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Feature Article

Wedding Mishaps

Wedding is one such occasion which must leave lasting picture-perfect memory. Most families don't mind spending money to capture this beautiful moment on camera.

But what happens when you hire a professional videographer, pay him thousands of dollars and all you get is decapitated guests, a ceremony hardly visible through the gloom, random close-ups of not the bride or her excited family or the groom but the car-wheels parked in the nearby car park.

The memorable snapshots of one Annie, who came from Melbourne with her fiancé to get married in our beautiful country, reflects how her big day to be captured in the videography has been ruined.

The couple had hired a reputable resort to host their wedding... a picturesque location fitting for guests dressed up for the happy occasion. But watching Annie's wedding video, nothing seems to have been captured well.

She paid \$3,000 to a local company which she found via Facebook. She hired this company based on the reviews posted on the company's Facebook with appealing footages of their previous work.

However, what Annie received on a DVD was nothing less than a home-video shot by some amateur. A glimpse of the video shows that this videographer is a learner who even did not know what it takes to produce a quality wedding video.

Annie's frustration began when she kept reminding the videography company to send her the wedding video. The company kept coming up with excuses that they were still editing the video.

This excuse continued for six months.

After constant nagging via emails and calls, Annie finally received her DVD by courier. But the first impression after watching the content, picture quality, colour and editing left Annie dumbfounded.

The DVD had several unsteady movements, bride and groom being filmed from behind, bride and groom's body missing from time to time in the video recording and numerous blurry close-up shots. It was simply a case of poor video recording.

A disappointed Annie lodged a complaint with the Council, seeking a full refund. The videographer advised the Council that he had re-worked on the DVD.

A copy was also sent to Annie but she found the re-edited version no better than the first version seen by her. The Council saw the re-edited video and found no improvement and is now demanding full refund.

In Fiji it is quite common to see people start their small video production business by making wedding videos. They mistakenly see weddings as an easy way to earn a living. Unfortunately, they don't see this as an important day in someone's life which cannot be captured again. It is also seen that videographers once they become competent they start employing inexperienced people to take more jobs ruining their clients most memorable day.

The best advice for choosing a wedding videographer for your big day is to look for experience. Do ask for a demo DVD of the videographer's previous work which you must see from start to finish. It is definitely worth asking how many cameras will be used. A single camera is not really capable of capturing everything properly and safely. You should also ask for references from previous customers.

Do not fall prey to appealing videos and pictures. What may seem pleasing to the eye can be deceptive in reality. Remember, wedding videos are a specialist product and you need someone who understands how to make a quality product.