



**CJ STUDIOS**

FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY & CINEMA



347.201.0613



@cjstudiosphotos



[www.Cjstudios.info](http://www.Cjstudios.info)



**T**hank you for allowing us to share in your upcoming simcha. Over the years, we've received the wonderful privilege to take part in hundreds and hundreds of weddings, providing us with a unique understanding of what it takes to ensure that the photography and videography proceed smoothly at your event.

Read this document in its entirety and share it with all members of the wedding party so that everyone is on the same page, guaranteeing a timely flow that will allow us to capture the best possible photos and video. Please feel free to reach out with any and all questions or concerns so your pictures and videos can be everything you've always dreamed of and more.

Mazel tov and best wishes,  
*Yosef and Sarah Shidler*  
CJ Productions LLC



## STARTING ON TIME

### HAIR/MAKEUP

Time and time again, we've seen entire weddings thrown off schedule, simply because hair/makeup took longer than expected. This seemingly minor glitch can seriously compromise our ability to capture the best possible photos. We've encountered delays of an hour or more many times, so we can't stress this enough: tell your hair/makeup team that

**they must be finished a *full hour* before your photography session's scheduled start time. Starting on time is key to creating magical pictures**, while running late seriously limits our ability to create the ultimate bridal and family photo gallery. You won't regret being an hour early, but you *will* regret being an hour late.



## PRE-PORTRAIT PICTURES

Pre-wedding prep offers great photo opportunities. Let us know in advance if you want pictures of the kallah's hair/makeup being done so we can factor the necessary time into our schedule. Have the bridal gown, invitation, engagement ring and all other jewelry, shoes, siddur, Tehillim and any other sentimental items prepared, so we can photograph them while the wedding party is getting ready. Let us know ahead of time about any other pre-portfolio shots you want (i.e. family hoodies or other memorable attire) and have everyone ready to pose well in advance of your prep time. This way, we can get those shots without wasting precious minutes that could be used to capture other important photos.





## FLORIST

Florists often make the mistake of assuming they have until the wedding's start time to get their work done. In truth, the bridal bouquet **must** be completed when we start taking pictures; ideally, the backdrop and other floral elements should also be done by then, or, at least, shortly thereafter, so they can enhance

your photos. It's impossible for us to get the best possible pictures without the bridal bouquet, the backdrop, and/or other floral arrangements. We frequently find ourselves waiting on a florist to finish a chuppah or a backdrop. Please tell them it must be ready far in advance.

## PARKING

While suburban wedding halls have on-site parking, city halls often do not. Even in places with valet parking, family members often arrive before valet service starts. As it can easily take half an hour to find parking in some locations, make sure that everyone in your pre-wedding portraits allows for sufficient parking time at the designated picture spot, be it the hall or an off-site location.



## VENUE

All wedding venue setup should be done well in advance to avoid interruptions in your portraits, as deliveries and vendors arrive carrying props, furniture, and even musical equipment. Being ready promptly is even more important at halls that aren't typically used for Jewish events, and someone should be available to show our crew where to store their gear.



## GROOM SHOTS

The groom should be at the hall at least 30 minutes before his scheduled start time. We recommend he put his wedding attire's finishing touches on at the hall so we can photograph him putting on his cufflinks and adjusting his tie, tying his shoes, putting on his jacket, etc.



# PRE-WEDDING PORTRAITS

## PERSONAL PREFERENCES

Do you prefer shots taken from a particular angle? Formal shots, versus casual ones? Conventional portraits showing full faces, or creative poses that tell a story? Let us know your preferences in advance so we can accommodate your wishes. Bear in mind that creative shots take more time, particularly with larger families, and are best done outside or in unique spots inside the hall.

## OFF-SITE PICTURES

No matter how beautiful or spacious your venue may be, ***we highly recommend at least one of the wedding parties (or just the bride/just the groom) take their pictures off-site*** at a nearby park, home, or other scenic location, barring inclement or extreme weather. In addition to setting the stage for magnificent portraits, taking the chosson or kallah off-site avoids distractions and the difficulties of ensuring the couple doesn't see each other before the wedding, a real issue in smaller halls that can cause lengthy delays. Experience has shown us that, while off-site pictures do require a little extra time and planning, they produce the most relaxed portraits and eliminate interruptions by well-meaning friends and relatives, who keep running over to "*just say mazel tov.*" YES, brides with big, puffy dresses *can* ride in a car. YES, THEY DO FIT. If you're not sure where to take these photos, we're happy to suggest locations near your wedding venue.





We also recommend using Ubers or taxis to take subjects and the photo crew to off-site locations in places like Brooklyn, where parking is difficult. This avoids wasting time looking for parking spots, as well as the hassle of having to park all over again when the portraits are completed and the group returns to the hall. *As per your contract, the photo team's transportation and parking costs in places like Brooklyn may be added to the final bill.*

### FAMILY PICTURES

**All family members** must be in the hall, dressed for the wedding, and in the photo area **at the designated start time**. We suggest telling perpetually late family members to come a full hour earlier than the actual start time and reminding everyone to allow extra time for traffic or other possible delays. We're careful to allocate ample time for family photo shoots and have found **we only need extra time when key people are not present or are otherwise occupied** when we are ready for them.



### CHILDREN

While children do add so much to wedding photos, **small children should be supervised at all times** so they don't interfere with pictures. **We suggest bringing treats for your children to get them to cooperate during pictures**, as well as some form of entertainment to keep children occupied during the inevitable down-time between portraits.

## MINCHA

With the chosson and kallah davening the lengthy Erev Yom Kippur Mincha on their wedding day, we strongly encourage them to daven before coming to the hall, since Mincha often happens while we're trying to capture those all-important family shots where their presence is critical. If it's important for the bride or groom to have photos of themselves davening, we can always recreate this later, instead of taking time away from other shots that would otherwise be missed. Family members who will be in those portraits should also daven Mincha *before* arriving at the wedding venue.



## ADDITIONAL PICTURES

Notify us in advance of any additional people outside of the regular family (i.e. bridesmaids, groomsmen, special friends) to be included in your pre-wedding portraits. These individuals must be ready to be photographed during the family photo session so we can guarantee their inclusion in your portraits.





### LARGE FAMILIES

If you have large families on one or either side, we **HIGHLY** recommend a third photographer called a *photojournalist*. They'll be available to help with smaller family units, allowing the main photographer to more efficiently do their job. Check with the office about this option; some of our packages include it. While many people fail to see the

need, experience has shown us that the third photographer can be a game changer, even for weddings where the family is small, but the time constraints are, for one reason or another, even smaller. An extra pair of hands can move things along much quicker. It's a relatively small investment that can make an enormous difference.

### DIGITAL INSERTS

Since it can be extremely time consuming to round up all large families for group pictures after the chuppah, we suggest you consider taking those shots *before* the wedding and having

the bride and groom digitally inserted into your family photo – this service is included in some packages and available at a nominal charge in others. Please discuss this option with our studio.

## DRONE FOOTAGE

Outdoor aerial shots are included in select packages, but they can only be taken in good weather, where local regulations allow them. **We reserve the right to withhold drone flight due to dangerous or illegal conditions, and we do not fly drones indoors for safety reasons.** Drone photography is prohibited in many major metropolitan cities, including New York City. Drone footage is included in some of our packages. If it's not included in yours and you'd like to have it, we can add it for an additional charge. The same restrictions still apply.



## AUDIO RECORDINGS

We are happy to include special thoughts from the bride, groom, and/or other close friends and family members in your finished video, in lieu of awkward and old-fashioned videotaped comments. These often priceless words add

an extra personalized element to your footage, memorializing those heartfelt feelings forever. Notify us in advance if there's anyone who should be recorded so we can catch them prior to the wedding.



**PHOTO TIPS :** Your wedding portraits are meant to capture the *real you*. Relax, be yourself, have fun, and let your personality shine. This is the most important day of your life, and we want you to focus on the incredible joy of this milestone and to savor every moment of your simcha.



## CAPTURING THE ACTION

### KABALAS PANIM/CHOSON'S TISH

Designate someone to give the photography crew a five minute heads up prior to the bride's entrance to the kabalas panim so we can have everything in place for the big moment. The photography crew should also be told where the chosson's tish will be held and when it will be starting.



## PRE-CHUPPAH PREP

Tell the photo team in advance where the groom will be making final chuppah preparations in order to capture those crucial shots. Often, the mesader kiddushin or other rof will often pull the chosson into a side room, particularly in non-Jewish venues that don't have a designated

chosson's room, so it's vital to make sure the photo crew knows where to go. Having already captured the kallah getting brachos at the badeken, we don't normally go to the kallah suite – let us know if you want pictures there as well, and we'll do our best to accommodate you.

## OFF-SITE CHUPPAHS

Particularly in places like Crown Heights, the chuppah may take place at an alternate location. Having a photographer riding along with the groom ensures that everyone will be in place and

on time to capture every minute of the action. Let us know in advance if you will be having an off-site chuppah, so we can do our best to capture shots of the hall, décor, and the setup.

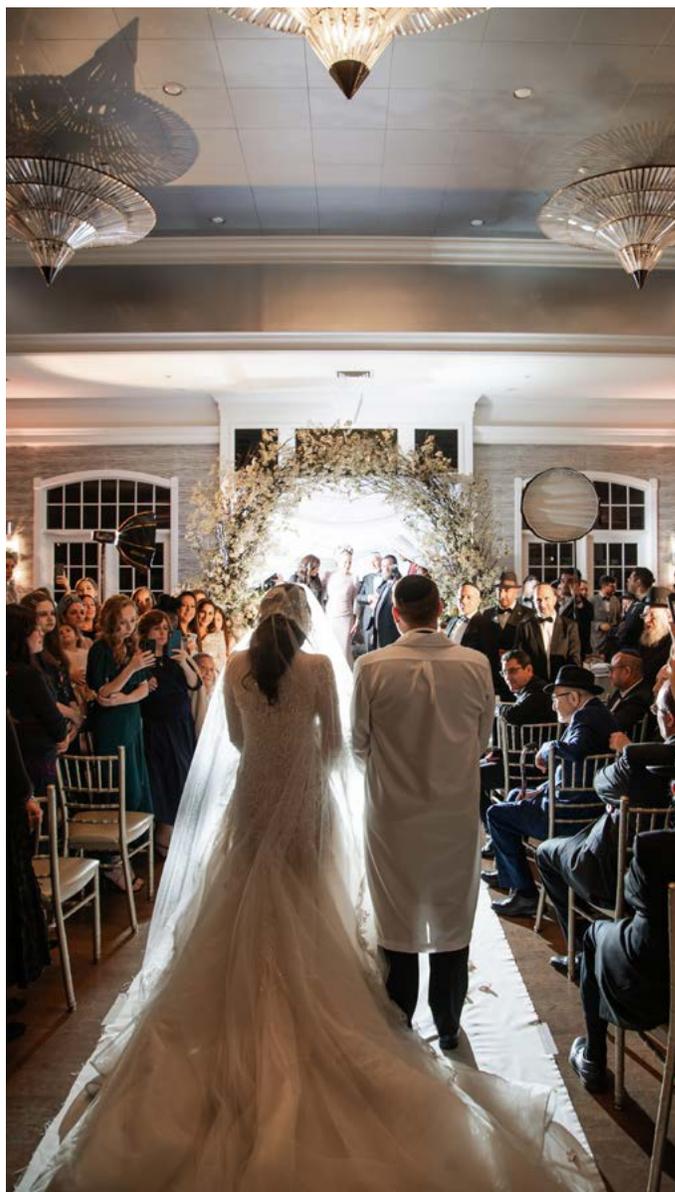


**CHUPPAH:** The most important moments of your life are crucial to us, too, and we need room to work in order to catch every precious shot. Please be sure to:

- Inform us if you want more than a few shots of the singer. Our crews usually focus on the
- people, not the music, during the chuppah, but we'll do our best to set up a tripod to film the singer at your request.
- It's our strict policy not to argue with anyone under the chuppah. If we're asked *not* to be under the chuppah, we'll honor that request, but

obviously, we will not be able to get photographs of the chuppah under those circumstances.

- It is **not** our responsibility to position anyone under the chuppah. If the bride has her back to the groom or isn't standing even with him, we won't say anything, as this would disrupt what is actually happening under the chuppah - an event much more important than the photos documenting it!
- Respectfully ask the mesader kiddushin to give us a moment to get a shot when putting the ring on the kallah's finger and placing the glass at the chosson's foot. While we will not fight with a rov to get a picture, making this request in advance will help us best capture these important shots.
- Ask guests to turn off their phones, clear the aisles, and refrain from using the aisles to take pictures. Well-meaning guests taking pictures on their phones very frequently mess up our best shots. You can ask your hall director or orchestra to request that guests stay out of the aisles.
- Remove all children from the chuppah area, particularly those who are seated on the floor around the chuppah, which impedes our ability to do the work we were hired to do. We need full clearance to get as many shots as possible from all different angles, and we strongly recommend that a relative take charge of the children so they remain under control and out of the way.
- Ask all guests to remain seated and away from the chuppah. Our job is to capture photographs that you will treasure forever, and we need adequate space to do our best for you and your family.
- Notify your sound crew that we will need to hook into their sound system to get clear audio of the chuppah.
- Let us use our judgment on whether additional lights are required. While darkening the room for the chuppah may add dramatic effect, it sometimes makes for terribly dark video. We'll



add external lighting as needed to make sure that your video or photos have adequate lighting.

- Let us know exactly when the glass will be broken – whether it will be before, during, or after Im Eshkachech, if it is sung at all. Note that we can only capture that glass-breaking shot if we have a clear view, and there are no guarantees that the mesader kiddushin, eidim, or errant children will not be in our way at that critical moment.
- Delegate someone to save the broken glass after the chuppah if you intend to keep it for any purpose. Some families make beautiful artwork from the broken glass, but that's not a service our studio personally provides.

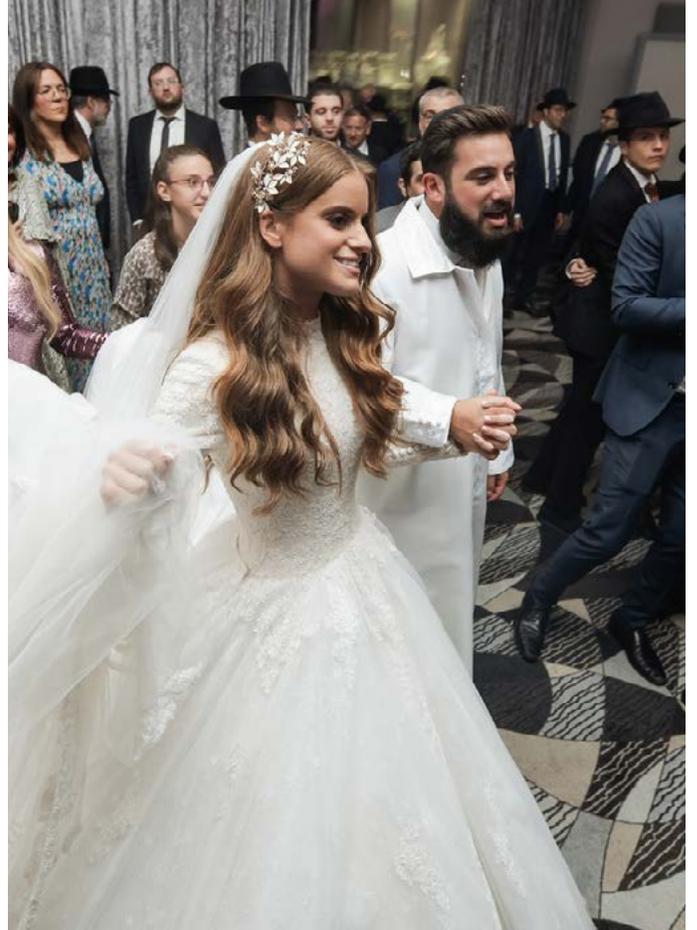
## OUTDOOR CHUPPAHS

Let us know in advance if you're planning an outdoor chuppah. While we *can* take pictures in mild to moderate snow or rain, we *cannot* use our cameras in severe weather, which permanently damages our equipment and leaves you with zero coverage of your wedding. Note that extreme humidity can also cause our lenses to fog, and we'll need a few extra minutes for them to acclimate to the ambient external moisture.



## YICHUD ROOM

The couple should be advised that their alone time should be kept to a bare minimum at the wedding, with just under ten minutes in the yichud room as required by Jewish law. Additionally, in a practical sense, spending **too much time in the yichud room can have a negative effect on the most valuable pictures** of the entire wedding, those of the chosson and kallah, and will subject wedding guests to overly long delays. If the bride chooses to refresh her hair/makeup at this time, have the proper people ready to make the necessary touch ups as quickly as possible. Note that we are *not responsible* to contact the hair/makeup *team* – like any other professional, they need to be prepared to do their job as soon as the kallah is ready.

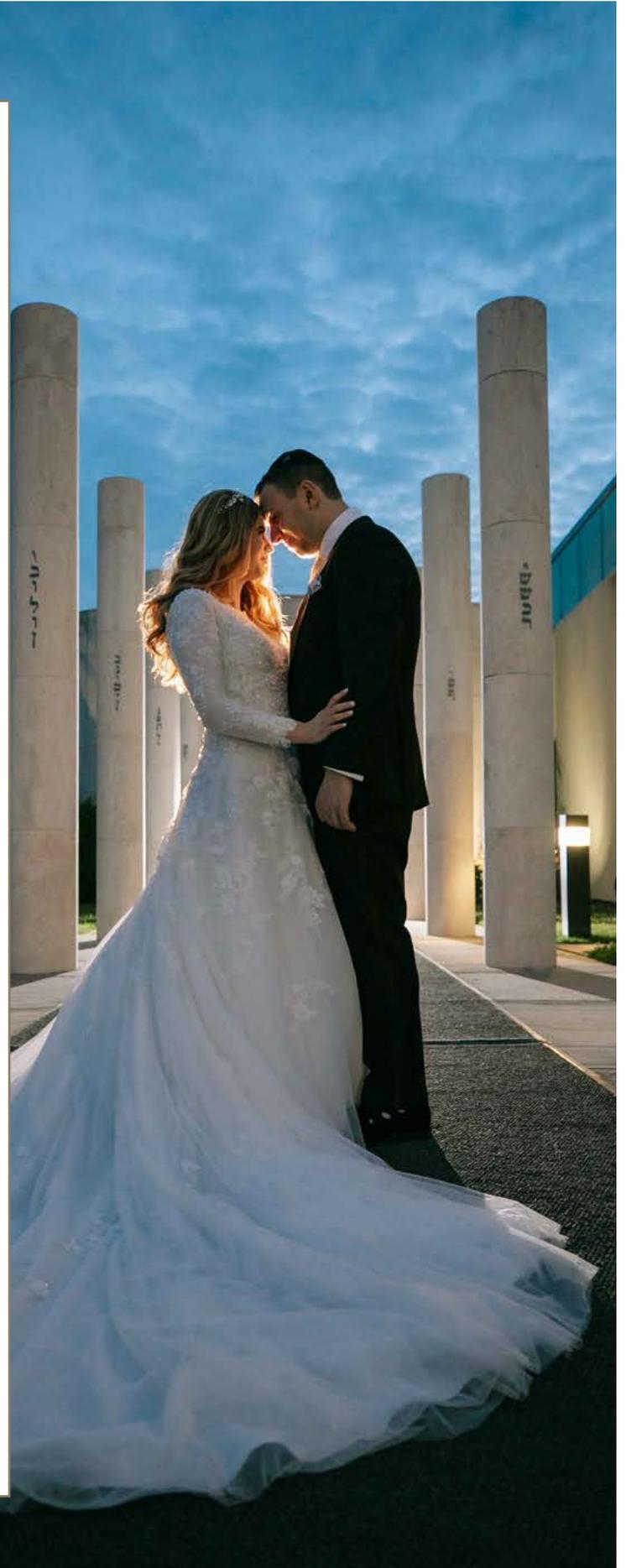


## CHOSSON AND KALLAH PICTURES

Notify the photo team in advance if there's any particular place you want your pictures taken and what kind of pictures you prefer – casual versus formal, and if you would rather avoid touching or want more intimate poses. It's *your* wedding day, and we're happy to respect your wishes; so let us know in advance so we're properly prepared. *Be aware that:*

... We advise a full 30 minutes for a photo session with the couple to capture the best images. Less time for portraits adds tremendous stress and compromises the quality of your pictures, as do interruptions from friends and family.

... While 30 minutes is the ideal amount of time for couple portraits, more often than not, we find we're given just 8 to 10 minutes to take the most important pictures of your big day. **Because capturing creative or romantic photos is a time-consuming process, we highly recommend a post-wedding shoot or first-look pictures** for those who are comfortable seeing each other before the wedding. A very significant majority of our artistic couple shots on Instagram and our website are taken at a first-look or post-wedding shoot, not during that very short window of time after the chuppah. We also offer special rates for couples who prefer to take their photos on another day, when things are calm and relaxed.



## POST-WEDDING SHOOT

Some of our packages include *either* a 30 minute *or* a one hour post-wedding couple shoot, but if time runs short, even those who haven't booked this option in advance can, for an additional charge, supplement their portraits with post-wedding pictures. Couples taking post-wedding pictures should plan to spend minimal time saying their goodbyes to get calm and interruption-free photographs. We've found that these shoots are fabulous for artistic pictures, both at the wedding venue and at off-site locations. (While some couples have expressed concern about not looking their best by the time their wedding is over, we haven't found that to be a problem, due to the formal shots taken after the chuppah.)

***PLEASE NOTE: Overtime charges will be accrued if an aftershoot does not take place immediately after our final hour on the clock.***

... Designate one person to gather close family or friends who will be included in additional pictures with the bride and groom. We suggest limiting the post-chuppah family pictures to just the parents, so there's adequate time to photograph the new couple, and parents are asked to stay at the designated picture spot so the process can go smoothly.

... CJ Studios' policy is to **follow the wishes of the bride and groom for their portraits.**

While the parents may prefer one set of poses, the chosson and kallah may want pictures in a completely different style. If your children are old enough to get married, please trust their discretion on what poses they want in their wedding portraits. Any difference of opinion with family members should be resolved prior to the wedding.



**PHOTO TIPS FOR BRIDE AND GROOM:** We encourage couples to talk to each other and enjoy each other's company for the most

natural pictures. Look at each other, not at the cameras, unless specifically asked to do so by the photographer.

# DINNER AND DANCING PICTURES



## DECOR

We do our best to capture as much decor as possible. If there are any specific items you want photographed, let us know in advance. Purple and LED lighting both have an adverse effect on video footage, and while we do our best to counter the associated color distortion, those types of lighting may impact the final video product.

## TABLE SHOTS

### **WE TYPICALLY DON'T DO TABLE SHOTS.**

Having worked for hours at a time, our crew does take a well-deserved break to catch their breath and eat something when the meal is finally served, and our team will take two or three table shots, by request only, if viable. We suggest you hire a third photojournalist if you want shots of every table.

## TABLE VIDEOS

Having seen that guests passing around a microphone during dinner rarely produces any valuable footage, we dedicate our video crews to taking more productive shots. We suggest you hire a third videographer if you want videos taken at your guest tables.

**DANCING:** It's extremely important to alert us to the chosson and kallah's entrance, so we can situate ourselves ideally to capture the action. In order to get the best shots, keep the following in mind:

The bride and groom are typically swallowed up by the crowd as soon as they hit the dance floor. Move the action to the center of the dance floor for the best pictures.

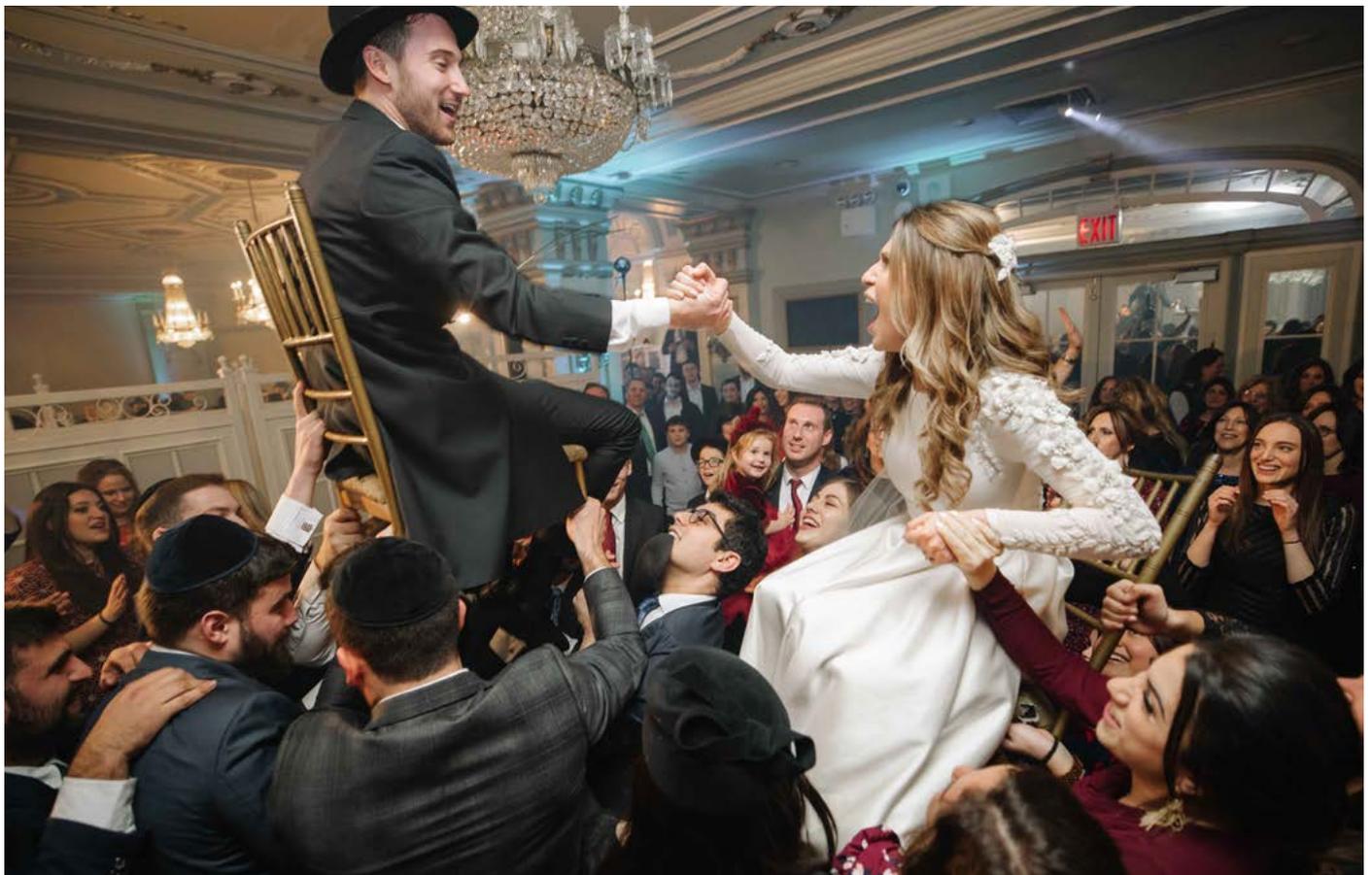
Take a quick break to let the photographer catch a posed shot when dancing with close family members and friends; these pictures are an excellent way to capture pictures with the people who matter most.

Photographers may not always be in your line of vision, but they are always busy. They may be on the other end of the dance floor, adjusting their equipment, or even taking a quick restroom

break (albeit with an assistant generally covering for them). Photographers are hardworking professionals, but with so much happening on the dance floor at every moment, it's possible to miss a pivotal photo opportunity (i.e. the bride dancing with her grandfather, or another priceless but fleeting moment.) If you notice something important that they haven't, let them know as quickly and politely as possible, and they may be able to restage the shot.

As by the chuppah, let your sound company know we'll be plugging into their audio to get the best possible sound for your video.

Our hard working crew takes a much-needed break between dance sets, so if you're having a flash mob, family dance, song, or any other unique event before or after dance sets, let them know in advance so they can capture that special moment. Don't assume they already know about it!



## DINNER

Aside from grabbing a drink or a quick bite, dinner is the only time that our crew can eat. Ask the caterer to serve the photographers first, not last, so they can get back to work as quickly as possible. We don't generally film people during the meal, so let us know if you would

like a tripod stationed at the head table to catch those who come over to say mazel tov. **Let us know at least five minutes in advance** if there are any **speeches or singing during dinner** that you want filmed.



### BENTSHING AND SHEVA BRACHOS:

Keeping the cup in one place and having people sitting down at that spot for their bracha is conducive to much better photographs. It can be hard to get good shots when everyone is clustered closely together and we're trying to locate the person making the bracha among a sea of heads.





#### RING AND KESUBA

A picture of the kesuba and the rings always looks beautiful. If you can get those items to us towards the end of the wedding, we'll do our best to get that shot for you. We can also take these photos while the newlyweds are in the yichud room.

**PAYMENT:** The final moments of your simcha should be shared with family and friends, not counting money or writing checks. We recommend having payment envelopes prepared before the wedding, and taking care of payment before the kabalas panim so you

can enjoy your simcha without having to worry about financial matters. If you feel our team went the extra mile for you, we encourage you to tip them at the end of/after the simcha, to thank them for their efforts.





## FINISHED PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOS

### POST WEDDING TIMING AND TURNAROUND

Consult your contract for details and guidelines. As per your contract, no work will be released until the final balance is paid.

### RAW FOOTAGE

Raw video footage is available via a download link at no charge *or* on a hard drive for an additional cost. Containing approximately three to five hours of video – everything filmed at your wedding – raw footage is available much faster than the edited product, and because it hasn't been edited down for sizing constraints, it also offers superior quality and the purest video experience. The raw footage will *not* be strung together, and *will* be in individual clips. We do *not* give out raw pictures, which are the unfinished building blocks of your final photographs and still require editing and post-processing to transform them into the high quality images you deserve.

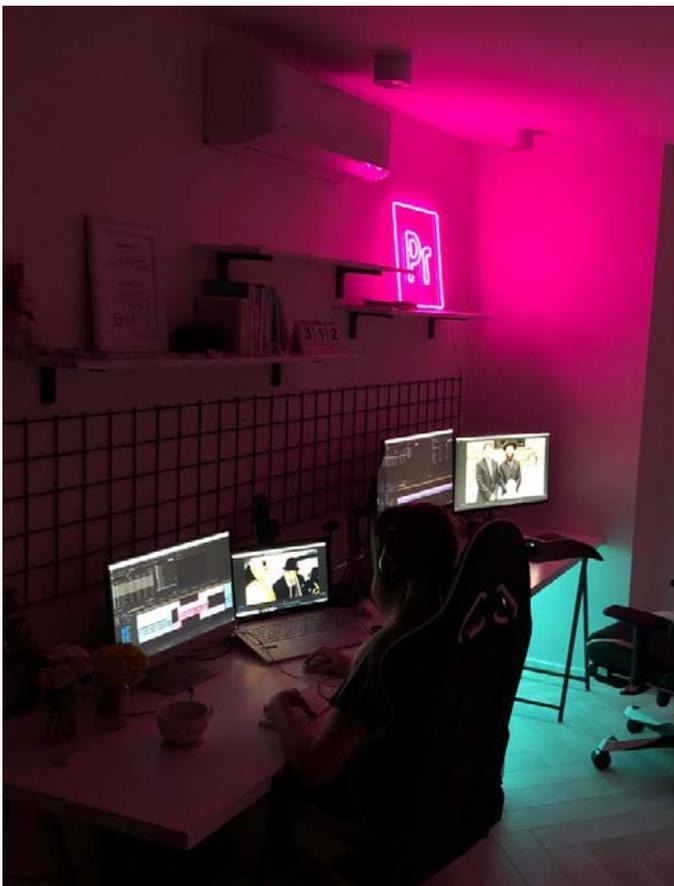
## FINISHED PRODUCTS

All pictures and videos are delivered digitally, via an online, downloadable link, giving clients the ability to download and share their pictures and videos as often as they like. Most of our packages include these finished products additionally on one USB; however, if yours does *not* and you would like to have a USB, *or* you would like *more than one* USB, we'll be happy to provide this to you at a nominal fee. Note that download links can expire, so once you get them, it's crucial that you download your footage and save it so you have it in your possession. We do not deliver our videos on DVD, which is an easily damaged, antiquated medium that is incapable of playing the high-definition footage captured by today's cameras. Printed proofs are available at extra cost.



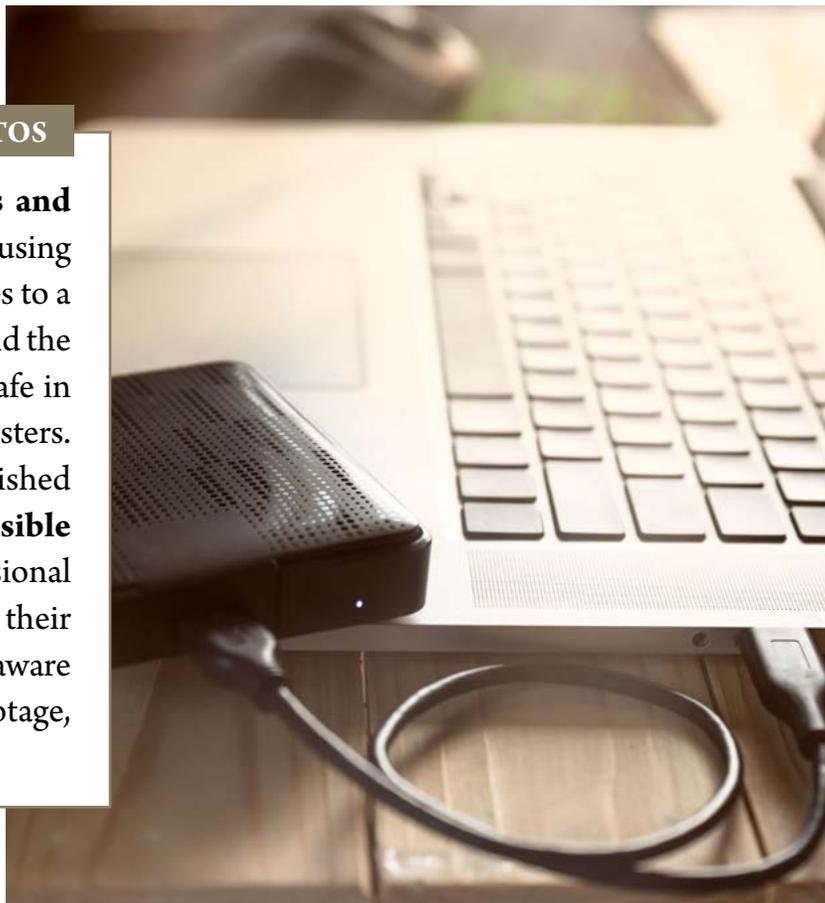
## PHOTO EDITING

We have occasionally heard through the grapevine about clients who weren't happy with certain pictures, and we encourage clients to discuss those issues with *us* so they can be resolved. Oftentimes, these concerns are easily remedied if brought to our attention right away, whether it's a specific picture that may have been missed by an editor, or something that is correctable through the magic of Photoshop. Your satisfaction is very important to us, and we do our best to ensure that every CJ Studios client is a happy client. Our photo editing refers to the coloring and lighting and does *not* refer to removing blemishes, flyaways, etc.



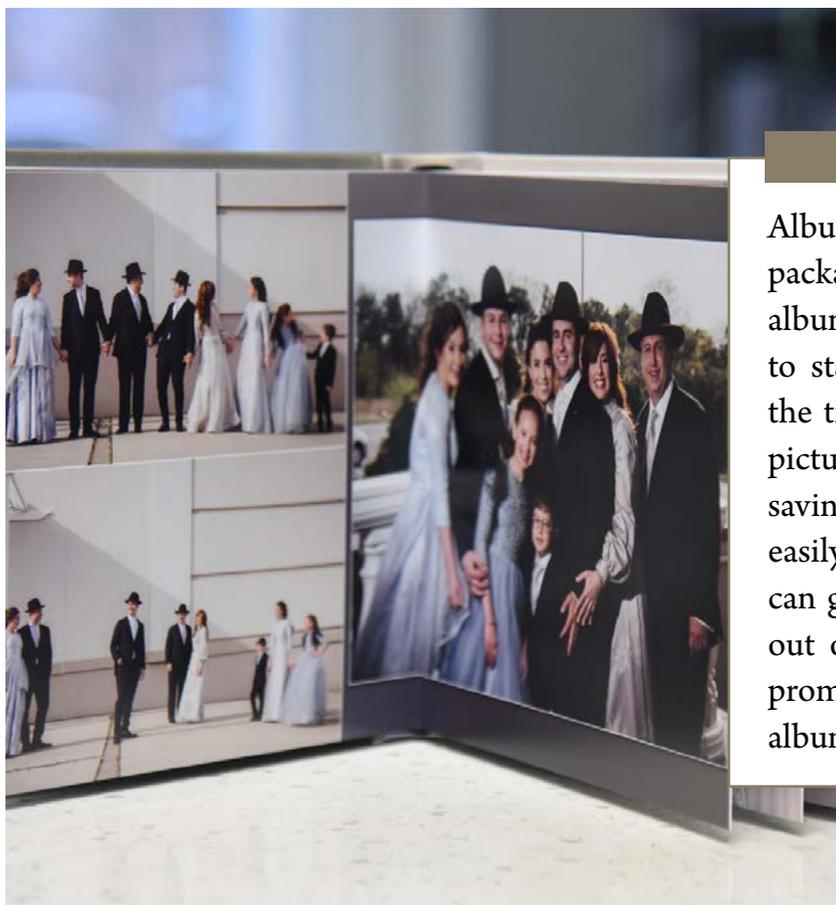
## BACKING UP FOOTAGE AND PHOTOS

It's **crucial that you backup photos and videos**. We strongly recommend using **multiple methods** to backup your files to a hard drive, laptop, off-site locations, and the cloud to ensure that your footage is safe in case of fire, flood or other natural disasters. Note that **once we deliver** the finished products, **we are no longer responsible for your materials**. We have had occasional requests from clients for copies of their footage years after their wedding – be aware that if (and only *if*) we still have the footage, there is a charge to get another copy.



## ALBUMS

Albums are *not* included in any of our packages; however, we do have a dedicated album specialist, and we encourage you to start your albums right away. Most of the time, we find that people know which pictures they like right away, and we suggest saving those shots to a folder so they can easily be added to your album. Married life can get hectic very quickly, so take a page out of Nike's book and "*just do it*" – we promise you, when you get your finished album, you'll be glad you did.





## PRE-WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY CHEAT SHEET

This last-minute cheat sheet is a quick reminder of everything that needs to happen in order to create beautiful wedding photos. Please take a few minutes to review it, so we can make the magic happen.

### PAYMENT

- If you haven't done so prior to us arriving, please pay your lead photographer before we start.

### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

- **Hair/Makeup** - Leave at least an **extra hour** of cushion time, because hair/makeup ALWAYS runs late.
- **Flowers** – Tell your florist the bouquet/backdrop must be done **by** the bride's photo start time, with all other flowers completed shortly thereafter.
- **Sentimental Items** - Keep ALL items (gown, jewelry, invitation, shoes, bridal bouquet, etc)

in one place, so we don't waste time gathering everything and **nothing gets lost**.

- **Parking** – Allow extra time to park, in case your hall lacks proper accommodations.
- **Hall** – All setup should be completed **by** your photo start time to avoid interruptions.
- **Mincha** – Bride and groom should daven Mincha **before** coming to the hall to ensure adequate picture time.

### PICTURE PERFECT

- **Groom** - The groom should put on all finishing touches **AFTER** he is at the hall.
- **Family Pictures** – Everyone must be **on time**, no exceptions. If you need to tell people pictures start earlier to make that happen, go for it.
- **Additional Portraits** – Everyone being photographed must be in the hall, dressed, **on time**.

- **Children** – Designate someone to supervise the children. Feel free to reward them with treats to get the best possible pictures.
- **Poses - Be yourself**, first and foremost, but we may also suggest poses. **Communicate with us** - if we ask you to try a pose you're not comfortable with, let us know, and we'll work on it together.
- **Dancing** – Give photographers a moment to snap shots of the bride/groom dancing with that special person.
- **Memorable Moments** – Designate someone to inform us of any special dances, songs, or other unique moments **five minutes in advance**.

## YOUR WEDDING

- **Keep us Informed** – Appoint someone to **update** and include us. Be sure to let us know where the chosson will be before the chuppah.
- **Chuppah** – Appoint someone to keep the chuppah area and aisles **clear of guests** at all times.
- **Yichud Room** – If the bride needs her hair/makeup touched up, have the appropriate people ready to do their thing **immediately** after the yichud.
- **Couple Portraits** – There's just a short window of time for post-chuppah pictures, so it's important for us all to **focus** and avoid interruptions.
- **Family Portraits** – Those being photographed with the couple must be ready and waiting – designate someone to gather those people up **BEFORE** the couple comes out of the yichud room. **For larger families, we recommend photoshopping the couple into a picture taken prior to the wedding's start.**

- **Bentshing & Sheva Brachos** - Keep it all in one place.
- **Meal** - Please **let our teams eat** before the couple starts dancing. Remember: they've been with you since the beginning; this is their only chance to refuel.
- **Post-Wedding Portraits** – If you would like post-wedding pictures, **say your goodbyes quickly**.

## FINISHED PRODUCTS

- **Deliverables** - All of your pictures/footage will be delivered via download link. Download everything and **save to multiple locations/formats** to keep your treasured footage safe for years to come.
- **Albums** – As you look through your gallery, make note of the shots you want to include in your album right away, so it can be completed quickly, with minimal effort.
- **Questions/Concerns** – If you have any questions or concerns about your pictures, please reach out to us to see if we can help.

WE APPRECIATE  
YOUR TRUST IN US



AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO IMMORTALIZE YOUR FAMILY'S BIG DAY. WE CAN'T WAIT TO TURN THESE PRECIOUS MEMORIES INTO PERMANENT TOKENS OF HOPE AND JOY. AND, OF COURSE: MAZEL TOV!



347.201.0613



@cjstudiosphotos



[www.Cjstudios.info](http://www.Cjstudios.info)