

INTERVIEW WITH PHOTOGRAPHER SZILVIA VEGSO-HERR

AKA SZISZÓ-RAJZOLAT

VIBES: It might be unusual to be in the spotlight as a photographer but can you tell us a little about yourself and your career path? How did you develop an interest in photography?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: I could not say, that I've dreamt of becoming a photographer as a kid but I think I've always been a creative person and had some projects in my mind that needed to be completed. If something did not turn out the way I imagined, I've learnt from it. This is how I've grown as a photographer as well. I grabbed my camera, got outside and took pictures. This is how I fell in love with natural lights and shadows. Sometimes I asked my family members and friends to become my models. And my work and name started to spread by word of mouth and started to take family, engagement and portrait photos for the friend of my friends. It took me years to have the courage and photography-consciousness to be able to photograph full-day weddings and to start my own company.

VIBES: Which photographers influenced you? What impact did they have on your way of thinking and style? Did you have a mentor?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: I did not have a mentor as such but Melinda Egyed, who was a second shooter at my own wedding back then, became my friend pretty quickly and helped me on my way of becoming a photographer.



I am very thankful for her inspiring words and advice. It's worth to follow her traveling adventures via her fantastic photos on mind-the-map.com. Other than that, I love the work of André Kertész, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Dorothea Lange and Annie Leibovitz.

VIBES: Your photos are definitely standing out from the crowd, they are breathtaking. What is your personal opinion: what makes the good picture stand out from the average?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: Well, thank you, but you know, to tell which photo is a GOOD one is mainly subjective. And to stand out from the average is another thing. I think that, beside the basic composition techniques and technical knowledge, one should follow its own style and maybe it will stand out from the average, maybe it won't but the main aim is to find your audience who loves your work.



VIBES: Can you describe your photographic style? How did you develop it?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: I like to think of my style as a photojournalist as my favourite part in taking photos is to grasp the moment, to interpret feelings and stories that can be experienced once again when you look at the pictures. This may sound easy, but you need to focus on details and the bigger picture at the same time. You need to be sensitive to other people's emotions and try to predict what will happen next. And you need to be patient to wait for that moment. I believe these abilities can rarely be taught, you need to experience them and learn from your experiences.

VIBES: Among your works, which one is your favorite? Why?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: I really cannot pick just one... There is just something about every wedding or even every other smaller shooting that I could not forget and are truly nice memories. That's one of the reasons I love my job so much.

VIBES: How do you usually get yourself inspired for a photo shoot?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: When talking about weddings, engagement and portrait sessions I let myself inspired by the people whom I'm photographing at that very moment. My aim is to reflect their personality, their feelings so I'm drifting with these impacts. And of course – as I am a photographer fond of natural light – another inspiration is Nature itself with its lights and shadow and the different scenery it provides.

But when we are preparing for a styled shoot I usually get inspired by a feeling, colors, a song or a scent and I browse the internet to find images that can be related to this feeling and can help me creating an inspirational board to show the other team members. They also add to this draft, we make some changes and the final notion comes alive on the day of the shooting.

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As it is usually 8-9 other wedding providers beside me who would like to represent their services, these shootings need to be carefully prepared, almost like a wedding. :)

VIBES: What is the most challenging part of your job?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: To wait for the cake.... that's a really nerve-wracking part of a wedding. :) But joking apart, being a wedding photographer



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requires a range of different skills. You not only have to be a photographer but also a fortune teller to predict the next moment to capture, a Sherpa to carry all your technical gadgets, a psychologist as on every wedding you are getting on an emotional roller-coaster. And apart from long-day weddings, you have to be your own editor, sales manager, project manager and boss as well. To accomplish all these can be challenging. But at the same time, this is what I like about my job, it never gets boring.

VIBES: What is your best photography tip? Is there anything you wish you knew when you started taking photos?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: Be true to yourself and be your own strict critic but also be patient to yourself! Know where you're heading, but never let yourself be inspired too much by other photographers. Eventually, the best part in taking pictures is to express yourself as well. And then you don't have to make compromises as the clients, who truly love your work, will be overwhelmed with the result. Try to find your style and don't be afraid to shape it from time to time. This is part of the development process of you as a person and as a photographer.

VIBES: What does photography mean to you?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: Photography for me is a creative way to tell stories and stop time to evoke emotions and great memories even a decade later.

VIBES: What are your plans for the future?



stylish, emotional weddings and couples. This year I would like to broaden Hungary's borders in the sense of destination weddings. I also plan to participate on wedding photography workshops as there is always something new that can be added to one's knowledge. And in my free time I would like to focus more on food photography in natural light as I love to cook and bake and create the styling... and eat the tasty subjects. :)

VIBES: How can Vibes readers find you?

SZISZÓ RAJZOLAT: For some fresh content you can follow me on Facebook and Instagram. But for further details about me and my work, Hungarian readers should visit my site www.sziszorajzolat.hu as well. Email me to info@sziszorajzolat.hu or call me on 003620 2971140 and book your photoshoot. I would love to document some „Vibes” weddings. :)