

## **Answer The Tough Questions**

*By Bill Hengstenberg*

For every couple planning their wedding there are thousands of questions. If a bride is lucky, she has helped friends and family plan weddings so she knows what she wants, and just as importantly what she doesn't want. However, even in those situations there are plenty of questions, such as; "Should I have some kind of entertainment at the rehearsal dinner?", "How can I make my wedding different from others I have attended?", "What can I do if my family doesn't really like dancing?" and of course "Are there any other options for my bachelor/bachelorette party?" With the trend toward new and unique opportunities for wedding entertainment, we tried to answer many of those questions.

Professionally run game shows can be extremely successful at showers, rehearsal dinners and even receptions. Many companies will bring electronic buzzer podiums right to your home, restaurant or ballroom. Companies, who specialize in this, offer a variety of games that can be personalized with questions about the couple, family and friends. Jeopardy and Family Feud work well. Some companies have a Newlywed style game that pits four couples against each other trying to find out which pair knows each other the best. The bride and groom can face off against their parents, the Maid of Honor and her husband, Grandma and Grandpa or even the Best Man. The best part about hiring someone to run this (other than the buzzers and flashing lights) is that professional comics will run the whole thing and keep the laughs coming at a feverish pace. That means that the Maid of Honor and "big sis" can participate or sit back and watch rather than have to be in charge.

Another unique option that works well at a bachelorette/bachelor party, rehearsal dinner or a reception is a murder mystery comedy performance. These comedies are designed to be performed around dinner. They are usually high energy and interactive shows combining funny scripts with improvised comedy. Some have a full cast of professional actors performing a three-act show in and around the audience. Using information from the bride and groom, the actors can personalize the show by playfully interacting with the guests. Another style of the murder mystery shows takes the interaction to a whole new level. Professional actors run the show as a group of the guests are cast in roles and become "Guest Stars". Friends and family play along and try to find the killer. As with the game shows, having a professional company run the show ensures a quality performance and everyone gets to relax and laugh along as they discover whether a groomsman had an axe to grind or the father of the bride was hiding a filthy little bribe.

Other ideas for unique and entertaining festivities include Customized Bachelorette Scavenger Hunts, Improv Comedy Shows, Stand-up Comics or renting video game systems. Home video games such as Wii Rock Band can be fun as well as finding a company that will rent full sized stand-up arcade games.

Hopefully some of these suggestions can help answer some of the questions that you have about how to make your special day fun and unique.

About the author; Bill Hengstenberg is with Murder Mystery Players.