



Having portraits taken, or maybe the star of your own film?
Here are some suggestions to help you get ready!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT FACE, 'BOUT THAT FACE, NO TROUBLE! If you want, this is your chance for a have a pro do your hair and makeup. Take advantage of it! If this is an engagement session, use this as your makeup trial for your awesome elopement.

Eyes are the windows to the soul and will be prominently featured. Make sure yours stand out.

For women, eyeliner along and mascara to make your eyes pop.

For women AND men, let's manicure those eyebrows, shall we? The eyebrows frame the face and untidy ones absolutely distract.

Put in contacts, if you have them. If you don't, consider taking at a couple of images without your glasses. Frames can cut across/hide eyes and if both people have frames, it's a lot of eyeglass arms in images where you get all cuddly.

Don't be afraid to wear makeup. We're not talking stage makeup, but take it up a wee notch from your everyday application. Not sure about your makeup "look" or how to put on those cruelty-free false lashes?...do a trial with an artist.

Hydrate+Moisturize. "Oh, sweet pea. Now, you listen to your Auntie Vida. I want you to believe in yourself, imagine good things and moisturize, I cannot stress this enough." ~ Vida Boheme (*Too Wong Foo, Thanks for everything, Julie Newmar*) The consequence of not taking Miss Vida's advice is flaky skin. Makeup applied to flaky skin catches the light and makes it even more pronounced. A random flake here or there we can quickly fix. Correction of patches will incur additional fees. So start drinking water and moisturizing now! Oh, and be kind to your lips. Moisturize them to help prevent chapping and cracking.

Walk away from the glitter makeup, "unnatural" foundation color, and tanning booth. Glitter reflects light and may leave you with little fairy spots. ***Foundation is great, but check it out against your hands....they should match.*** *If your face is one color and your hands are another that contrast is going to stand out even more in your images so just don't do it* (because I will not go image by image trying to match out-of-whack skin tones because you didn't heed this instruction). Tanning, ah tanning. 1. Tan lines...UGH 2. Fake tan color....UGH 3. Your partner (who isn't a tanning fiend) will look completely washed out or you will look unnaturally darker (or gasp! Orange!) than you are...UGH UGH UGH. Again, I will not work each image to bring you to a more real look if you decide to apply tanning lotion or overdo it in a tanning bed/sun.

HANDS, HANDS, HANDS (and sometimes toes). They will be photographed or filmed. Make sure proper attention is given to their manicure. Clean hands and nails are a must. If polish is used, go for natural, subdued colors. Bright, vibrant, dark or heavily designed nails will make the viewer look in that direction first...and that's not what we want.

DON'T FORGET YOUR HAIR (+BEARD) Think a little on your hair so it's conditioned and ready for its close up. Going for a new look? Ask your stylist what cut best suits your face shape. Get tips from your stylist on how to keep that new "do" looking good throughout the session. Get coifed several days to a week before your session so you have a handle on your mane. Touch up roots if you need to.

Groom that beard (who doesn't love scruff?!, but like out-of-control eyebrows, beard hairs with their own agenda can really be a distraction).

OH WHAT TO WEAR! *We will have sorted this out weeks prior to your session. This is just a reminder to make sure you can bend, sit, stretch, lie down, hold your arms above your head, etc. without your clothing holding you back, buttons bulging, undergarments stealing the show (including socks...no white socks under your trousers, guys), or your own bits and bobs popping out. Make sure your clothes are clean, tidy, lint and hair free, de-pilled and ironed...and do all that the night before!*

Jewelry. Don't be afraid to wear it...statement pieces are awesomesauce! Just remember to make sure jewelry is CLEAN!

THERE'S NO CRYING IN....photo/video sessions. OK, we know that isn't always true. Kids (and some big people) can get upset because they're tired or hungry, or have to go potty. Cut that off at the pass by working up to a nap schedule so they can catch some zzzzz prior to the session, or scheduling during a season where their naps or bedtime aren't interrupted. Feed those little gremlins and give them the opportunity to use the potty just before we get together. Also, get your canoodling, dancing, holding and playing game on with your kiddos (and your honey)...make it fun so when we're together there will be genuine smiles and peels of laughter.

ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT...don't forget to take the hair tie OFF OF YOUR WRIST! We're not quite sure why they are called "hair ties" when more often than not they end up on wrists. Take it off, take it off, take it off your wrist. We *may* catch it before we begin your session, or we may shoot tens of photos before it catches our eyes...for sure we'll see it when we begin retouching your images. The bottom line here is we will not be responsible for forgotten hair ties left on wrists (because you've been warned). Any photograph featuring the pesky interloper might be Photoshopped...at an additional cost to you for each photograph.

The same goes for wallets and keys and phones in pockets. Empty your pockets before we start.

We may catch the hair ties and lumps in pockets before we begin your session, or we may shoot tens of photos (and video) before they catch our eyes...for sure we'll see them when we begin editing your images, or putting together your film.

The bottom line here is we will not be responsible for forgotten hair ties left on wrists, or the funky look of your clothing because you didn't empty your pockets (you've been warned). Any photograph featuring pesky interlopers might be Photoshopped...at an additional cost to you for each photograph. There's no taking those things out of your video.

A HORSE, A HORSE, MY KINGDOM FOR A HORSE. (Billy Shakespeare, Richard III) Props...let's talk about them. They are fitting in some situations and in others they are just cheesy (no thank you).

LOCK ALL YOUR VALUABLES in the trunk of your car. Bring any touchup items, along with bribes (we mean rewards) in a bag that can sit in the dirt, if need be.

IN HOME? We will have discussed what rooms we plan to use. You will have sent us some phone shots of the spaces. Now make sure everything is tidied up before we arrive. Take the extra step and just assume we'll use every room in the house (it's all about the light). If need be, do a last-minute shove of clutter into closets or drawers, because taking the time to move piles of laundry, cardboard boxes shouting out the brand-name of your bulk baby wipe purchase, or general everyday living "messes" after we arrive *is going to eat into your session time.*

SOME OF THE BEST ADVICE EVER?

Don't forget to have a little nibble before your session so your tummy isn't ready to be done before we've even begun. You'll feel better, have more focus and energy throughout the session. If you have littles, bring along just-in-case snacks and drinks like crackers, nutrition bars and water. Lollipops are great and look cute in photos! Save the chocolate and colorful drinks for after the session.

Restating the importance of potty breaks before your session. Dancing during our time together is great. Doing the pee-pee dance isn't nearly as fun.

If we tell you to bring a sweater or jacket or extra shoes...believe us. You'll be grateful for the warmth and comfort and won't tap out before your session ends.

Plug in extra travel time so you're ready to roll, not just rolling up or out of the car, when we are supposed to be meeting. Traffic could bite you in the hiney and cut into your session (and most of all, available light. We cannot control the sun!). Better early than late!

And finally, come excited and ready to participate in the fun. Don't be shy. And don't worry, we won't just stare at you waiting for you to do something. We'll set the scene, give you suggestions and loads of encouragement so you can be who you are.

Emotion makes the photograph and film. So, share it with us so we can give it back to you in beautiful images and video!