

“I Do”

Women Who Photograph Weddings

By Lisa M. Bolt Simons

Stunning photography takes vision, work ethic and a tremendous lack of fear. For Denver photographer Paige Elizabeth, that fearlessness turned a harebrained idea into a fabulous shoot less than a week before WPPI. Just after returning from shoots in Europe, a little jet lag and a reserved time at Vegas' Neon Boneyard sparked an idea in Paige: Why not capture images of wedding photographers in their own wedding dresses? Matrimony becomes a pivotal part of people's lives; a female wedding photographer brings the passion of her commitment to others' ceremonies.

In five frantic days of email and coordination, Paige gathered 11 married wedding photographers on the last day of WPPI. Most came in their own wedding gowns and held vintage cameras from the early part of the last century. The photographers included Tana Huffman, Erin Cady (Art & Soul), Aimee Cooper (A+R Photography), Shannon Kaple (Center Avenue Imaging), Jonilyn (Jonilyn Photography), Bridget Joy, Kammi Bothwell (Elegant Images), Amanda Tipton (Kokoro Photography), ReJana Krause (Krause Studios), Jamie Jackson (Photos by Jackson) and Julia Williams. Each of these women, established and up-and-coming, has a tale. Wedding photography isn't just what they do—it's who they are.

“While not trying to copy Annie Liebowitz and the *Vanity Fair* covers, I knew that was the feeling we were after—one really amazing photo of these women together,” remarked Paige. “They were brave to move in front of the lens. They tell me it was a powerful experience to do for me what they always ask of their clients. It was terrific for me, as well.” Paige laughed, “I did have moments where I thought I must be crazy. These women usually stand behind the camera. And it was outside of my normal range to be working with a large group for just one image. It was ambitious but worth it.”

Paige's “In Front of the Lens” project will become an annual event taking place the same week as WPPI, but just wait until you hear what she has planned for next year. See more of Paige's work at www.paigeelizabeth.net.

Lisa M. Bolt Simons is a freelance writer and author living in Southern Minnesota. She has recently abandoned her 35mm for digital technology. Finally.



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