

Why Might We Need a Second Camera? 10 Good Reasons to Consider This.

People sometimes ask why they would need a second camera to cover their wedding. Isn't one sufficient? Why incur extra expense?

It is true that some weddings can be adequately covered with a single camera. Also there are "cheats" to make it look, at times, like there was maybe a second camera – "cutaways" to cover camera movements, and to provide a bit of variety. However, a single camera is very limited, particularly for the larger wedding and venue. So here are some of the advantages of booking a second cameraman – which we believe provide a more thorough and artistic production and which represents excellent value for money for a once-in-a-lifetime (we all hope!) occasion!

1. Your wedding is a very special occasion for you as a couple but for your immediate families and close friends too – and it might be a long time – if ever - before all of those people are together in one place. So try to get the best and fullest coverage you can!
2. A wedding is a live event with no retakes. In this respect single camera coverage increases the risks of missing an important moment because someone (for example) moved in the way – and there was no second camera to cut to!
3. As well as getting more coverage you will get better coverage with two cameras. For example, during the speeches one can stay on the speaker while the other has a wide shot or gets reactions in the room. With a single camera it is difficult to move off the speaker e.g. to seek out someone who has been referred to.
4. The second camera allows shooting hazards – camera moves - pans, refocusing, etc., as well as people walking in front of the camera - to be covered up in the edit. With one camera you either have to live with it or cut out any parts where there is a problem with the footage. For these reasons solo cameramen tend to be pretty conservative in their filming style, to avoid problems in the edit – but this does not make for a dynamic viewing experience!
5. Practical considerations are worth mentioning too. The photographer is about to whisk the couple off somewhere, or the wedding party is rushing off to the reception, some miles distant. If there are two cameramen, one can or go on ahead, while the other completes coverage at the church and packs away the considerable amount of gear a videographer requires. Some examples: when the bride arrives, having had her preparations filmed, the second cameraman is ready to film the limo drawing up. When the reception greeting line is in place, so is at least one of the video crew.
6. If you enjoy watching good television drama or film, you will appreciate the benefits of differing perspectives and cuts between protagonists to maintain interest and keep the pace going. The wide shot establishes the context, while the closer shots show detail, reactions and relationships.
7. The venues as well as your guests will very probably look at their best and showing all of this using close ups of detail, and high vantage points where available can only be properly achieved with two or more cameras
8. Most of us have seen at least one Royal Wedding – can you imagine how that would look with one camera coverage?
9. Once the footage is back in the studio the editor has far more to work with to achieve a pleasing result if there are different perspectives and shot sizes to cut to. He can choose the best sound track from the camera that was nearest the action.
10. The additional cost for filming and editing is, we consider, modest in relation to the superior edit you will receive and the work that goes into producing it.