

# From Speedlites to Strobes

*Exploring new possibilities with the  
Elinchrom Quadra*

*Sharing session by Stephen Loh, Lyrical Moments, for WPAS  
on 26 April 2011*

# Introduction to off-camera lighting

- Started in 2008 during a Pocket Wizard sales on Ebay. Bought a pair of plus II for USD\$280.
- Became a sort of “plaything” /fun segment for wedding day jobs.
- Won USD\$400 from Off-camera flash categories, bought another set of plus II

# Bigger, better, faster (not cheaper)

- Took the plunge to invest in Elinchrom Quadra.
- Looking for light source that is bigger, good enough for full body shots.
- Better quality and consistency of light – 3D quality, better skin tones, even lighting, various options /modifiers.
- Faster flash duration = ability to freeze action + much more crisp-looking images.

# More Necessity, Less Gimmicky

- Better colour control. Less time spent on trying to achieve proper skin tones in Photoshop.
- In digital medium format, shadows often gets 'choked' or noisy due to lack of light to register the details (i.e. hair, dark gowns)
- No longer at the mercy of Singapore's unpredictable weather and light.

# Modifiers that I use...

- 60% Rotalux 100cm Octagonal softbox a.k.a *Deep Throat*.
- 30% Wide reflector
- 10% others (high performance, honeycomb, ring flash)

# Deep throat – the Swiss army knife

- The most versatile of the modifiers I have used so far.
- By fitting /unfitting the 3 diffusers, we can configure the kind of light we want.
- Can be used as a softbox, pseudo beauty dish, and flash extender.
- Very pleasing wrap, and soft shadows.
- Fast to deploy, fast to strike (collapsible)
- Ideal for bringing out textures, especially gown details

# Wide reflector – the sun

- To simulate direct sunlight.
- Ideal for large group portraits because of its coverage.
- Compared to umbrellas, the wide reflector does not have a center hotspot.
- Compact!
- At 400w, it is possible to overpower the sun (subjects placed about 2-3 meters away).

# Honeycomb – spotlight

- In occasions where we want a tight spot, usually to highlight specific area.
- Good for separating hair and dark gowns from a black background.



# Hi-performance – going the distance

- Longest range amongst the modifiers that we use.
- Flash extender.
- Light quality is hard compared to the rest, good for actions and sports.

# Closing notes

- Purpose of this sharing session is more to open possibilities to wedding photographers who strive to create something different.
- Equipment are just equipment, they become magic only when we put our artistic visions into it.
- Work for your style, if not lighting equipment becomes another gimmick.

# Big thank you to...

- WPAS – Matthew and his team for giving me the opportunity to share with you tonight.
- Cathay Photo for their generosity and sponsoring the equipment and print medium.
- James Tan (email : [fotomaniac@gmail.com](mailto:fotomaniac@gmail.com)) for his time and effort to print the works for everyone to see on Fine Art paper.

# Some shameless advertisement...



- My new website has just been launched!  
<http://www.lyricalmoments.com>
- Do join us on our Facebook page!  
<http://www.facebook.com/lyricalmoments>