

# WORDS OF WISDOM

IRISH BRIDES MEETS SEVEN EXPERTS WHO HAVE SEEN IT ALL WHEN IT COMES TO WEDDINGS. THEY'VE GENEROUSLY SHARED THEIR TOP ADVICE TO ENSURE YOU PLAN YOUR DAY TO PERFECTION.



## The bridal boutique owner

**MARION MATHEWS  
OF THE WHITE ROOM**

"Before making any appointments think about the style of dress that will suit your body and that you'll feel comfortable in. Cut out any images that inspire you and bring these with you. Good research will help focus you and save time. Don't bring too many people with you and choose those you do bring carefully. People have different ideas of what will suit and often choose gowns to their own taste. Bringing too many people to a bridal appointment can stress you out and result in trying on gowns that other people have chosen rather than working with the sales assistant to find the perfect gown for you. The most important thing is that you feel fabulous in your dress. If you feel fabulous you will look fabulous.

Dress shopping can be tiring so two shops in one day will probably be enough. Brides often find it difficult to remember what they've already tried on so aim to have one absolute favourite from each shop."  
[www.thewhiteroom.ie](http://www.thewhiteroom.ie)



## The videographer

**RICHARD GILL**

"Do your homework when choosing your wedding videographer. Visit online forums and check out customer testimonials on the videographer's website or Facebook page. View samples of their work in advance looking at the overall picture quality, composition and transitions. Another crucial aspect is the audio quality. There's no point in having a lovely wedding production if the sound reproduction is poor.

"Make sure you meet your videographer to get an idea of how he will fit in and interact on the day. This will give you an idea of the type of production you can expect when completed. Your DVD captures a once in a lifetime event so make sure you are happy with every aspect of its production."  
[www.richardgill.ie](http://www.richardgill.ie)

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## The florist

**HENK VAN ENK  
OF GO DUTCH FLOWERS**

"Do your research on line or with floral books or magazines before approaching a florist. Familiarise yourself with flowers you love but be open to suggestions in case your favourite blooms aren't in season.

You'll want your bouquets to complement the bridesmaids' dresses, so it's a good idea to bring a sample dress or fabric swatch to the florists to ensure a good colour match.

There's more to choosing your flowers than picking the colours. The shape of a dress can be enhanced by a well-chosen bouquet so make sure your florist has a picture of your dress to work with."

[www.go-dutch.ie](http://www.go-dutch.ie)



## The venue manager

**CHRISTIAN SCHMELTER OF LEIXLIP HOUSE HOTEL**

"All too often we meet couples at the later stages of their wedding planning who are completely stressed out. Where possible, plan well ahead and make all the key decisions as early as possible. If you like a venue and need time to think about it don't leave it too long. Couples often ring back a few weeks later to find their date is now gone. We also advise couples to avoid becoming travel agents for their guests. Look after accommodation arrangements for the core wedding party, but don't get involved with reservations for other guests. Instead opt for a block room booking whereby guests can make their reservations directly with the venue." [www.leixliphouse.com](http://www.leixliphouse.com) ■

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## The wedding planner

**JUDY MULLINS OF  
"I DO" WEDDINGS**

"Make a wedding folder divided into sections for the flowers, cake, photographer, accessories etc. Use the folder for magazine cuttings or downloads of things that inspire you.

Delegate as many of the small but important tasks, such as mass booklets, suit collection and writing the place cards. I've noticed that the mother of the groom is not always as included as the bride's mum, so this is one way of involving her.

If you're having a marquee wedding there are lots of details that often get overlooked, such as the clean up. Ensure the marquee hire company or your caterers will do a full clean up of the space within 48 hours of the reception and that the rental companies will stack the chairs themselves. Also make sure there's someone on site for the portable toilet cabins, just in case of any unwanted problems arise!"

[www.idoweddingsireland.com](http://www.idoweddingsireland.com)



## The dress designer

**EDEL TUITE**

"When having your dream dress designed you need to consider all your best features and work with these to flatter your figure. Be open-minded and try on different necklines and different styles of skirt so that you can gauge which looks best. After that it's easy to choose materials and embellishments.

If you're self-conscious about any part of your body it's best to speak openly about your likes and dislikes. This will ensure your dress is designed to camouflage trouble spots and make you feel confident and look beautiful.

It's important your dress design suits your personality so that you will feel totally comfortable and beautiful on your wedding day. Every bride deserves her own unique wedding dress to express her true individuality."  
[www.edeltuitedesign.com](http://www.edeltuitedesign.com)

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## The photographer

**MARK GRIFFIN**

"Sometimes people focus on wanting a certain style of photography but a great photographer should be able to capture formal pictures, some candid moments and some wow pictures of the bride and groom effortlessly so you have memories that last a lifetime.

Your photographer should also have excellent people and time management skills, however the family shots are one area of the day that requires some pre-planning. Often a younger brother will have gone missing or a sister-in-law won't realise she is a part of the formal photographs which can cause stress and delays that you could do without. Let people know in advance when they are required and they will be more than happy to oblige once called."

[www.markgriffinphoto.com](http://www.markgriffinphoto.com) ■