



PHOTOS WITH GRANDPARENTS COULD BECOME HEIRLOOMS

mentary style, Andrew must just go with the flow.

"I capture what happens as it happens, naturally," he explains. "For posed photos, yes, I do instruct the bride and groom and family when it's appropriate to do so, but NEVER during a ceremony! I would never interfere with the religious portion of the wedding."

Since some parents are not 100 per cent certain of the results of candid photography, Andrew always suggests that they hire another photographer to do the posed pictures, so everyone is happy. Meanwhile, he himself is happy shooting at all kinds of weddings in all kinds of places. He prefers shooting in colour, since Indian weddings tend to be bright, but when it comes to emotional moments, he'd rather do black and white.

Having shot Indian weddings for 12 years, Andrew naturally has a lot of memories. "My most favourite moments are often during the vidai ceremony, when it's all about raw emotions," he says. "These are the best moments to capture. By this time the family is used to me and my camera and often let their guard down, so I am able to capture the real, heartfelt moments. These will be family treasures to keep for generations to come."

He also focuses on the larger family, especially the grandparents. "It may be the last photograph ever taken of the whole family together and these photographs will become cherished family heirlooms," he says.

SHARIK VERMA

Left his job with Wipro to focus on photography. Loves wedding photography because it captures different cultures. Is a fanatic about travelling, both in India and abroad



Some people would seriously envy 24-year-old Sharik Verma, once an engineer with Wipro, now a photographer of weddings – and more.

"During my tenure at Wipro, I bought a camera and went about clicking for fun. Then, I decided to take a trip to Zaskar and came back with lots of photos, including some of the Dalai Lama," says Sharik. "Two of my best pictures of the Dalai Lama were sold for charity by an NGO, which made me think about photography seriously. And then I realised that I could combine that with travel. Two of my favourite things at one shot. I was decided."

But even a travelling photographer can't survive without money, and Sharik desperately needed a portfolio. "So I decided to try shooting products and did some fashion assignments as well. But I missed the creative satisfaction I was looking for."

Then a chance meeting with Atul Pratap Chauhan, who not only did commercial photography but had made a mark in the field of wedding photography, showed Sharik the way. "Atul looked at my work and inspired me to take up wedding photography which would not just give

me a chance to showcase my creative side, but also let me travel," says Sharik.

But Sharik doesn't like being called a wedding photographer. He prefers to be referred to as a photojournalist. "I don't just click pictures, I get involved with the family in every moment of the celebration and then try to capture their moods and emotions from an insider's point of view," he explains. "I interact with every important person of the family, understand their personalities and remain with them during the preparations as well as the final celebrations. I dance with them, eat with them and feel as sad as everyone else when the wedding is over."

A large number of his clients are NRIs who are used to seeing this kind of involvement among photographers abroad and want the same style to be adopted here. Sharik is a big fan of minimalism and that's how he shoots wedding photos too.

"The best thing about Indian weddings is the fact that there is a riot of colours everywhere and I prefer to capture those real colours with as little use of photoshop as possible," says Sharik.

So are there any favourite wedding moments that he'll remember forever? "I really feel that destination weddings are much more fun as the gathering is small, the location is usually fantastic and you are able to capture the emotional moments in a much better way," he says.

CREATING A STORY

Sharik prefers to call himself a photojournalist because he is involved with the families in every moment



MY WORK GIVES ME THE CHANCE TO MEET PEOPLE AND TRAVEL AS WELL

"Besides this, intercultural or inter-religious weddings are also favourites as you get to see all kinds of different ceremonies and rituals."

One great memory is of a wedding in Udaipur between two UK-born Indians.

"It was a very close family affair that gave me the chance to capture some great moments, and I developed a great rapport with the families," says Sharik. And once the wedding season comes to an end, he'll take his earnings on a road trip through Europe – taking pictures all the way.