

# YOUR GUIDE TO BOOKING AN ENTERTAINER #TOPTIPS



Hi Folks. Thanks again for visiting my website & thanks for clicking this link.

So, you've got a celebration coming up & you are looking into entertainers! Let's face it, there are thousands of possibilities out there & just as many agencies, website & "helpful" guides. Here, I've created a short list of key points you should be asking your proposed entertainer/s before booking to you receive no surprises along the way. You are doing enough planning as it is! Please absorb these key points with my compliments & I sincerely hope you find them useful.

## 1/ QUOTATION:

- Is the amount you've have been quoted subject to any change? This may include (but not be limited to) travel, accommodation, refreshments, fuel, track downloads, other expenses.
- Make sure you confirm (and are happy with) the final amount. No one wants (or needs) a last-minute surprise!

## 2/ POLICIES / DEPOSITS / CANCELATIONS / TERMS:

- You should find out early on what's in place with regards to cancelations, needing to move the event date, illnesses, unforeseen circumstances (either from you or the entertainer.) What contingency plans are in place? Would there be suitable replacements available?
- Does your entertainer require a deposit? If so when? what's the returns policy?
- It's worth asking to see a copy of their terms & conditions where all of the above should be covered. If it isn't, ask why.

## 3/ SAFETY:

- A point which can't be understated. Your entertainer **MUST** have valid **public liability insurance**. This is to protect them, their equipment, the venue, the venue's equipment against damage, fire, theft & injury. It is imperative if your proposed act does not have this in place that you do **NOT** book them. An act's failure to have valid insurance will most likely invalidate any wedding / event insurance you have in place, or if it's your venue or even your home, will invalidate a claim.
- Your act will also need to have valid **PAT certificates** for all electrical equipment which will be plugged into the venue's / your power points. These are the small, validated, signed stickers which will be on the appliance / plug. NB your entertainer may want to see the same from the venue to make sure circuits are safe on both sides (your entertainer can discuss this with the venue.) You must make sure that your entertainer has copies of each available as typically, a venue may not ask for them straight away. They must be on hand to be scanned / sent to the venue.

- Try and send the details (email address / phone number will be fine) of the entertainment coordinator / event manager to your entertainer. They will make enquiries to see that the performance area is suitable & the power supply & access / outlets are safe / suitable.

#### **4/ ASK QUESTIONS:**

Don't be afraid to ask, ask, ask questions. Then ask some more! Some great questions to ask are:

- Can you meet your entertainer in person? Can you meet at the venue? Should this not be an option perhaps you could arrange a skype call or a zoom conference for a face to face chat? Your entertainer may tick all the "professional" boxes but it's important to establish that they are the right personality for you & your guests. They are likely to be a big part of your special day, so get to know the actual person!
- Establish their social media handles. Are they on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn? All of these platforms are great for you to see performance videos, pictures, read testimonials & watch any vlogs they may post. Sure, most of these will probably be on their website but it's a great idea to get to know the personality of your act. Thinking longer term, by "liking" or following a performer's page, you may be included in up and coming draws / discounts Etc. Worth knowing!
- Do they have a recent sample set list / song sheet that they can send you? Do they have a recent list of clients / customers they have played for?
- Are they performing anywhere publicly soon where you can watch? Could they upload a video of a song you would like to see them performing? Could you perhaps watch them rehearse?

#### **5/ Price:**

Let's face it, this is going to be a huge, maybe the deciding factor when making your choice. There are a couple of things to bare in mind when you receive a quote.

- The cheapest option (although tempting) will not necessarily provide you with the best value or experience.
- The more expensive option may not necessarily provide you with the best value or experience either.

You see, as with all professionals, each will bring something unique to the table. Some will perform longer than others. Some will provide a number of services, others will keep it simple. My honest advice would be deciding loosely what you are after, then speak to a handful of entertainers. Gauge each on what they can offer. Once you have found the act that's the right fit for you & yours,' then you can decide from there whether their quote is good value to you. Many people use what they see as a particularly low or high price as an instant barrier. Consider using the quote as a conversation point "Can you tell me about your quote..."

I hope this short guide has been useful. If you have any questions or I can be of any further help, please contact me via the contact form



