

21 Reception Games & Moments Your DJ Should Know

From the team behind the camera at weddings across the Inland Northwest — we know exactly which moments end up in the highlight reel.

Your reception isn't a playlist — it's a show. And the difference between a dance floor that fills at 8 and empties at 9 versus one that goes until the lights come up? A DJ who knows how to build moments, not just play songs. Here are 21 games and moments worth putting on your DJ's run sheet — the classics done right, the trends worth stealing, and a few gems most couples have never heard of. Plus, since we're usually the ones behind the camera when these happen, we'll tell you which ones film beautifully.

1. The Shoe Game

The couple sits back to back, each holding one of their own shoes and one of their partner's. The DJ fires off questions — “Who's the better driver? Who said ‘I love you’ first?” — and each raises the shoe of whoever's guilty. Guests lose it every time the couple disagrees.

ON FILM Back-to-back framing means we catch both faces at once — the mismatched answers and the “wait, WHAT?” reactions cut together like a comedy sketch.

2. The Anniversary Dance

All married couples hit the floor, and the DJ counts them off — “Leave if you've been married less than a year... less than five... less than twenty.” The longest-married couple is left dancing alone, and the DJ asks them for one piece of marriage advice on the mic.

ON FILM The floor slowly emptying around one couple in their seventies is one of the most reliable tear-jerkers we film — and their advice becomes the perfect voiceover for your highlight film.

3. The Bouquet Hand-Off

Skip the toss. Instead, the DJ tells the story of a specific guest — a grandmother, a best friend, the couple who introduced you — and you walk the bouquet over and hand it to them. It turns a scramble into a tribute.

ON FILM A toss is one wide shot and a blur. A hand-off gives us a slow walk, a hug, and a genuinely surprised face — three shots that always make the final cut.

4. The Garter Remix

If the traditional garter toss makes you (or Grandma) wince, swap it. Toss a signed football, a koozie with your wedding date, or a “next round's on me” bar tab card. Same hype, zero awkwardness.

ON FILM The catch-and-celebrate moment stays — usually with a full-on end-zone dance — without the footage anyone asks us to trim later.

5. The Snowball Dance

The couple starts a slow song alone. Mid-song, the DJ calls “snowball!” and they each pull a guest onto the floor. Every 20 seconds it doubles, until the whole room is dancing. It's the single fastest legal way to fill a dance floor.

ON FILM We start tight on two people and pull wide as the floor floods — a built-in cinematic crescendo that edits itself.

6. The Grand Entrance, Upgraded

Give every wedding party pair their own 10-second entrance song and a move — a chest bump, a slow-mo jog, a dip. The DJ builds the energy pair by pair, saving the biggest drop for the newlyweds.

ON FILM Individual entrances mean individual shots — each pair gets a moment in your film instead of one crowded doorway clip.

7. The Dollar Dance, Reimagined

The old dollar dance, minus the awkward line. Guests “pay” into the honeymoon jar at the DJ booth to request a song, dedicate a dance, or bump their table to the front of the photo booth line. The DJ announces dedications between songs.

ON FILM Dedications give us names and stories to chase — when the DJ says “this one’s from the college roommates,” we know exactly where to point the camera.

The ones trending right now — and worth it.

8. Song-Request Roulette

Guests drop song requests into a bowl (or a QR-code form) during dinner. Once an hour, the DJ pulls one at random and plays it no matter what — polka, Disney, death metal. The room holds its breath at every draw.

ON FILM The reveal is the shot — a whole room reacting at once to the same second of audio. Instant reel material.

9. “Guess the Couple” Trivia

The DJ runs three quick rounds of trivia about you two between dinner courses — first date spot, most embarrassing story, who texted first. Tables compete; the winning table gets released to the dessert bar first.

ON FILM Trivia gives us reaction shots of every table — which means every guest, including the ones who never dance, actually appears in your film.

10. TikTok-Style Dance Transitions

The DJ builds a mashup that jumps decades every 20 seconds — 60s to 80s to 2000s to now — and each generation takes over the floor when their era hits. Some couples add an outfit-change reveal on the final drop.

ON FILM Hard musical cuts are gift-wrapped edit points. We match the video cuts to the audio drops and the footage looks professionally choreographed even when it wasn’t.

11. The Group Photo Countdown

Once during peak dance floor, the DJ calls everyone in tight and counts down from ten while the whole room points at the couple, then throws hands up on “one.” Ninety seconds, one epic frame, everybody you love in it.

ON FILM We plan this one with the DJ in advance — a slow push through the crowd on the countdown, ending wide on the hands-up moment. It’s the poster shot of the night.

A QUICK NOTE FROM BEHIND THE CAMERA

Almost everything on this page depends on timing — the DJ cueing the moment and the camera being ready for it. It’s exactly why we bundle DJ and video: when your DJ and videographer are the same team, nobody misses the moment.

12. The Table-vs-Table Dance-Off

The DJ calls two tables to the floor for a 30-second dance battle, winner by crowd noise. Losers sit; a new challenger table steps up. Three rounds and suddenly your shyest guests have picked a side.

ON FILM Competition creates characters — the uncle who wasn’t going to dance becomes the star of the battle round, and of the blooper reel.

13. The One-Song Karaoke Cameo

Not a whole karaoke night — one song. The DJ hands the mic to a pre-chosen guest (or the couple) for a single crowd-pleaser everyone can scream along to. Short enough to stay legendary.

ON FILM A guest belting into a real mic with 150 backup singers behind them is the loudest, happiest 3 minutes of footage we capture all night.

14. The Phone-Flashlight Slow Dance

For one late-night slow song, the DJ kills the dance floor lighting and asks every guest to raise a phone flashlight. The room turns into a private constellation around the couple.

ON FILM A hundred points of light in a dark room is pure cinema — this shot needs zero editing tricks to look like a movie ending.

The underused gems (your guests haven't seen these yet).

15. The Private Last Dance

While the DJ stages guests outside for the send-off, you two stay behind for one final song — alone in the room where it all just happened. Five minutes that belong only to you.

ON FILM This is the moment couples thank us for most. Empty room, string lights, one slow dance — it's almost always the closing shot of the film.

16. The Time-Capsule Mic

Set up an audio-guestbook corner near the DJ booth, and have the DJ nudge guests toward it all night with prompts: "Tell them your favorite memory. Leave advice for year ten." You get voicemails from your favorite people, on your favorite night.

ON FILM Those recordings become the narration of your wedding film — real voices from real guests laid over the footage beats every stock soundtrack.

17. Musical Chairs: Champions Edition

One representative per table, chairs in the center, DJ on the decks. The music cuts, the scramble is ruthless, and the final round is played for a prize worth fighting over (the extra tier of cake works).

ON FILM Adults diving for folding chairs in formalwear is comedy gold at 60 frames per second — the slow-motion replay never gets old.

18. The Cake Pull

A Southern tradition due for a comeback: ribbons with tiny charms are baked under the cake's bottom tier, and the DJ narrates as each of your closest friends pulls one — every charm carries a meaning (a ring for next engaged, an anchor for a steady friend).

ON FILM Small, close-up moments like this add texture to a film — hands, ribbons, laughing reactions — the intimate footage that balances the big dance floor scenes.

19. The Group Serenade

The wedding party secretly rehearses 30 seconds of one song — the cheesier the better — and the DJ cues it as a surprise mid-reception. Choreography optional. Commitment mandatory.

ON FILM Surprises are the one thing you truly can't re-shoot. The couple's genuine shock is the money shot, so we always get looped in on the secret beforehand.

20. The Sunset Sneak-Out

Around golden hour, the DJ drops a crowd-favorite set that nobody will leave — which is exactly when you two slip out for 15 minutes of sunset portraits. The party never notices; the light never waits.

ON FILM Inland Northwest golden hour over the lake is the best free production value in the region. A DJ who covers your exit is how you actually get it.

21. The Last-Song Vote

All night, guests vote on the final song of the wedding — ballot box, QR poll, or shouted requests. The DJ reveals the winner right before the send-off, and the whole room sings it like they chose it. Because they did.

ON FILM When everyone knows the words to the last song, the final crowd shot of your film sounds like a stadium — the perfect note to cut to black on.