

IN APPRECIATION OF MOTHERS

By Norman Dent

Norman Dent laughingly describes himself as an “English Hooligan Photographer”. He was a profession pilot for SAA for many years and his wife was a photographic model. When her rising portfolio costs became too expensive, Norman decided to try taking her pictures himself with an old and battered Russian camera. Now 2000 plus weddings later, the rest, as they say, is history.

Moms. You’ve got to love them. All of them. They’re exceptional human beings and totally indispensable where their kid’s weddings are concerned. In the heat of the preparation, they take all kinds of flak, but their support never waivers. They might lose their patience once or twice but, like the Rock of Gibraltar, they are always unquestioningly there. Mothers come in all shapes and sizes, but they have one thing in common; they want the best possible wedding for their children. Even if it kills them – and it gets close to doing that sometimes.

Photographers generally get to grips with the families (complete with all their jitters and tensions) before anyone else does. They see everyone winding up to face the public at the wedding and they see the family running late, yelling about dresses not fitting properly, the whereabouts of the AWOL cufflinks, and on and on!!! The list is endless. And the person who puts most of the fires out behind the scenes? – Good old Mom.

Mothers usually undergo a lot of stress and strain on the day. You don’t want this stress to show up in your photographs, so here are a couple of tips from Norman to minimize this:

- Don’t overdo the make-up in the attempt to hide fatigue or to make her look younger. It might have just the opposite effect. Chat to your make-up artist about it – looking natural is the important thing.
- A good photographer knows how to be kind to the woman who brought you into the world, after many hours of painful labour, and who is reliving the trauma by taking the brunt of it all on your day. Kind lighting, soft-focus shots and black and white can all be used to good effect to make her look her best.
- It is a digital age and just anything can be changed (as a last resort). You want your mother to look her best in your pictures, and certainly not tired or stressed. Getting your wedding album out should not be something she dreads....
- Having a relaxed and fun time at your wedding is vital. It’s just the best cosmetic you have, so a good photographer is an essential part of your day. Choose him or her well.

You’re the Queen for the Day, but she’s the Matriarch of Life. She’ll pamper you and do you bidding on the day – thank her by ensuring that she looks radiant and her absolute fabulous self forever in your album.