

# 50 Ways to...

## ...make Your Wedding Totally You!

Before we get to the first 50 things we've got for you to make your Wedding *Unique, Elegant, and Fun* you need to know that not everything on this list will be right for you, but hopefully it will get you thinking about what you really want your wedding to feel and look like and how to plan so that it will be exactly that.

- 1 In The Beginning ... make it your mission to make everything about your wedding personal to you. Today your wedding is a totally blank canvas and *you can do anything you want*.
- 2 Think of what you've seen at *other weddings* you've been to or even seen on TV. What did you love and what did you hate – write the results down and make sure your wedding has everything you love and nothing you hate.
- 3 *Name all your reception tables* after something personal to you – maybe your favourite bands or albums, perhaps places you've been on holiday.
- 4 Have a *trivia quiz sheet* about you for your guests to complete at each table during the Wedding Breakfast. This should get everyone on each table talking to each other. Have a prize for the table that gets the best score.
- 5 *Wedding Favours that relate to you* – perhaps something to do with your hobby or special interest.
- 6 Photographs ~ they say "a picture is worth a thousand words", so *displaying photos* is a great way of telling your story. You can include your childhood photographs, your parents' and grandparents' wedding photos, shots from your hen and stag events, pictures of your pets ~ in fact anything you want! You can also add snaps from the day as you go along so that evening guests can get a real flavour of the whole day.
- 7 Choosing *personal centrepieces* – obviously flowers are traditional but you may want to consider an alternative, for example a decoration constructed from sweets and novelties.
- 8 Paying *special tribute* to the friend(s) who introduced you.
- 9 Doing the *silly line dance* you and your friends learned in college.
- 10 Start a *FaceBook group for "Our Wedding Music"* and invite all your friends to post requests. Include your DJ so that he can see what your friends like and start to build relationships with them
- 11 Do you have a *talented guest* who could sing or play as part of your entertainment?
- 12 Sharing your *love story* during your ceremony or reception.

- 13 Giving your guests *"table tasks"* to do throughout the reception.
- 14 Playing the Mr & Mrs game - we call our version *"The Shoe Game"* and it's a great ice-breaker.
- 15 A special *thank you dance* with all your hen and stag weekend friends
- 16 Play or dedicate a song to a friend as an *inside joke*.
- 17 Wear an item of *clothing or jewelry* from a beloved family member and share this with your guests. If you've chosen "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue" it's great to let everyone know!
- 18 Choose your *favourite poems or song lyrics* as non-traditional ceremony readings.
- 19 How about treating each other to *his and hers digital cameras* and take photos of all your guests inbetween courses during your wedding breakfast.
- 20 Leave a *funny gift*, like a clown nose or fake moustache, at each place setting and photograph all your guests wearing them.
- 21 *Announce* birthdays, anniversaries or engagements.
- 22 Plan and rehearse a *unique first dance* – we can put you in touch with a brilliant instructor if you want to have some fun and learn a few special moves.
- 23 Give a *dance lesson* at your reception – our instructor offers this service too!
- 24 Hold a *"ring warming"* during the ceremony where you pass your rings to each guest before you exchange vows.
- 25 Write your own *vows* that unite your family and friends
- 26 Include special *ethnic traditions and dances* – if you don't know them you've got time to learn
- 27 Play a song or make a speech *together*.
- 28 Make a donation to, and/or arrange a collection for your favourite charity.
- 29 Treat your guests to your *favourite wine or dessert* and tell them about it.
- 30 Find out what were the first dances at your *parents weddings* and include them as a surprise thank you.
- 31 Have a *first dance competition* where your guests are invited to guess what your first dance will be – draw one correct answer to win a prize.
- 32 Include your favourite animal, sports team, hobby or activity in your *wedding theme*.
- 33 Have your guests write thoughts and wishes for a *"time capsule"* you'll open on your 10th wedding anniversary.
- 34 *Cook or bake something* for your guests to eat at the reception or to take away as favours, perhaps homemade cookies or sweets and give them your recipe.
- 35 Surprise your guests by *sharing your secret talent* or skill.
- 36 The *father/daughter dance and mother/son dance* – this is very popular in America and is another great way of saying thank you. You can do this in many ways – just ask for more information. You can even record a special message to be played over the instrumental in the centre of the song.
- 37 You can introduce *fun props* like inflatable guitars and glow sticks to kick-start the party.

- 38 How about a *conga* line ending up with a quick *limbo* competition.
- 39 Plan a *bouquet* toss during the evening – or even a *garter* toss? If you have younger guests we can include a “treats toss” just for them with sweets and goodies – a great photo opportunity – and setting them to music makes them much more memorable for all involved.
- 40 “*Pearls of Wisdom*” cards are another great ice-breaker. Asking your family and friends to complete a card with their thoughts on what makes a great marriage, the best of which can be read out and then collected in a folder or frame to keep.
- 41 How about a *Photo/Video Booth* or an *Event Photographer* for the evening? Harry can liaise with your own photographer or recommend trustworthy providers. It’s quite common for new guests to arrive for the evening reception who will have missed out on the ‘official’ photos, so why not have Harry co-ordinate additional group and individual shots at an appropriate point during the evening?
- 42 Show *video footage* of family or friends who couldn’t make the wedding but would like to send a message, or perhaps even pre-recorded footage of you telling your own love story? The possibilities are endless . . .
- 43 A *Centrepiece Giveaway* – if you have flowers, balloons or anything that will be left over at the end of the day (or even cleared away in between the meal and the party) we can give them away as prizes in a dance competition or just allocate them to people. By planning this in advance you can add something extra to the evening which might otherwise have been wasted.
- 44 The “*After Party*” – if yours has been a long wedding day, or if you have lots of guests who are travelling or with children, why not end the “formal” reception at, say, 10:30pm with a “last dance” and a big cheer or an archway, pop out and change, then come back for the “after party” where you can let your hair down for an hour or two with friends and colleagues?
- 45 If you are having a civil-ceremony you can choose *your own musical soundtrack* and have it played in a way that will create a special atmosphere just as if it was in a movie!
- 46 You can include *music throughout your day*. You can include favourites that aren’t necessarily dance music, there is plenty of time to play all kinds of things as background music creating your own original soundtrack to your special day. You can have music after your ceremony during the drinks reception, during your wedding breakfast, and of course at your evening party.
- 47 Co-ordinate your *venue lighting* with your wedding colours
- 48 Hire a *special dance floor* – maybe a white twinkling one!
- 49 How about a *Sweet kart* with a selection of sweets – just like pick-n-mix, with paper bags for your guests to fill with their favourites.
- 50 Finally ... a *staged “Last Dance/Grand Exit”*. If you want the end of the party to be as memorable as the first dance, then with a bit of planning we can arrange for you to be in a big circle of guests, or for you to exit via an archway of guests. Would you like to say a final “thank you” on the microphone? Harry will help you plan a grand exit and make sure it all happens in an orderly fashion!

## Need 50 more ideas?

Speak to Harry...there's even more where these came from!