, techniques, and poses can be problematic if a photographer shows up unprepared for two brides in pants, a mixed-gender wedding party, a dance between a groom and his father, or a reception without

staged wedding moments like the cutting of the cake.

That’s why photographers must first understand that a “new lens” is needed when planning for and photographing same-sex couples. With fresh eyes and a deeper understanding of poses that work for same-sex couples—as well as those that don’t. Then the important work of capturing authentic, intimate moments can begin.

IS IT REALLY SO DIFFERENT?

While it can be said that beautiful wedding photography is beautiful wedding photography regardless of sexual orientation, it cannot also be said that the *process* of creating beautiful wedding images is the same (see, for example, page 13 for the “Top 5 Myths About Same-Sex Wedding Photography”). Traditional wedding photography relies on basic assumptions built around a white gown and a tux (or dark suit), masculine and feminine gender roles, and expectations of the physical differences between a man and a woman. Generally speaking, these assumptions do not translate well to most same-sex couples. For example, while a dip pose (a wedding-playbook standard) might easily translate to the average straight couple, the pose could fall flat—literally and figuratively—for a same-sex couple.

Let’s consider the two primary types of differences between opposite- and same-sex couples: physical differences and cultural differences. *Physical* differences are those we



If two women wear a suit-and-dress combination, they should not necessarily be assigned the overtly masculine and feminine roles outlined in traditional pose books. The subtleties of their authentic connection might be lost.

SARAH TEW PHOTOGRAPHY

Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 85mm lens, ISO 2000, $\frac{1}{250}$ sec. at $f/1.2$

can see, such as gender pairing (two brides or two grooms) and attire selection. As we discussed earlier, many photographers, through no fault of their own, operate with a set of outdated assumptions when photographing a wedding: that there will be a man (a masculine partner) and a woman (a feminine partner), that there will be contrasting attire (a tux or dark suit and a white dress), and that there will be a height and strength difference (the man will be taller and stronger than the woman). And these physical or observable elements are the foundations for the engagement and wedding poses found in

most photography books. Other physical, or observable, differences include the following:

- Same-sex couples often get ready for the ceremony together.
- There might be no wedding gown to feature—or there might be two to share the spotlight.
- Double bouquet and boutonniere pairings and placement can introduce new challenges.
- There might be one aisle, two aisles, or no aisle at all.
- Wedding parties might be imbalanced in number, of mixed gender, or informal.



Using a telephoto lens for an environmental portrait can allow the couple to have a private moment during a session.

AUTHENTIC EYE PHOTOGRAPHY

Canon EOS 1D Mark II, 70–200mm lens, ISO 400, $\frac{1}{800}$ sec. at f/4.5

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE ASKING

Beyond understanding lighting and camera techniques, photographers do what they do well by knowing how to pose individuals and couples

in a flattering way. Placing different couples in the same poses provides different results. These “differences” can be a challenge but can also help take an image from ordinary to extraordinary. Posing subjects is a bit like working a jigsaw puzzle. Find the right piece and things

will “click” into a place that is natural for the couple. But remember, working effectively with same-sex couples means being mindful of the physical and cultural differences present for any given couple.

One of the best ways to think about this is to know what you are asking of a couple. Is what you are asking a bad physical fit for them? Is it inadvertently offensive or insensitive? Experienced photographers know that it takes time for any couple to relax, feel less self-conscious, and “be themselves” with a lens trained on them. In working with same-sex couples, this dynamic can be complicated further. Are they comfortable showing physical affection in a public setting? Are you comfortable with a same-sex couple in a loving embrace? Thankfully, more same-sex couples than ever feel comfortable being themselves in public—and more members of the general public are accustomed to seeing same-sex couples hold hands or embrace, too.

To aim for more authentic results, start by establishing a rapport with your couple, and then follow a progression of poses, with slight physical adjustments made to capture the couple’s love in the most flattering and authentic light (literally and figuratively!).

POSING TWO WOMEN OR TWO MEN

To begin, think about posing a same-sex couple following one of four simple patterns: with the individuals side by side, front to front, front

to back, and back to back. In any of these combinations, the couple might be walking, sitting, or leaning, but just about everything else is a variation of one of these examples.

Then, being mindful of the physical and cultural differences, consider how you might photograph the couple in a pose in one of four variations that reflect action, placement, intimacy, or any other important detail. The pose types, while generally self-explanatory, are as follows:

- 1 **Active poses:** Poses in which the couple is in motion, most often in a side-to-side formation.
- 2 **Placement poses:** Poses that rely heavily on the placement of the two individuals in relationship to each other.
- 3 **Intimate poses:** Poses that involve physical contact like kissing and nuzzling.
- 4 **Detail shots:** Images that rely on something other than positioning two bodies to communicate the couple’s relationship.

Regardless of approach, the challenge is to find a variety of poses that are visually interesting and flattering to the individual couple while also staying true to the love, intimacy, and authenticity of the moment. And we believe that building from an active and responsive flow tailored to the individual couple will help you attain those authentic results much more quickly and easily than placing them in the heteronormative poses that dominate pose books.



Be mindful about PDA. [ABOVE] Is the couple comfortable showing public displays of affection? Don't underestimate the reality of a habit of caution for some same-sex couples. One doesn't have to look hard to find LGBTQ individuals who have been bullied or worse and, as a result, may not be comfortable showing public affection with a partner.

CARLY FULLER PHOTOGRAPHY

Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 24-105mm lens, ISO 400, 1/60 sec. at f/4.0

Understand gender expression. [LEFT] Look beyond attire selection to embrace how each individual and couple self-identifies. Don't presume that in every couple there is a "masculine one" and a "feminine one" and that, as such, they should be assigned to the standard male-female poses. Get to know the couple and how they are comfortable expressing themselves to better understand how to pose them.

SARAH TEW PHOTOGRAPHY

Canon EOS 5D, 35mm lens, ISO 640, 1/250 sec. at f/2.5

CONTRAST AND APPEAL

distinctively intertwined

behind the lens

Despite the fact that the majority of wedding photographers shoot digital, some, like Jennifer Badalamenti, have come back around to analog film. In this image, she exposes for the shadows, overexposing the highlights, which results in beautiful colors and skin tones. This technique does not work nearly as well in digital, because once the detail is lost in the highlights of a digital image, it's gone for good. Film is known to have greater latitude within the highlights.

JEN LYNNE PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS-1v 35mm, 85mm lens,
Rollei ASA 400 B&W film, 1/60 sec. at f/2

When photographing two grooms in matching black attire, take extra care to ensure that they don't begin to look like a dark mass with two heads. Your goal is to photograph the male couple intimately intertwined, while maintaining a sense of individualism in the figures.

Here, the simple request to have one groom hold his jacket over his shoulder creates a nice contrast between the men, and it allows plenty of room to play up the traditional wedding colors: black and white.

If your grooms are wearing their jackets, however, try to position their bodies in a way that allows each white shirt to show underneath the black jacket. You might also consider asking one of the grooms to button his jacket and the other to leave his unbuttoned. Remember also to consider hand and feet placement, which are essential to body separation. If the feet, arms, and hands are placed a little apart, allowing light to shine through the space, this will help to accentuate the individuals' bodies.



Get the details. In an opposite-sex wedding, the groom's attire generally takes the backseat. In a wedding with two grooms, opportunities to showcase the details of the men's attire abound. Give it the royal treatment, but make sure you showcase the attire details in a way that references both grooms. An isolated cufflink, ring, or pair of men's shoes could be at any wedding; these images shine because it's clear that those items belong to two grooms.

[ABOVE] ARIELLE DONESON PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 24–70mm lens, ISO 1000, $\frac{1}{250}$ sec. at $f/2.8$

[LEFT] CHRIS LEARY PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS 5D Mark III, 24–70mm lens, ISO 640, $\frac{1}{250}$ sec. at $f/9.0$

[OPPOSITE] LESLIE BARBARO PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 70–200mm lens, ISO 400, $\frac{1}{100}$ sec. at $f/4.0$

IN AN INDUSTRY LONG DOMINATED BY

All Things Bride, one might think that the details surrounding a lesbian wedding would be, well, a piece of cake. Just double everything and call it a day, right? Wrong. Two brides in two gowns who embrace the traditional rituals might give you a long list of standard wedding images and opportunities for iconic moments, but they'll also give you some challenges, like addressing color contrast, posing, and logistics, among other potential cultural differences.

The real shift in thinking about photographing two brides is in understanding that not all couples want a traditional wedding, and even if they do, seemingly limitless wedding attire choices for women add a level of nuance and decision making not generally needed when working with two grooms. Lesbian weddings might feature two brides in gowns, one bride in a dress and one in pants, or two brides in pants. And though following the traditional rules of "who wears the pants in the family" might seem to make posing two women based on what they're wearing a simple proposition, it's actually a bit more complicated. Poses that work for a straight couple (pants and dress) or male couple (pants and pants) may not translate to a female couple because of physical attributes, gender expression, and/or identity.

For those brides who do like to go the traditional route and want a wedding day replete with the traditional bridal trimmings, including two wedding gowns (especially those with trains and full skirts), you'll have some interesting



Karyne and Shvonne's height difference and attire choices need to be considered when posing them in ways that reflect authentically how they identify and relate to each other.

WEDDINGS TO THE PEOPLE

Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 24-70mm lens,
ISO 2000, 1/40 sec. at f/2.8

decisions to make about how to pose the two women in closer proximity than all of that fabric might allow. The choice to follow a traditional path (as we discuss at greater length in chapter 7) also leads to potential wedding-day challenges in which a photographer might find herself needing to be in two different places at the same time in order to capture the spotlight moments of a



Becca and Laura share a sweet smooch in front of the Warwick Hotel in Denver, Colorado, on their wedding day.

ANDREA FLANAGAN PHOTOGRAPHY
Nikon D700, 70–200mm lens, ISO 800, 1/250 sec. at f/2.8

wedding day for each bride (should they both desire them).

Some lesbian couples might choose an attire combination featuring a dress and pants. Some of these couples might identify in a traditional butch-femme or other genderqueer relationship,

and some just might be wearing whatever outfits feel right at the time. Because the ways in which women express their feminine (and, yes, masculine) traits can be more complex than meets the eye, you must tread very carefully and avoid making assumptions about what a bride's

attire says about her gender expression. Resist the urge to automatically apply the male-female poses from the traditional wedding photography playbook to these couples. Sometimes it works; sometimes it doesn't. Get to know the couple. Be thoughtful. Then pose them.

Regardless of what the couple is wearing, it will be important to think about how you pose two women when directing hand placement and when posing them front to front. A man's chest is considered a neutral space for the woman's hand when posing a bride and groom front to front; but a more suggestive, unintended message might result if you are asking one bride to place her hand on her bride's chest. But, again, this will depend on the couple, the positioning, and the presentation of the pair. Similarly, posing two women front to front in a tight embrace might need some additional finesse for the most comfortable and visually appealing fit.

Finally, just as with two grooms, it's important to pay attention to a few other differences when photographing two women. Physically speaking, two dark suits or two white dresses can pose a challenge with contrast; and similar height, shoulder width, and physical shape can mean layering challenges when it comes to posing. Additionally, avoid making assumptions about family participation and the couple's comfort with PDA, while also considering the ages of the couple and the length of time they've been together.

After decades of the wedding industry claiming that the only client who matters is the

bride, a photographer might feel like a kid in a candy store with two brides and one wedding. At a wedding with two brides, the bridal bias is not bias at all. But it does bring with it as many challenges as it does opportunities. Know your brides, and their place in the bridal spectrum, and your rapport will serve you well!



The framing of this image allows us to peek in on a private moment between the brides, while also allowing us to get a longer look at the details of their dresses.

ARS MAGNA STUDIO
Canon EOS 7D, 135mm lens, ISO 1600, 1/1600 sec. at f/2.0

GETTING READY . . . TOGETHER

no surprises here

The rituals surrounding the process of getting ready for a wedding are an excellent example of the results of traditional wedding rituals intersecting with thoughtful photographers and sentimental same-sex couples. The more creative you and your clients wish to get during a preceremony session, the more you'll need to remember that there are also practical implications involved in photographing a wedding with two brides or two grooms.

Generally, at a heterosexual wedding, the primary photographer stays with the bride while she gets ready, and the second photographer (if there is one) covers the groom and his attendants. In the two-brides or two-grooms scenarios, you must consider how to best serve your clients. If the brides (or grooms) will be getting ready together, then it's much easier to work the event alone as a primary photographer. If each of the brides or grooms wants a preceremony session, each does not want to be seen by the other partner, and the logistics of the day do not allow for back-to-back sessions, then the couple will need to think seriously about booking two teams (i.e., one studio with two photographers, two makeup artists, and so on) to help them accomplish this goal on a tight time frame.

behind the lens

There is no right or wrong way to do the preceremony routine. It is well advised, however, that you have this conversation with your clients in advance of the wedding day.

DENVER SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 24–70mm lens,
ISO 1600, 1/50 sec. at f/2.8

THE ALMIGHTY WEDDING GOWN

a double vision

The “average bride” spends over a thousand dollars on her wedding gown. No surprise, then, that the wedding dress has become such a ubiquitous symbol and hallmark of all things wedding. With a price tag like that, and with so much energy focused on what “the bride” will wear, it’s fitting to expect that The Gown will have its own creative and featured place in the wedding album curated by the photographer for the couple.

behind the lens

When working with two brides who want to capture their preceremony routines, consider adding at least one hour to the time you typically budget for photographing one bride, her attire, and the time it takes for her to get ready. You might want to add a bit more time if the brides haven’t seen each other or their gowns and want to save that moment for a Big Reveal.

MAGGIE WINTERS PHOTOGRAPHY
Nikon D700, 24–70mm lens, ISO 200,
1/100 sec. at f/4.0

But what do you do when you have two brides with two gowns? Feature them both? Feature them individually? Or what about two brides with no gowns? Or only one gown? Considering and capturing attire details presents a new challenge and opportunity for the creative professional—with or without those to be attired—that clearly celebrates the clothing choices a couple has selected for their wedding day. And these are important questions that are best asked in advance of the Big Day.

Here, photographer Maggie Winters captures a delightful moment between two brides that not only captures their attire in the obligatory “dress shot” but also adds a playful, personal, and romantic twist.



MAKE IT A DOUBLE!

the little things mean a lot

behind the lens

Ars Magna Studio also offers a fabulous example of making it a double, while showcasing individuality, all with a nod to traditional black-and-white wedding attire (see page 192 in the inspiration gallery).


ARIELLE DONESON PHOTOGRAPHY
Canon EOS 5D Mark II, 24–70mm lens,
ISO 800, 1/100 sec. at f/2.0

Detail shots of attire offer a chance to capture the symbols and subtle touches of a wedding. Photographing a groom's cufflinks comes straight (ahem) from the traditional playbook. You can also play on the grooms' pairing of ties, shoes, pocket squares, and dotting mothers, or on the brides' pairing of sashes, shoes, hair accessories, or proud grandmothers. Also remember that it's important to look for and showcase the complementary accessories (including any of the above for either gender) that a couple might have, especially if they identify as genderqueer or present as two brides in a suit and gown.

WEDDING RITUALS 173



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HOW TO HIRE A WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR GAY WEDDING



Kirsten Ott Palladino, 5 years ago

 3 min



[title maintitle="" subtitle="Tips on hiring the right photographer for you gay wedding"]

Planning a lesbian or gay wedding? Your choice of wedding photographer is even more important when you're gay because their familiarity with same-sex weddings is crucial. This creative professional will be getting quite intimate with you and your partner: zooming in with a mega lens while you kiss, guiding you into romantic embraces for photo ops and then witnessing your love over and over as they edit all the images. You want them to feel comfortable around you just as much as they need to make you feel at ease.



Lesbian brides Robyn and Michelle kissed with ease in front of their gay-friendly wedding photographer, Erin Hoyt.

A symbiotic relationship between the couple and the photographer(s) enables everyone to breathe and just be who they are. If you're not an actor, chances are you've not ever had your kissing formally photographed. If you're comfortable with the photographer, that easy-breezy feeling translates into you looking your best in your engagement and wedding photos.

RELATED: SEARCH FOR GAY-FRIENDLY WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS IN YOUR AREA

Without exception, all of your vendors need to be wholly supportive of your relationship. This is especially essential with your photographers who are going to be all up in your romantic business. But more than just being supportive, it's even better if they have experience working with LGBTQ+

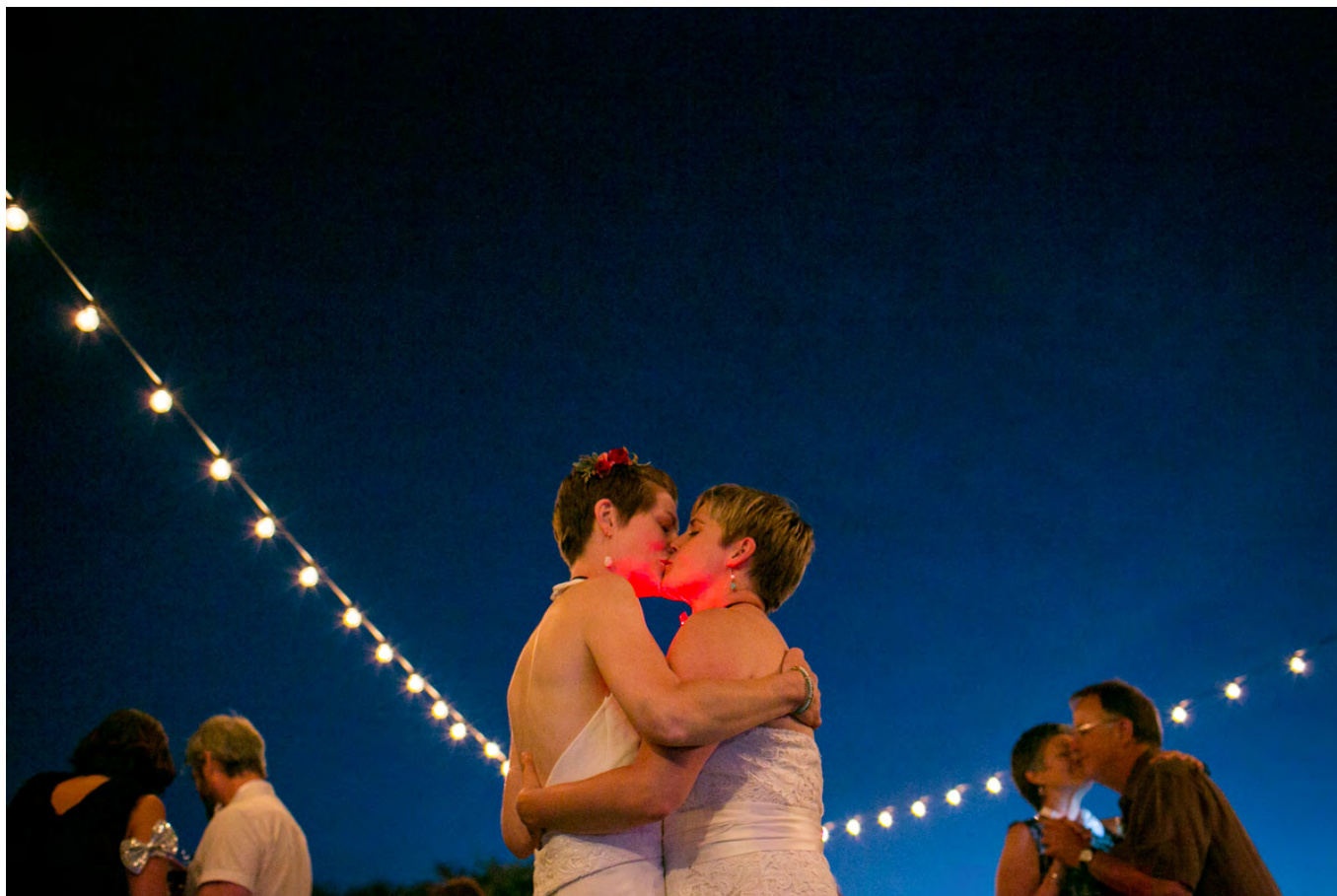
couples in some capacity. Don't be shy in asking if they have experience in this field if you don't see any mention of it on their website or in their marketing materials.



Eric and Edgar's wedding was captured by Brian Leahy Photography.

It's a rough lesson to learn after you have hired someone who takes exceptional photos but is suddenly putting you and your partner into over-the-top heteronormative poses. Many of the world's leading photographers are nervous doing their first same-sex wedding because of one simple fact: They've built their entire career on pigeon-holing their couples into gender-specific heterosexual ideals of what's the "norm."

Surely there's one strong, strapping man who's going to be shot to show off his commitment to protecting the fair, feminine princess bride, right? Not always though sometimes we see this in LGBTQ+ relationships and that's perfect, too. It's not OK for the photographers to do this disservice to LGBTQ+ couples though (and straight people too, for that matter). Gender equality translates to all facets of humans, and most people could experience fuller expressions of themselves if society would ease up on expecting people to fall into an either/or category of gender as well as the typically associated stereotypical expectations of gender.



Gloria and Maggie's wedding celebrated their love as well as marriage equality. It was critical to have someone like Jessica Hill, a wedding photographer who believed in the validity of their commitment.

QUESTIONS TO ASK PHOTOGRAPHERS

- Have you ever worked with an LGBTQ+ couple before?
- Do you consider yourself gay-friendly?
- What's your photography style?
 - *You'll already have an idea of this from their website, but see how they describe it—and if you like what they say.*
- What's your plan if you are sick the day of my wedding?
 - *They should have a backup photographer who will come up.*

- What's your plan if your equipment fails on the day of my wedding?
- Will I receive high-resolution watermark-free images of all of my wedding photos?
 - *Hint: Make sure that's in the contract.*
- What's your turnaround time on wedding photos?
 - *Make sure that's in the contract. Some couples mistakenly believe they'll receive them right after the wedding, only to be waiting for a year.*
- Will I retain the rights to my photographs?
 - *Get that yes in writing.*
- Do you charge extra for travel?
 - *Many photographers now include their travel expenses inside their packages for booking ease.*

TAGS # TWO BRIDES #EQUALITY-MINDED #EXPERT ADVICE #GAY WEDDINGS
#GAY-FRIENDLY #LESBIAN WEDDINGS #LGBTQ WEDDINGS #SAME-SEX WEDDINGS
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Giving Back With Your Wedding Registry



About Us

Who We Are

Equally Wed is an international online LGBTQ+ wedding magazine, book and education resource for LGBTQ+ couples and LGBTQ+ inclusive wedding professionals. Within our inspirational content, we focus on wedding planning, real weddings and engagements, marriage equality news and spotlights gay-friendly LGBTQ+ inclusive wedding vendors. Our content and founders have been featured in or on media outlets such as The New York Times, Washington Post, NPR, CNN, Pop Sugar, Glamour magazine, The Knot, Huffington Post, Curve magazine, The Advocate magazine, Autostraddle, A Practical Wedding, NPR, Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and AP News.



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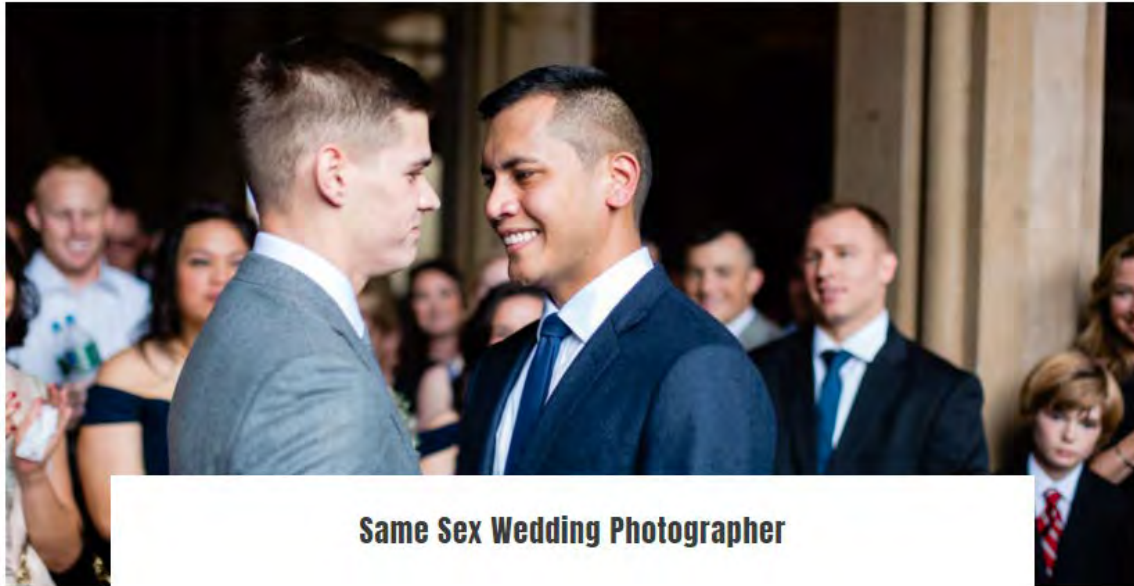
[Privacy Policy](#)



Advertise

Equally Wed is privately owned and operated. We exist solely through the partnership with LGBTQ+ inclusive businesses, venues and vendors who believe everyone deserves the right to marry the person they love. **Learn more by emailing advertising AT equallywed DOT com or visit our Advertising & Sales page.**

Apply to become a preferred Equally Wed wedding vendor or venue [here](#).



Same Sex Wedding Photographer

I have heard too many stories about couples looking for a same sex wedding photographer, reaching out to someone only to hear that this person "doesn't do that".

You don't have to worry about that when it comes to me. I have photographed many same sex celebrations, back to the days before same sex weddings were legal and I was photographing 'commitment ceremonies'.

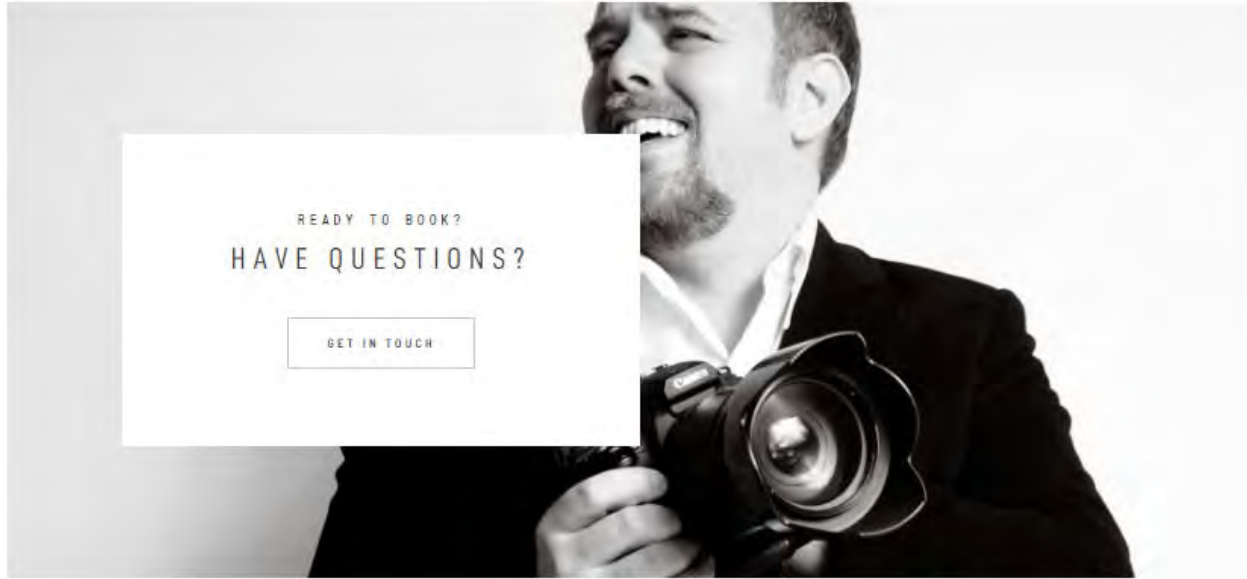
You can rest assured that not only do I support your union, but that I have the experience photographing them to know how to work with you without simply placing you in the same scenarios someone would do with a straight couple.

That's not how it works.

I want to bring out your relationship with one another in your photos. They should be a reflection of your personalities and your feelings for one another.

You should feel comfortable knowing that your photographer supports you, and if you want to read more about how I feel on that subject, you [can click here to read my full thoughts](#).

So, are you ready to talk to a same sex wedding photographer? Let's talk! Reach out and tell me all about your wedding. I want to hear about it.



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