



Portfolio : [www.hafizismail.com](http://www.hafizismail.com)  
[punjabiweddingphotographer.com](http://punjabiweddingphotographer.com)  
Facebook : [www.wowphoto.my](http://www.wowphoto.my)  
Email : [ebook@wowphoto.my](mailto:ebook@wowphoto.my)  
Contact : +6 03 6211 7886

## About the author

---

Hafiz Ismail is an International Wedding & Portrait Photographer with more than 50,000 hours of experience in capturing multi-cultural wedding.

He resides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



# Introduction

I still remember my first official wedding assignment back in 2006. I was using my trusty old Nikon D70s, 18-70mm lens and my SB600 speedlight. My client was Ruvian and Yati.

That was my first exposure at wedding photography. My photos were crap but the couple loved it. I vividly remember when I was delivering the album to them, how appreciative they were at their beautifully captured images.

Fast forward to 2011, I have been blessed. I had the opportunity to travel the world - USA, India, Brunei - to capture beautiful weddings. I am thankful where I am today. And not to be too complacent, each day is a challenge for me to produce timeless images and to stay ahead of the crowd.

To shortlist my **25 Best Actual Wedding Day Moments** from a 5 year portfolio is something that is borderline crazy since I truly believe in Henri Cartier-Bresson's quote that "*your first 10,000 photographs are your worst*".



Nimrit & Gurmit, Malaysia, 2011

Nikon D3, 1/250 f2.8 at 24mm on Nikkor 24mm f/2.8D.

2 Off Camera flash left and right of newlywed at 1/4th Manual Power zoom at 50mm

17

## The Wide Story

Sometimes you just need to step back and see the whole scene from a wide angle perspective.

This moment was captured when the newlyweds, together with the priest, were praying. I stood next to the holy book on the altar and used my widest lens to frame the couple in between the front two altar beam.

I used two off camera flash placed at the side of the couple. I triggered it using Pocket Wizards. You can see the flashes in action in the image below.



# Emotion

I have always staged a scene where I want both of the parents to hug either the groom or bride. Yes, staged scenes sometimes do not work. Sometimes you cannot get an honest or real moment.

But it works for me most of the time.

I have always believed when we stage a scene, I am helping my couple to create a timeless moment for them and their family to enjoy for the rest of their lives.

It also helps me in getting the “compulsory” images for my album design.

The image you see on the right is the chosen one out of 4 shots on the bottom.

## Tips for you

- 50/50 chances that you will get an honest moment. So just go for it.
- If you feel that you did not get the “compulsory” or the moment that you want, staging it might work.



*Tim & Liz, Malaysia, 2010*  
*Nikon D3, 1/400 f2.2 at 50mm on Nikkor 50mm f/1.4D*



## Lighted up

*Amir & Zairin, Malaysia, 2011*

*Nikon D3, 1/125 f2.8 at 85mm on Nikkor 85mm f/1.8*



I have come to love and hate wedding receptions in Hotels. Love it when the deco and the ambience is right.

And absolutely love it when the spotlight focused just on the couple while the rest of the room were darkened.

This composition will bring the eyes to the most important subject, the newlyweds.

### Tips for you

- Master your Manual Exposure. You will have to know how to read your metering on your DSLR.
- I love extreme Rule of Third (RO3). Master it and you can break the rules once in a while.



You can never know what is going to happen during a wedding. But one thing that you can bet on is some emotion is going to be shown on the day.

My job is to capture these sometimes unnoticed moments. In order to do this, I stick to my couple like a bee.

My camera will always be ready in the right setting because I don't want to worry about it while I snap away at a scene

that might only last for a few seconds.

This is an emotional hug between two siblings right after the solemnization. Syaiful hugged his elder brother and his brother began to wept in happiness for Syaiful.

This was a timeless moment for both of them.



## Timeless Moment

*Syaiful & Hezne, Malaysia, 2010*

*Nikon D3, 1/250 f2.8 at 24mm on Nikkor 24mm f/2.8D.*

*Flash fired - manual at 1/16th Power.*