



Donna Andrews Photography

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Take it from an expert... don't try this yourself!

As a photographer and a mother of four, the most challenging photo session for me has always been that of one: my own children.

Taking photographs of my kids and expecting "satisfying" results is like expecting snow to melt at 30 below... it is virtually impossible!

Like many, I took a vote among the family and selected outfits which were casual and simple so there would be no arguments. I set the tone in advance, letting them know a great dinner at their favorite restaurant was in store by just granting me a few simple requests... sit still, look at look at the camera, and "just smile"... oh forget the smiles. what was I thinking?! I set the bar way to high. How about "happy"... just happy? Expressions do say a thousand words. You would have thought I was asking them to take out the



trash and clean their rooms on a Saturday night! Haven't we all been there?

All the bribes in the world would not grant me my one request... everyone looking "happy" at the same time.

The best and most cherished images I have were those taken by others. With others photographing, I would hide behind a tree and peek out. Low and behold they really were cherubs, angles sent from above! Yes they really could and would smile at the same time! IMAGINE THAT!

For those of you who share a similar story don't give up, there is hope you can have a memorable portrait of your children and smiles too! Professional photography is not an expense, it's an

investment; an investment that will give your memories and beautiful images to last a lifetime.

I become very excited when an apprehensive mom schedules a photo session. Usually within the same sentence of scheduling the appointment date and she will inform me. "I can never get my kids to all cooperate for a photo." "I'm warning you it's virtually IMPOSSIBLE!" Yes, some sessions are extremely challenging and exhausting. Sometimes I do feel as if I am standing on my head just to find a smile. Nothing gives me more pleasure then to watch that apprehensive mom walk into my studio expecting sheer disappointment and then to see her worst fears transform into astonishment and joy. The very thing she had tried so hard, so many times on her own, was now before her eyes. Something's we just cannot accomplish ourselves, which is why we have experts.

In case you are wondering, these images are my children, and yes, one cold winter night, years later, the moon and the stars were aligned and my beautiful children smiled for me... at the same time! DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR STARS TO ALIGN!

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