7 Tips for a Killer Slideshow

Many wedding couples choose to show a slideshow of fun pictures, music, and video at their wedding -- showcasing and sharing their lives thus far. Nowadays, the software technology makes slideshows very easy for a couple to do (or to delegate to a trusted tech savvy friend or family member).

If done well, a slideshow can be incredibly effective in bringing your guests closer to you. Perhaps some guests know one of you well, but not the other. When they see both of your cute/awkward/ funny childhood photos - and feel more connected to your wedding.

If done poorly, a bad slideshow grinds your wedding energy to a halt and is uncomfortable to watch.

Having seen hundreds, here are my **Top 7 tips to make *your* slideshow awesome!**

1. Keep it under 10 minutes — ideally 5-7 minutes for maximum impact. When a slideshow clocks in at 26 minutes, your guests will be asleep and bored. FYI, when slideshows are made "for" a couple as a 'gift', they tend to be 5-10 minutes longer!

2. Photo time on screen at least 4-5 seconds — nothing is more frustrating that the pictures flashing too fast to recognize *(especially if you have an older crowd).* Good transitions between photos can really add to the show. Don't go bananas with *too* many crazy transitions—too distracting!

3. Make the pictures chronological — sounds like a no-brainer, but I have seen many slideshows that seem su per random that jump around. Side by side school portraits are my personal favourite — we want to watch you grow up and mature! *(and see the perms and mullets)*

4. Have Funny Pictures — your guests want to laugh and be entertained so the funnier and more embarrassing the better — keep the Sears catalogue shots to a minimum, we want the real deal!

5. Focus on just YOU — Some family and friend shots are great, but don't try for pictures of everyone at your wedding. Aside from eating valuable time, you will likely miss someone and hurt their feelings. Hopefully you have a good balance between you both — not 500 photos of one person and 8 of the other.

6. Choose great music — Slideshow software makes editing music pretty easy, so create a cool soundtrack. 3 songs is the most common but you can easily squeeze a few extra gems in there. A professional DJ can pump the slideshow music through their system for great sound. I can help with song ideas too!

7. Use BIG pictures. One picture per screenshot — it can be very hard to focus on lots of little pictures. Consider room size and how far the audience will be from the screen. Choose higher quality photos if you can — if you have to squint now, it will be worse on the big screen!

If you have some **great video clips,** make sure you add those in too! Variety keeps your guests engaged!
Start now to avoid last minute panic. Delegate to someone you trust me, but keep creative control if you can.
Test your slideshow early on the big day and have **backups** to avoid 'technical difficulties'.
As you likely already know, peace of mind on your wedding day is paramount! Good luck!