



LET'S GET REAL

SLIDESHOWS YAY OR NAY?

WRITTEN BY
DOWN THE AISLE YYC

Totally biased on this one. We LOOOOVE a picture slideshow and encourage our clients to include one at some point during their wedding festivities. I mean really, what's better than a series of happy photos of your life together mixed in with a few vintage shots from your childhood. Set to a few of your favorite songs and you can bet your buttons there won't be a dry eye in the house.

That said, execution is key on this one and sadly, there are times when this beautiful wedding tradition can fall flat on its face. But that will not happen to you. Know why? Because you are reading this and we will not let you stumble. Like all things wedding related we got you and you can count on us to offer a few cautionary notes to consider + the pro tips and tricks to ensure your slideshow is a triumphant success.

LET'S GET REAL ...

HOW LONG ARE THE SPEECHES?

REVIEW YOUR RECEPTION PROGRAM

Traditionally, the wedding slideshow is part of your formal reception program - AKA the part of the event where your guests are sat at their tables, enjoying the meal and tuned into whatever it is you have to present. This is when toasts and speeches happen, the ceremonial cake cutting and yes, you guessed it, the slideshow.

Now the biggest mistake that couples make here is that they just plan way too much. Just like anything, our attention span has a limit and if you have a long line up of speeches to proceed your slideshow you may find that guests start to get antsy. Add to that the total time of the meal service, especially if you are hosting a buffet for 100+ guests where not everyone can eat at the same time, and you may lose their focus all together.

There is not a hard and fast rule on this but we recommend allocating no more than 30 minutes for wedding speeches. This way you can very nicely showcase that wonderful slideshow while guests are still attentive. A good rule of thumb is to plan 5 minutes for each speaker; this is the sweet spot and gives you about 6x slots for loved ones to sing your praises. Any more than this and you might want to consider breaking things up and moving the slideshow or a few of the speeches to a less congested timeframe... like cocktail hour;)

SHORT AND SWEET

MIND YOUR TIMING

This one is self explanatory but so so so important. Beware that you do not create the Never Ending Slideshow. Less is more on this one and 4 to 6 minutes is a lovely pocket of time to work with. This works out to about 3 short songs if you are looking for a reference point.

If you just can't narrow it down, consider having 2 versions - a shorter one for the wedding reception and a full length extended version for your rehearsal dinner. Mom and Dad will never tire of seeing your baby pictures but your co-workers may think 2 songs worth is a bit much.



DOES IT SHOW WELL?

EXECUTION AND AV SET UP

Don't over think this one but do pretend that you are a guest and envision the slideshow from their point of view.

Can they see the screen from where their table is? How about the music, is the AV set up sophisticated enough that the speakers reach the tables in the back? Have you had to utilize an overflow space to seat all your guests? Or maybe you are hosting your reception in a beautiful farmers field where the power supply is minimal and the extension cords are already called for.

Our point is this. If you are going to do something, make sure you do it well. If your venue just isn't set up for a traditional slideshow presentation, then maybe you don't include one. Or better yet, you get creative and come up with something that you can do.

For instance, if guest viewing is an issue, maybe you move the slideshow to the dancefloor to play before or even during your first dance. You got everyone on their feet which will bring their attention back into focus and you have found a way to seamlessly flow one wedding tradition into the next.

Maybe timing is an issue because you have a high number of speeches that you really just can't cut down. So instead of a full fledged slideshow set to music, you simply play that reel of photos during cocktail hour on repeat without the sound. Guests will still get to see your slideshow, and better yet, it will be on repeat so they can appreciate those beautiful images more than once.

Remember, there is no right or wrong way to do things. In fact, it can be more detrimental to do something just because 'it's tradition' when in actuality it plays out awkward and a little forced. Far better to get outside the box and find something that fits organically with your unique wedding details. Focus on that and whatever you come up with is sure to be a success.

