

# Style Guide

## for Portrait Sessions

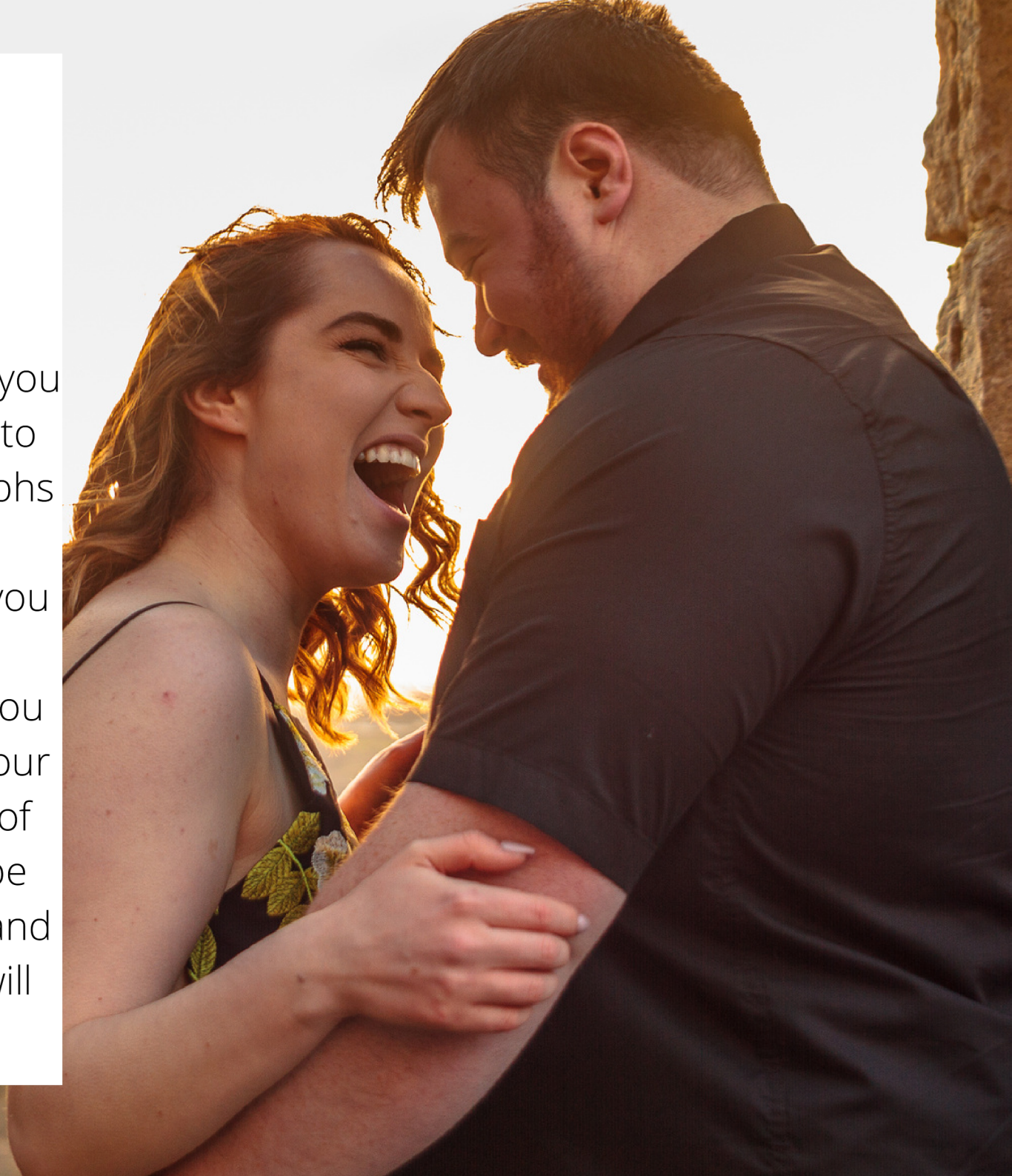
by  
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# What you need to know

I've created this guide to help you get the most out of your photo session, so that the photographs you take home from it are absolutely perfect and bring you endless happy memories.

Reading this guide will have you prepared and confident for your shoot, where I will take care of the rest. All you have to do be yourself, laugh and have fun and I'll create photographs you will love forever.



# When to have your session

There's nothing I love more than "Golden Hour". It's the hour before the sun sets and when the natural light and colours are at their most flattering on your skin and if we are lucky, in the sky too. This does mean that shoots need to be much earlier in Winter and late in Summer, so take that into account if you have young children coming along to be part of your photographs.

I always recommend this time for the best results, but if you are a super early bird, Sunrise can work just as well too.



Weekends tend to work best for most couples and families, but as I also shoot weddings from Spring till Autumn, availability can be limited. If you can take advantage of a mid-week session, you can often skip the queue and get your shoot booked in sooner.

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Non Golden hour session can be booked on request if you have little ones, particularly in peak summer when sunset can be as late as 10 or 11pm.

# Styling Your Session

If you'd like to add something extra to your shoot, bring some props with you!

Fresh flowers can add some natural beauty: you can hold a single rose or a small bouquet to add some romance. Blankets, hats or teddies can add a playful innocence, and even something larger like a car or bikes can add a creative style to your photos. And don't forget the pup if you want to bring them along too!



# Location, Location, Location

I love shooting outdoors. I'm game for pretty much any location you have in mind. Lush woodlands and parks, fresh beaches, iconic urban cities, everything is on the table. Whether it's local or involves a little bit of travel I'm up for an adventure with you.

While I'm happy to suggest locations, especially around different seasons, I'll always welcome your input. Think about where matters to you. Do you have a spot that means something to you? Maybe where you spend your weekends on family walks or in the city where you met and only visit on special occasions now.

Let your imagination take control; maybe there's a private estate with stunning gardens you've always loved, or a family friend with a stunning boat, we'll never know until we ask and you will often be surprised how accommodating people can be.

# Locations in Central Scotland

Portrait sessions include travel anywhere in Central Scotland. With such a variety and beauty on our doorstep there no limit to your choices.



## Castles

Stirling Castle, Castle Campbell, Mugdock Castle, Bothwell Castle

## Beaches

Portencross, Barassie, Irvine Beach Park, Ruby Bay, Inverkeithing

## Parks

Chatelherault Country Park, Pollock Country Park, Callendar Park

## Urban

Glasgow's West End, University of Glasgow, Circus Lane Edinburgh, The Kelpies

# Style Tips for Her

## Dresses

Dresses and skirts look beautiful because they flatter the female shape, especially in camera.

Full length, flowing dresses and skirts look amazing in photos because they make it easy to capture movement, especially with fabrics like chiffon and tulle.

Also consider who's at the shoot with you. Cute, short length cocktail dresses photograph really well, but if you have children in your photos, midi-skirts and and floor length dresses will make moving around with them easier.

Expectant mothers can also achieve a beautiful silhouettes that flatter your figure when wearing full length gowns and maxi dresses, highlighting your bump.

# Style Tips *for Him*

## The Best Fit

Long fitted trousers and closed toed shoes are the most sophisticated and masculine looks for men. They draw attention away from his legs and feet and place it where you want it to be: on his handsome face. So, for your session, it's best to leave the shorts and sliders at home, as well as loose fit jeans. Fitted dark jeans and dress trousers work best for him through the lens. Solid shades of grey or navy are strong compliment to most women's outfits, whereas pinstripes or plaid patterns tend to distract the eye. I also recommend avoiding large graphics and logos as they will date your photos and can be distracting for the eye.





## Style Tips

# Colours



When choosing colours for your outfits, I recommend selecting softer, lighter tones and muted shades. By avoiding ultra-bright bold colours, it will help bring all the attention to your faces and let the eye focus on the way you are looking at each other. Cameras love soft-shade pinks and muted blues, mixed with neutrals like heather grey, cream, white and leather brown.

The softer colour palette fits perfectly into almost all outdoor environments.

# Style Tips *for All*

## Coordination

As you plan your families outfits, keep in mind that choices that will look cohesive on camera, rather than those that "match". I recommend avoiding matching and instead think about what fits together. This will create more visual interest and allow each personality to shine through.

The goal for coordinating a family is to visually break up the colours and shades so that your not all wearing the same colour top or bottom. The more you can mix those up, the better. Try and plan each outfit with dominant and accent colours. A dominant colour is the colour you see the most in an outfit, whereas the accent colour has a smaller slice of real estate on the clothing. You can dress each person in a different dominant colour and then tie in the accent colours together for the whole family.

Remember that softer, lighter tones are superior to bold bright colours.

# Finishing Touches

Now that you have beautiful photographs, it's time to decide how best to enjoy them. There are many ways to share your memories and every home will benefit from a different option.



When I reveal your photographs at your viewing session, I am on hand to guide you through the options available for wall art, photo books and prints. We can talk through what will suit the style and space in your home. From traditional canvases, to bold acrylic pieces and contemporary metal prints, there is something for every home that you will love for years to come.

# Popular Choices



Framed Prints

Folio Display



Tri-fold Display

Mini Books



Albums

Metal Prints



# Final Notes



I've given you a lot to think about, but, please remember this is just a guide. You will have your own style and 'look' Don't water that down or even lose it following these words. By all means take them for inspiration, but make sure you bring YOU to the shoot because that who I want to capture.

