

ADVICE ON PRO vs HOME VIDEOS

Interview with Theuns van Tromp

In order to reduce costs, you might be tempted to ask a family member with a video camera to make your wedding video. Remember that temptation generally leads you down the path of despair! You want your memories captured to keep them for posterity so that you can delve into them in later years and say, "Look! This is when mommy and daddy got married. You weren't born yet, but we saved this just for you." Quality in a wedding video is essential and your memories are too precious to entrust to someone who isn't totally focused on the task or lacks the necessary experience.

Floris of Red Squirrel Video and DVD Productions says that quality can be assured by using the correct equipment. Most video cameras are fine for home videos or holiday footage, but they aren't suited to accommodate the issues that are important in wedding videography. By their use of professional broadcast cameras, they are equipped to deal with different levels of lighting, angled shots, zooming as well as sound considerations.

Any family member or friend who has been asked to film on the day will be missing out on most of the festivities. They are, after all, still guests despite the fact that they're doing you a favour. Since their focus isn't on the end result, be prepared for their attention to drift during important moments or to hear their conversations with other guests as part of your video. A professional cameraman's entire focus is on filming your wedding and he will have done his job properly and you would hardly have been aware of his presence. A good videographer will set up his equipment where he is most likely to get the best angle for the shot and will only impose on guests if there is no other way around capturing the perfect footage.

You don't want your guests to feel like deer caught in headlights so the low light cameras used by a company like Red Squirrel will ensure that your images are clearly visible without making your guests self-conscious about being filmed. Cameras that aren't used for professional filming aren't equipped to deal with lighting problems and using spotlights around your dance floor to compensate for this will only ruin the ambience.

The end result is the most important since this is where the quality of filming, lighting and sound is most evident. A home video will generally have to convert analogue images to digital images whereas professional videographers keep all the images in the process digital which ensures that quality is not compromised. Final editing on professional software is essential – this is where all the most important elements are combined in order to create the most important movie you'll ever star in.

Red Squirrel is able to offer you a menu with various scene selectors on your DVD so that you can immediately access the chapters you prefer. They will also offer a

highlights package at the end of the video which will incorporate music from your first dance over the highlights of the day – an absolute must have!

While you make memories of a lifetime, let a professional capture them for you so that you can be assured of a video that is as magical as the day itself.