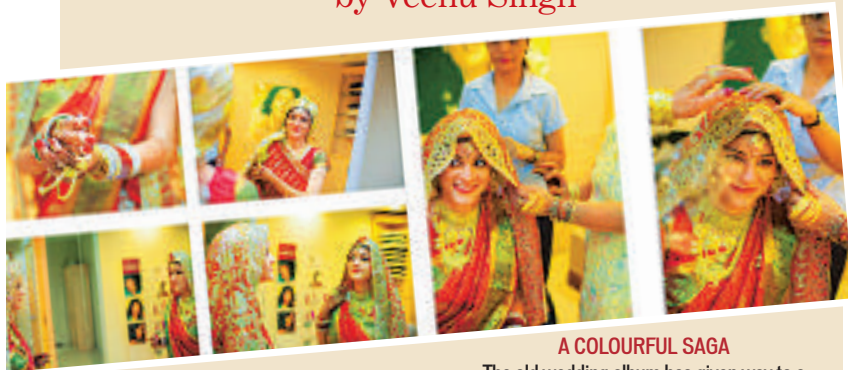


Variety

A DIFFERENT SHOT

Exciting things have happened to wedding photography. For one thing, it's become real

by Veenu Singh



A COLOURFUL SAGA

The old wedding album has given way to a sleek coffee table book. A page from Atul Pratap Chauhan's work

AS KIDS, we all had those moments. Bored, we'd wander to our parents' cupboards, root about the shelves, and emerge triumphantly with big, fat, ornately decorated photo albums – the pictorial proof of our parents' and relatives' wedding days.

Going through the albums was a blast. We'd chortle over those outdated fashions, exercise our wits over the sizes and shapes of the wedding guests, make rude remarks about mandap decorations, but most of all, comment on one particular thing – the poses and compositions those old-time wedding photographers insisted on. Every photo looked the same as every other photo. Only the faces and outfits changed.

You wouldn't see wedding photos like those often these days. In fact, if young couples had their way, you'd never see photographs like that again. What's cool now is candid shots. Wedding pictures are now keeping it real.

"There is no denying the fact

that weddings are a kind of family reunion," says corporate communications executive Aroma, who recently got married. "But at the same time, I wanted my wedding pictures to tell a story about my husband and I as a couple. I wasn't keen on pictures of who came for my wedding and who wore what. It was *my* special day and I wanted to capture those memories forever."

Parents, at this time, are not too thrilled about this new photo trend. But well-travelled couples love it. "Candid photography or a documentary style of wedding pictures has been trendy internationally for a few years," says Andrew Adams, a wedding photographer from Toronto now shooting in India. "A lot of NRIs who are used to seeing this want a similar experience for their own weddings. It's a more contemporary approach and young people prefer it."

Here's a look at some new wedding photography.

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ANDREW ADAMS

Moved from Toronto to India to capture Indian weddings as "they are so colourful and emotionally rich." Doesn't offer fixed packages as each wedding is unique



Raised in a non-religious Canadian household, Andrew Adams was not exposed much to world culture until he moved away from home to study photography. "After my schooling I wanted to travel and explore the world. I have always been fascinated with South Asian culture, so naturally I became very interested in photographing Indian weddings," says Andrew.

Why weddings? Because, according to Andrew, they allow him full creative freedom, something not often found in other types of com-

mercial photography.

Candid photography is Andrew's forte, something that he feels very strongly about. "My style is unobtrusive and my goal is to tell the true story of your day, as seen through the lens of a sensitive, documentary photographer. And candid shots are real," he says.

This means that planning isn't possible. Shooting a wedding docu-

EMOTIONAL ATYACHAR

Catching the groom off guard (above); the vidai ceremony is all about raw emotions between father and daughter (below)

