

The ONLY wedding planner dedicated to Gothic and Halloween weddings.

Halloween Wedding Planner

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Halloween Wedding Planner

For the spooky couple-to-be



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About the Author



Stephanie Green is a vision-impaired writing living in New Zealand with her cantankerous drummer husband and their medieval sword collection. Not content with any one subject, Steff writes on

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To see photographs from Steff's Heavy Metal / Halloween / Viking wedding, click

http://steffgreen.com/My_Halloween_Heavy_Metal_Wedding.html

To read FREE online wedding articles, click here:

http://steffgreen.com/wedding_articles_index.html

Do you want more Halloween Wedding goodness? The Wedding Skulls blog profiles the latest gothic, alternative, Halloween, rockabilly and other dark wedding products, as well as advice, contests and more!

<http://weddingskulls.blogspot.com/>

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So you're having a Halloween Wedding?

If you're anything like me, your favourite holiday is Halloween. You and your honey love horror films, ghosts, witches, candy and getting the absolute shit scared out of you!

So when you're trying to think of a suitable date and theme for your upcoming wedding, of course you chose Halloween!

You've got the perfect love, the perfect theme, but you don't know what to do next.

Not to fear! The **Halloween Wedding Planner** gives you step-by-step instructions and ideas for planning the perfect Halloween wedding on any budget. As you navigate your way through this ebook, you'll find:

- Quick, easy craft projects to personalise your wedding.
- Ideas for Day of the Dead, Masquerade, Gothic, Harvest Festival, Cemetery weddings and other wedding themes.
- Planning Advice, Timelines and Worksheets
- Budgeting Tips
- And **Heaps More!**

And, because I really want your day to be a success, and I know we're all busy people, I've included the **Halloween Directory** – over 130 pages of venues, online shops, clothing, decorations, favours and jewellery – **absolutely free!** When I planned my own Halloween wedding I spent hours researching websites and products, so I'm passing the fruits of my research on to you.

Everything in this ebook is designed as a rough guide. You take what you like - what works for you and your beloved – and you leave the rest for the crows. There's no **MUST HAVE** rules for weddings – only

those you impose on yourself – so if you don't like an idea or one of the elements doesn't speak to you, forget it!

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A Brief History of Halloween

Halloween celebrations date back at least 2000 years to the **Sanhaim** festival, celebrated by the tribes (called Celts by many scholars) occupying Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France. The Celtic New Year began on November 1; when the summer ended, the harvest was brought in and the dark of winter begins.

The Celts believed that on the night before New Years (October 31st) a portal opened up between the world of the living and the dead. On Sanhaim the spirits danced through the streets, causing mischief and damaging crops. The Celtic priests – Druids – channelled the power of the spirits to make predictions about the future. These predictions provided the source of conflicts and wars during the winter months.

During Sanhaim celebrations the Druids built towering bonfires where people threw sacrifices to the gods. The Celts wore costumes – made from skins and head of animals – and danced and told fortunes all night.

When the Romans conquered the Celts in the first century AD, they combined two of their festivals with Sanhaim. At the festival of Feralia – celebrated in late October – the Romans honour their dead. The feast day of Pomona – a Roman goddess of fruit and tress – involved games with apples which later became the Halloween tradition of 'bobbing for apples'.

Over the centuries, Roman power dwindled and Christianity spread throughout pagan Europe. Pope Boniface IV dedicated November 1 All Saint's Day, where all saints and martyrs should be worshipped. Thus, October 31st became All Saint's Eve. People celebrated in much the same way – with bonfires, dancing, costumes and prayers to honour the dead.

The word 'Halloween' derives from the Middle English **Alholoowmesse** meaning All Saint's Day.

Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

Dia De Los Muertos is a Mexican holiday for remembering the dead. The celebration occurs on the 1st and 2nd of November, in connection with the Catholic holidays All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day.

People believe that during the Day of the Dead it is easier for the souls of the dead to visit the living. People visit the graves of their loved ones, and build private altars containing the favourite foods and items, in the hope the souls will hear their prayers and return. This isn't a sombre event – celebrants recount humorous tales and swap anecdotes about the dead.

The offerings laid on tombs include marigolds – thought to attract the spirits – toys for children and bottles of tequila or **atole** for adults. Sugar skulls, candied pumpkin, pan de muerto (bread of the dead) are popular throughout the festival.

Now that you know a little about the history of Halloween traditions, it's time to begin your planning...

STOP!

Before you even **BEGIN** to plan!

Buy a cheap notebook or file folder for all your wedding stuff. Or set up a new folder on your desktop. This is your wedding file – it will be your shining star throughout your wedding planning.

EVERYTHING involved with your wedding – checklists, inspiration pictures, RSVPs, receipts, quotes, addresses, dates, appointments, designs and worksheets.

You can divide your folder into five files; **Inspiration, Vendors, Budget, Guests** and **Misc**.

- Under **Inspiration** place all your inspiration photos – pictures from magazines, websites and photos from other people's weddings, ideas and brochures.
- In **Vendors**, store all your vendor correspondence – quotes, receipts, contracts and checklists.
- Under **Budget**, include the budget worksheet in the back of this ebook and a rundown of deposits paid and due.
- Use **Guests** to control your guestlist, RSVPs, gift list, seating arrangements and dietary requirements.
- Use **Misc** for everything else – speeches, day-of-checklists, and recipes.

I prefer a paper folder rather than an electronic one, because you can bring it to meetings with vendors and use staples and cleapslip pockets to keep track of quotes, receipts and RSVP slips.

However, if you plan to do most of your wedding planning online, keeping a 'planning' folder on your desktop provides an easy-to-use suppository for all your ideas.

Now that you've got your folder sorted, you're ready to plan your wedding!

What Things Must I Have at the Wedding?

From the second an engagement ring brushes our finger, we're bombarded with wedding media telling us what is necessary for our 'perfect' day.

But what really is necessary?

Two People in Love.

In order to have a marriage (or at least, a successful marriage) you need to have someone to marry!

I mean, you could try and marry yourself, or your invisible friend...but in that case, I think your wedding problems are well beyond the scope of this ebook.

I assume that since your reading this ebook, you probably have the willing (or unwilling) bride or groom in hand.

A Marriage License and a Certified Wedding Official.

A marriage involves the legal signing of a contract between yourself and your beloved. The intricacies of this contract are specific to your country or state. Visit your local courthouse or religious institution for more information.

For most legal marriage ceremonies, you need at least two witnesses. Your 'Best Man' and 'Maid of Honour' traditionally fulfil this role.

Also, most countries require a court official, wedding celebrant or religious leader to declare you legally married.

A Celebration.

A wedding is all about celebrating the beginning of your life together. **HOW** you celebrate – and who you chose to celebrate with – is up to you.

That's it, that's all you need.

You read correctly. You don't need a cake, or a three-course sit-down dinner, or a mountain of flower arrangements, or two-hundred of your mother-in-law's close and not-so-close friends. You don't need any of that wedding 'stuff'.

Wedding stuff is **never** essential, no matter what the magazines tell you. So if you don't need it and you don't want it, don't feel guilty about not including it. Your wedding should reflect your own personalities.

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