

ENGAGEMENT SESSION

# STYLE GUIDE

*a luxury experience*







# ENGAGEMENT SESSION STYLE GUIDE

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*tips, advice, and inspiration*

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## *meet* ANESHA COLLINS



*After several years of shooting weddings and portrait sessions, I've heard every question a couple can possibly think of with preparing for their Engagement Session. Questions ranging from, "What do I wear to my Engagement Session" to "What if I feel funny in front of the camera?" Planning a wedding comes with a lot of moving parts, and a lot of times couples get overwhelmed, but that's why I have taken the time to educate my couples and be a resource.*

*I'm here to help you have a fun and romantic session where you can truly enjoy each others company while taking some amazing photos. I'm sharing tips and advice to help you better prepare for your session. From choosing a location, what to wear, how to be more comfortable in front of the camera, and a checklist to help you go over everything you'll need for the session.*

*Like I've said before, planning a wedding shouldn't be painful, and neither should preparing for your engagement session. It's a beautiful time and you should desire to experience joy throughout this journey.*



### *Fun Fact About Me*

*I'm very old school! I still like to receive letters or cards in the mail. So, when you get home from your session and talk about how amazing it was, and then think about sending me a card....don't hesitate! I promise I will smile from ear to ear!*



*choosing a date & time*



*The Date:*

*An email will be sent to you once you've selected the date you'd like to have your shoot on from my availability list.*

*Time:*

*Outdoor sessions are normally done early in the morning, or later on in the evening when the sun has gone down.*

*The Style:*

*To achieve the look and style you've seen in my portfolio, I normally shoot using natural light. If you've chosen to do an indoor session (because of the look you desire for your session), no worries, I can capture those images just as beautifully using flash when needed.*



## *choosing the location*

*If you're worried about choosing a location, don't panic. I will help you find a location that matches the look you want to achieve for your session. After all, I'm a photographer and this is what I do! I find new locations all the time to shoot at that I love.*

*The Location:*

*Arrive at the location chosen for your shoot no later than twenty- minutes before your session.*

*This helps to not only find parking, but it also prevents you from sweating (because you're running late) or from anxiety and nerves taking over because you're scrambling last minute. Once I arrive on location, I will tell you where to meet me. I'll also send a photo of exactly where I'm at so you have a visual in case a street name is hard to find.*



*choosing your look*  
**WHAT TO WEAR**



*If you want an editorial look for your session, then accessories/items that match the look you want are important to bring with you for the session.*

*If you want an intimate session that's more focused on the two of you, consider what you will wear instead of additional items that will take attention away from you as a couple in your photos.*

*The next section of this guide is divided into two sections::*

*For Her: Accessorizing*

*For Him Accessorizing*

*styling tips  
FOR HER*



*Ladies, don't be afraid to dress it up! By the way, there is no such thing as too dressed up. If you want to wear a gown, tulle, or a flower crown (if that's a part of your look), go for it! This is about you and your honey.*

*Dressing up all helps you to feel a little more into the session because who doesn't like to feel a little sexy in front of their fiance! Choose one or two looks and also think about accessories that work for both looks.*

*This saves time with changing on the day of your session. Try on the outfits you've chosen before your session so you're not uncomfortable during the shoot.*

***choosing colors:***

*When choosing colors for your outfits, select lighter tones and more muted shades. By avoiding ultra-bright, bold colors, it will help bring all the attention to your faces and let the eye focus on the way you feel about each other. The camera loves shades of soft pink and muted blues, mixed with sophisticated light neutrals like heather gray, creams, leather brown and white. That softer color palette fits beautifully into almost all natural outdoor environments.*



## *styling tips FOR HER*



### *coordinating the looks*

*As you're coordinating your outfit with your fiancé's, keep in mind that your outfits will look the most cohesive on camera when the color palettes coordinate, but don't necessarily "match." You should each aim to wear a different dominant color, but stay within a similar color palette family. So if you're wearing a blush dress, soft blue earrings and nude heels (blush being your dominant color), then your partner could wear a navy coat with gray pants, paired with brown leather shoes and maybe even a blush pocket square. Now your partner has their own dominant color (navy) while still incorporating a few touches of your color palette. Most of my brides choose their dress first, and then put together their fiancé's outfit based on that. That's why I have a section for each of you.*

### *flattering your features*

*In my experience, every woman, regardless of her shape has an area of her body that she's self-conscious about, so recognizing what area that is in advance is key. Choosing flattering silhouettes and colors that complement your natural features is the best way to ensure you'll love the way you look in your photos.*

*Three-quarter length sleeves create an awesome slimming effect on all arms, so be on the lookout for an option with a longer length sleeve.*

*You could also bring a cute jacket, blazer or cardigan along, too.*

*Skinny straps or strapless dresses have the opposite effect on arms on camera, so I recommend avoiding those whenever possible if your goal is a set of slimmer-looking arms.*

*Heels elongate women's legs, making them look fabulous. Closed-toed heels in particular look great on camera because they carry out the line of your leg all the way down to your toe. If your toes are showing in a peep-toe heel, you might want to schedule a pedicure before your session so you don't regret letting your feet show.*

*These little tricks make all the difference!*



*styling tips  
FOR HIM*



*Fellas, before thinking that wearing a suit is too much- think again! If you're still wondering call me and I'll tell you personally why it's probably your best choice for your session.*

*Details are going to be your best friend too! Don't skimp on the watch, the cufflinks, the shoe color, the tie....I think you get it.*

*There are more tips in the guide, don't worry.*

***a good suit***

*Men look most striking in a well-tailored suit. If he doesn't have one, now's the perfect time to invest in something he'll wear for the rest of his life!*

*The best part? It's a lot less expensive than you might think! While custom suits can cost thousands of dollars, some of the most well-known brands have off-the-rack suits in their stores for a fraction of the price. Solid shades of gray or navy are a strong complement to most women's outfits, whereas pinstripes or plaid patterns tend to distract the eye.*



## *styling tips FOR HIM*



### *layered looks*

*Next time you walk by a store like 7. Crew, you'll notice the male mannequins and models are always wearing several layers at once. Layers on men look great on camera, so even when it's hot outside, trust us when we say that it's worth an hour or two of discomfort for photos that will last you both a lifetime.*

*Adding another layer will bring extra dimension and visual interest to your photos.*

*Blazers, vests and coats up the level of any look. If the temperature permits, he could even consider adding a v-neck sweater with a pop of color from a long-sleeved collared shirt and tie underneath.*

*Don't be afraid to get a little creative with layers!*

### *it's all in the details*

*Long pants 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: on the face you fell in love with. So, for your session, it's best to leave the shorts, sandals and jeans at home, too.*

*Suit pants, dress pants or colored pants work best. Brown leather dress shoes complement almost every look, whether he's wearing a full suit or a blazer and colored pants. Ties, bowties, pocket squares, colored socks, belts, tie clips, suspenders, vests and watches are sharp complements to any suit.*

*If you bring two suits to the session, you can start with a traditional necktie and belt, then switch to suspenders and a bow tie for your second look. If two suits are too stressful, no problem! One look will do the trick! You can still mix and match accessories to complement both of her dresses without doing a full change during the session. So, either way, you win.*









### ***make a statement***

*Professional hair and makeup is on the top of most of our brides' checklists because it looks amazing and removes the stress of getting ready on your own.*

*Whether it's lash extensions or blown-out hair, professional hair and makeup will give you an extra boost of confidence in front of the camera, and it always photographs like a dream.*

*This is the perfect opportunity to have your trial with YOUR own make up artist for the wedding day. If you're working with a makeup artist, have her apply your makeup in natural light, if possible, so that it looks fresh and not too heavy.*

*Plus, that's the type of light we'll be shooting in, so it'll give you the best expectation of how it will translate on camera. Most of our brides feel like their makeup is "too much" at first, since it's more than you would wear on a normal day, so if you feel that way at the beginning, don't worry! Good makeup artists know how to get it just right for the camera — and our brides always love the final result.*

### ***show off the ring***

*I will always try to get a shot of the ring on its own and on your hand during your engagement session. Your ring will be center stage, so give yourself permission to get it cleaned and your nails done, too!*

*To make your ring really sparkle in photos, have it professionally cleaned by your jeweler (They will clean it for free!) or use appropriate jewelry cleaner before your session.*



## *getting comfortable*



### *how to prep for your session - camera shy*

*Most men aren't overly excited to take photos for one to two hours, because they don't have an expectation of what's to come and why it's so important to you. Take fifteen minutes to educate and empower your guy. Tell him why you chose me and my style of photography.*

*Show him your three favorite images that I've taken, explain why you love them and express to him how much it means to you. Trust me, once he knows it's important, he'll light up the camera for you!*

*The most common thing I hear from guys before photo sessions is this: because of a bad experience in the past, they don't like taking photos or don't think they'll be good at it.*

*By the time I'm done, though, they can't believe how fast it went and just how much fun they had!*

### *trust me*

*When we first meet, I will talk with the both of you. Yes, I'm not going to whip out the camera and become paparazzi. I want to make sure we start at the right time; trust me- I'll know when you're ready to start.*





*one week before (the ring)*

***Bonus Tip:  
the ring and detail shots***

*Capturing detail shots help to tell the story. If you sweat a lot, consider cleaning your ring no later than 48-hours before your session. Be sure to ask your jeweler about the turn-around time for the cleaning.*





*the night before your session*

*It's totally normal to feel nervous about your session. Most of the time, couples are so excited that this excitement turns into nervousness.*

*To better prepare before the night before, don't do anything strenuous. In fact, resting is your best bet!*



*Gather anything you'll need for the session ahead of time. Place everything in one area of the house, so it's easy to grab before you leave in the morning and then go have fun!*

*Use the checklist in this guide to help you with any last-minute items or to verify that you have everything you need and want for the session.*







## ENGAGEMENT SESSION *checklist*

- Set date, time and location with Anesha*
- Review guide for style tips*
- Schedule hair and makeup appointments*
- Choose your outfits*
- Get your nails done*
- Clean your ring*
- Pick a fun post-session date night spot*
- Pack a bag with:*
  - Flats or flip-flops for walking between photo spots*
  - (Optional) Outfit two (including shoes and accessories)*
  - Touch-up makeup*
  - Water bottle (for warmer sessions)*
  - Coat or cover-up (for colder sessions)*