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The secret is out - what a wedding MC must do to guarantee success

These days, everybody wants to know the “secret” to this and “secret” to that.

So what is the secret to successful wedding reception? It's not the flowers or the music; it's not even the venue or food. These are incidentals and quickly forgotten.

Ultimately, what touches the heart and leaves a lingering trace forever is the tremendous feeling that is attached to the experience. A great feeling is what every bride and groom wants - but not everyone achieves.

One certain memory that will last a long time is how the Master of Ceremonies made everyone feel from the beginning right through to the end.

The tradition has been to hand this often onerous task to a family friend who maybe totally unfamiliar with the many different “hats” that an MC has to wear over a short period of time.

These range from housekeeper, leader, fireman, moderator, researcher, program link, diplomat, actor, and finally conductor.

On any one night, most wedding MC's will be required to exhibit a skill in nearly everyone of the above roles.

This wide range of responsibilities can create incredible pressure and stress - especially when something goes wrong; as inevitability it will.

And the last thing the MC wants to publicly show is frustration.

The ability to handle pressure when you only have one chance to get it right, has lead to the rise of professional wedding MC's who are both organised and entertaining.

These skills are often mutually exclusive. With a family friend, you often only get a choice of someone who is incredibly well organised but dull, or someone else is extremely entertaining but leaves everything to the last minute.

A great MC will use both the left and right side of their brain simultaneously; so there is no advantage if you are a female or male.

In the end, it's the MC's skill at creating rapport and making everyone feel comfortable by being relaxed and confident themselves, that will make the difference.

OK - so how does an MC become relaxed and confident? The simple answer is one word: preparation. But how much preparation is needed to do a great job? You'll only ever know this with experience - or if you use, as all the smart MCs do, wedding MC speech templates.

These word-for-word sample speeches and toasts have been tested over time to give an MC instant confidence and security.

They are the real reason why professional wedding MC's exist; its been made too easy to look fantastic.

So now the secret is out. Does that mean it's not a secret anymore? We hope so.

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