Something extra

YOUR GUIDE TO SYMBOLIC CEREMONIES

SUNKISSED CEREMONIES

Should I include a symbolic element in my ceremony?

There is no right or wrong when it comes to your wedding ceremony, but if a symbolic element is something that appeals to you as a couple then here are some great examples.

Of course every symbolic element is adapted and made completely bespoke to you and your partner, incorporating colours, themes, personality or even religion in some cases.

Below are just a few examples of ceremonies you might want to consider, but the possibilites are endless.

Unity Candle Lighting

The Unity Candle is one of the most popular unity ceremonies used in weddings and includes a keepsake candle you can light every anniversary.

The two pillar candles represent each partner. Who they are today, and what and who made them who they are today.

Each party lights their candle, then the couple light the central candle together.

When the couple lights their candle it represents the joining of the two unique individuals into one new synergistic relationship.

Sand Ceremony

A sand ceremony is a great visual ceremony to incorporate into your ceremony, and it's one that allows you to include other members of our family such as children or parents.

The sand is a metaphor for the couple's life and love for each other.

Each member of the family is represented by a certain colour of sand, and as you mix the grains of sand together the colours and the lives of the couple merge together and can never be seperated.

Handfasting

The term ' Tying the Knot' comes from the Celtic tradition of Handfasting

It is a simple and traditional ceremony used in a lot of Irish, Scottish, and Welsh weddings.

It involves the tying of hands together, with ribbons or cords to symbolise the coming-together of two halves of a couple.

A ring blessing ceremony allows of all your guests to touch your rings and bless them with warm wishes and hopes for the future of the couple.

Rings can be passed around the room on a ring cushion, or in a bag.

Ring Blessing

By the time you make your vows, the rings have made their way all the way around the room, and all your loved ones have given a wish for your future together.

If you have a large number of guests you can inclde a ring warming before the ceremony starts as the guests are all arriving.

Jumping the Broom

Jumping the broom is a traditional symbolic ceremony dating back to Pagan times, it`s origins can be found in many cultures across the world.

It symbolises the brushing away of the past and the sweeping in of new beginnings.

A leap of faith into a new life.

It usually takes place at the end of the ceremony.

One of the attendants passes the broom to the groom who makes a sweeping gesture before passing it to his bride.

She then lays it on the ground. The celebrant invites everyone to count 1 2 3 JUMP!

The happy couple then hold hands and jump over the broom then continue down the aisle to great applause.

First fight box

The first rule of Fight Boxes is that there are no rules!
Couples are free to create the box that feels right to them

The general idea is that a few weeks before your wedding you write each other a letter, expressing your thoughts about the good qualities that you found in your future partner, the reasons for falling in love with them, and your hopes and dreams for the future.

Fight Boxes come in all shapes and sizes. Some couples choose to make a DIY version while others choose to buy a pre-made box inscribed with their names and the date of their wedding.

Inside the box the couple place the love letters, a bottle of wine or their favourite drink.

During the wedding ceremony, the officiant will explain the meaning behind the tradition and what the couples have done to prepare it. Then, the couple each take turns hammering nails into the box.

The couple agree to open the box after their first fight or on their fifth anniversary, whichever comes first.

Cocktail Ceremony

How about a "wedding ceremony cocktail" as part of your actual ceremony?

Finding original wedding ceremony features can be tricky, but this is fun, unusual and meaningful.

The cocktail is used as a metaphor for life – bitter and sweet, rough spots and moments of smooth bliss.

Think about a cocktail's typical ingredients – bitter and sweet alcohol and herbs, rough skinned fruits, burning spirits and cold silk-smooth ice.

You can pick the perfect ingredients for your cocktail and how they represent the perfect ingredients for your marriage.

Stop the clock

To celebrate the 'most beautiful moment' in your lives why not consider breaking an old wristwatch or timepiece immediately after exchanging your vows.

The clock can be dsiplayed in your marital home remembering the exact moment that your lives merged together in marriage.

Couples Quiz

How well do you REALLY know each other?

Well how about a game inspired by the TV show Mr & Mrs .
Include a couples quiz as part of your wedding ceremony or even
during the reception?

I can ask your nearest and dearest to come up with some
questions you SHOULD both know the answer to and we can
test your knowledge in an hilarious addition to your nuptials.

Who is the messiest?

Who is the most romantic?

Whose got the most annoying family?

Bouquet Toss

Anyone whose attended a wedding is familiar with the sometimes cringe-worthy bouquet toss.

All the single ladies gather behind the bride and try to get into the best position to catch the beautiful array of flowers as they fly through the air.

But why all this nonsense over a few pretty petals? It is seen as a sign of good fortune, but only for the lucky lady who catches it!

Weddings are full of traditions and rituals, often passed down through the generations.

Throwing the bouquet is a tradition now mostly seen in American rom-coms but often excluded from a modern British wedding ceremony, but how about trying a modern twist of this wedding classic?

Let's chat...

If these ideas have got your creative juices flowing and you want to chat then just drop me a message and we can arrange a catch up any time.

I'm always happy to help.

*Love,
Hazel*